



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 7

22nd March 2024

Happy Friday everyone! It is lovely to finally see the signs of spring, longer and lighter days, blossom on trees and some sunshine. Children have been able to learn more outside and be creative in our nature area and when using the Playpod resources.

Over the last few weeks, we have had several visitors to Minerva who have supported learning or enriched our curriculum. Year 6 were joined by an archaeologist from Wiltshire Museum to launch their learning about the stone age. Reverend Lizzie joined all our Key Stage two children to lead an assembly about Easter and many parents came to our **'Children Learning In Class'** event to see how at MPA we teach and develop oracy. Next week, we welcome Sarah from Hillfields community garden and Heidi from access sport. We will be learning more about how we can get involved in our local community and opportunities that are available such as the open BMX sessions at the pump track and STEAM club at the library. I have been incredibly proud of our children who have greeted our visitors and demonstrated our values of **'Safe, Respectful, Learning'**,

We continue with our term four focus as healthy **Minerva Global Citizens**. Children have been mixing, chopping, stirring, mashing and kneading to make their chosen recipes. Reception have made their cous cous salad, year one pitta bread and year three guacamole with toasted tortilla chips - all were delicious. Next week our other year groups will make their healthy recipes. To further promote a healthy lifestyle the winning house treat next week will be a sporting activity. Enjoy your weekend
Mrs Jenny Harvey Principal



PRE-SCHOOL HANDA'S SURPRISE

In Pre-School we all visited the shop after we were inspired by Handa's Surprise and enjoyed making our fruit kebabs. We have been retelling the story, watching it and story-mapping it. Children worked really hard to learn new vocabulary from the book.

Hillfield's children have also been practising writing their names, strengthening their shoulders, elbows and wrists with Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle dance, plus yoga and a wide variety of small motor activities.

We have been looking at wordless books and learning how to notice illustrations, sharing ideas about what is happening using a full sentence. We have also explored new painting techniques and challenging ourselves to build and join with recycled materials.

WE ARE MUSICIANS

As musicians, the whole school have been learning to sing, 'Try Everything', a song that is reminding us to be the starling and always keep trying.

Pearl, who supports our learning as musicians, performed for Key Stage 1 who listened carefully and were able to share what they loved about her performance.

In Year 3, each class have been learning the ukulele and have been able to sing and play at the same time! They have been singing songs with ostinatos, repeating phrases, and have recalled their glockenspiel skills to form brilliant bands.

Across Key Stage 2, children are enjoying learning the violin and we look forward to hearing them at the Summer Showcase in Term 6.



NEURODIVERSITY WEEK

This week we have been learning about neurodiversity week. Mrs Shaw led an assembly about famous people who have neurodiversity and how this hasn't been a barrier to their success. Neurodiversity celebrates the different ways in which peoples brains work.

If you have any concerns about your child or want to find out more please speak to the class teacher or to Miss Gibson.



HELP WANTED FOR GARDENING!



We are looking for a group of parent and carer volunteers who can help during April and May to revamp the planters in the playground. This would involve digging out the old plants and weeds, topping up with new soil and planting new plants. We will be inviting volunteers to come in **every Friday of next term from 2:00 - 3:00pm.**

If you think you would like to help them please email info@mpa.clf.uk or speak to a member of staff on the gate to let us know which dates you can commit to. Even if you can only attend on one of the dates that would still be a big help. Below are the dates :

Friday 19th April , Friday 26th April, Friday 3rd May, Friday 10th May, Friday 17th May 2Friday 24th May

WE ARE SCIENTISTS YEAR 3

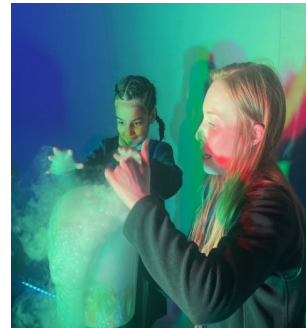
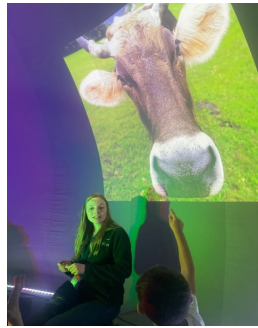


As Scientists this term, team MPA have explored space, classified plants and discovered different systems that support the human body to function. We have observed, predicted and concluded making sure to use of scientific vocabulary. Year 3 are experts in the digestive system and Year 1 have been finding out what plants need to grow.

(Picture from <http://www.freepik.com>">Designed by brgfx / Freepik)

YEAR 2 EXPLORER DOME

This week Year 2 had a visit from the Explorer Dome! As scientists, we created a digestion experiment where we had to add foods into a pretend stomach and watch what happened as it was broken down by our bodies. We held real teeth belonging to herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores and explored how they are all different based on what animals eat. We even found out how long our intestines were and then travelled inside a cell! It was a fantastic experience thoroughly enjoyed by Year 2.



YEAR 5 EXPLORER DOME

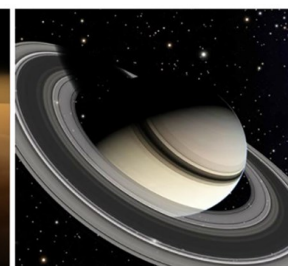
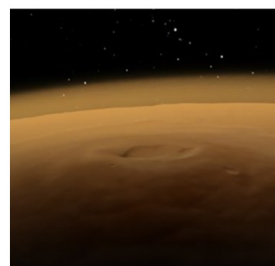
Year 5 also had a fantastic time at the Explorer Dome this week! We had the opportunity to fly through our solar system and get up close and personal with our celestial neighbours. From the explosive surface of the Sun to the frozen shell, of our distant tiny dwarf planet of Pluto. Following our tour, we gazed longingly at the night sky. The chance to become daytime star gazers was unforgettable. After our tour of the solar system, we identified the constellations in the night sky. Starting with Orion's belt to finding the North star ending with a dizzying shake of the sky to help us notice how the North star never moves, due to it being locked with the Earth's axis. What an incredible session!

Pupils said:

"The pictures of the nebulae were awesome and the supernova was so pretty."

"It was an interactive fun activity and I learned lots about space!"

"They made the dome feel like the stars were spinning!"



YEAR 1 SLIMBRIDGE



Yr1 had a fabulous, sunny trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre to visit the myriad of birds and other wildlife.

The story of Ava was brought to life by an awe inspiring puppet and the children hope to earn badges as Guardians of the Wild, using the website generationwild.wwt.org.uk/.

Year 3 and Year 2 children will remember their trip to Slimbridge and can still log in to work towards their own certificate.

MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZENS

Being a Minerva Global Citizen is learning to be safe, responsible, respectful and an active citizen within our MPA community. Weekly outings into the community provides the children with a variety of personal development opportunities and promotes inclusion by engaging with the local community and the people who live within it"

Some comments from the children were:

- **Rhea** " Everyone was included and helping the environment"
- **Lola** "I enjoyed going out in the community"
- **Jensen** "I enjoyed reading my book to the lady at the home"



YEAR 1 - SMOOTHIE BIKE

On Friday, Yr1 and Yr4 had visitors from Aspens bring their 'Smoothie Bike' for children to learn what healthy ingredients could go in to making their own smoothie. The healthy drinks went down a treat as children chose their own ingredients from



RED NOSE DAY- THANK YOU

Thank you to all pupils who participated in Red Nose Day. The children really enjoyed spotting all the red spots around the school including one on Miss Troup's shoe!

We raised a total of **£ 38.45**. Thank you for your generosity.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 28th March	Last day of term 4 for all pupils.
Monday 15th April	INSET DAY - school closed for all pupils.
Tuesday 16th April	First day of term 5 for all pupils.
Wednesday 17th April	Year 4—Trip to Wild Place Project