



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 7

14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share some wonderful things from Minerva Primary Academy. Over the past few weeks, our leadership team has been 'in the learning' and witnessing some truly amazing learning experiences. One of the highlights has been seeing our children demonstrate their growing oracy skills. Children across the school have been projecting their voices when reading aloud, answering maths questions in full sentences, respectfully discussing and challenging responses from our 'Talk assembly' about a possible ECO week, and applying the subject specific vocabulary learnt from the knowledge organiser. It is always a privilege to see our students so engaged in their learning.

As you are aware, our children at Minerva achieve great outcomes, and we are often asked if other professionals can visit to see how our values of '**Safe, Respectful Learning**' support this. Over the last two weeks, we have had several visitors to MPA: the Boolean maths hub to observe our excellent maths in key stage one, a leader of SEND (special educational needs & disabilities) came to look at how we have developed our inclusive practice through professional development and three teachers came from another school to look at our exemplary early years teaching and outdoor provision.

All our visitors praised our **high expectations for every child, the engagement of our students, and the calm learning environment we foster**. This positive feedback is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students.

Thank you for your continued support in making Minerva Primary Academy a place where every child can thrive.

Warmest Regards,

Jenny Harvey (Principal)

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL)



At Minerva, we are excited to announce that our school has partnered with the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme to enhance the quality of play for our children. OPAL is an initiative that supports schools in creating rich and engaging play environments. Here at Minerva each week, the whole school joins our OPAL play assemblies. During this time, we reflect on what has already been implemented and changes we are going to make. The children think carefully about the benefits and risks and collectively agree on our risk management. Even though we are only at the end of Week 3, we have already introduced the following

- Chalk
- Water
- Tyres
- Swings



It has been lovely to see our children enjoying these new additions to lunch time and continuing to follow our values of safe and respectful learning. Thank you for all the donations we have already received. Next week, we will be introducing mud and creating a mud kitchen. We are specifically looking for donations of pans, bowls, cake tin and large spoons to support our vision.



MPA CELEBRATED WORLD BOOK DAY 6TH MARCH

Team MPA celebrated World Book Day 2025 in a range of ways! Year 4 visited Hillfields library to meet author and illustrator Nicola Colton. They enjoyed learning about how she creates her stories and illustrations.

Paddy and Jimmy from the Bristol Bears Rugby team visited a group of Year 5 and 6 children and read them a story. Some of our children then read to them.

The whole school did an MPA Book Club teacher swap, choosing which story they would like to listen to. We had children visiting different classrooms and teachers.

Don't forget to check out the £1 books on offer and use your vouchers.



PRE-SCHOOL WORLD BOOK DAY 6TH MARCH



In celebration of World Book Day Preschool children were invited to dress as their favourite characters from books they love. We took every opportunity to read and listen to stories throughout the day with a special highlight of story time outside in the sunshine.

The children were given the opportunity to vote using conkers for the book they would like to listen at the end of the day.

This voting system will continue as part of our reading for pleasure routine, giving the children a chance to listen to books that follow their interests.

A thoroughly enjoyable day celebrating our love of reading.

MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZEN



This term as part of our 'Minerva Global Citizen' learning our PSHE unit is 'Healthy Me' Classes across the school learn about how to stay healthy on the inside and outside. Learning is progressive and age appropriate from Reception to year 6. It covers two main areas:

Emotional or mental health which is about children learning and discussing relaxation techniques, being safe, friendships, body image, relationships with food and managing stress.

Physical health is where children learn and discuss eating a balanced diet, physical activity, rest and relaxation, keeping clean, drugs and alcohol and basic first aid.

Ask your child what recipe they have learnt & practiced making. If they have not done this yet, they can look at the display in school.

YEAR 1 SLIMBRIDGE TRIP 3RD MARCH

Year 1 went on a brilliant trip to Slimbridge. We learnt about Ava and how to be a 'Guardian of the Wild'. The children enjoyed seeing all the birds, especially the flamingos!

They also became experts at map reading as they helped us navigate around the centre

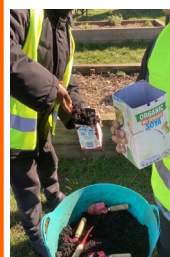


YEAR 3 REDLAND CLASS

HILLFIELDS COMMUNITY GARDEN VISIT

Redland class have been lucky to take part in two nature sessions run by Benedetta at Hillfields Community Garden.

The children enjoyed playing games using their senses, planting their own seeds and taking these home and building habitats for different animals



YEAR 4 -WILDPLACE PROJECT TRIP 28TH FEBRUARY



Year 4 had lots of fun visiting The Wildplace Project or Bristol Zoo Project as it is now known. We saw a variety of animals including giraffes, zebras, bears and lemurs we even got to see some of them being fed. We all took part in a animal detectives workshop learning all about the classification of animals which will help us in our upcoming Scientists unit.

It was a gloriously sunny day, and we even got to enjoy our lunch outside in the sunshine. Lots of fun was had by everyone.

MPA COOKING CLUB

Cooking club started with a bang as pupils all made their own pizzas! We made the dough, prepared toppings and then chose what we wanted on top of our pizza.

This week we had a go at rice Krispie cakes and looked at melting chocolate and mixing ingredients. We can't wait to make something new in our next session!



CLF BIG BAKE

We have so many talented cake bakers and decorators at Minerva! A big well done to everyone who took part. It was a really tough decision but our overall winner was Zuri. She baked salted caramel cupcakes and decorated each one with the CLF logo and a flag to represent each of the CLF schools. She has been put forward to take part in a special workshop with Cakesmith. We can't wait to hear all about what she learns while she's there. Below are some of the fantastic entries. If you would like to see all of them you can on X (twitter) <https://x.com/MinervaCLF>.

At the end of the day we sold the cakes and raised £60 to go towards equipment for a playground and to support our OPAL project. Thank you for supporting this event.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that takes place between 7-16 March 2025!

Each class at Minerva has participated in British Science Week through their Maths and Friday citizens learning!

We were also lucky enough to have Einstein come and visit every lunch time to demonstrate a science experiment. We learnt about a range of different chemical reactions and their products. From big foamy explosions like elephant toothpaste, to magically changing a solution from white to dark purple!

If you would like to take part in Science Week at home, you can visit <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/> for resources, experiments, and much more!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 4th April 3.15pm	Easter sale by Friends of Minerva in the main playground.
Friday 4th April	Last day of Term 4 for pupils.
Tuesday 22nd April	First day of Term 5, We look forward to welcoming you all back to school.