



# MINERVA NEWSLETTER 8

## 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy term of fantastic learning, memorable trips and welcoming families to exhibitions and to see learning in class. You can read more on the news section of our website <https://minervaprimarvacademy.clf.uk/news/> or look at our X feed (previously twitter).

As part of our **Minerva Global Citizens** curriculum all classes have made some healthy food. This was originally an idea from our pupil council who discussed the skills needed to ensure there was progression in the things that each class made. It is one of our enrichment activities that children really enjoy and remember.

Another suggestion from our play leaders was how we could improve lunchtime play. We have invested time and resources into Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL). It has gathered momentum and we now have a mud kitchen, water and sand play, chalk and loose parts. With more on offer at playtime children have learnt how to work together to tidy up in under five minutes. Next term, we are introducing music and dressing up. Please keep donating items such as **old baking trays, saucepans, dressing up, small world toys such as dinosaurs or animals and pots for the sand and water such as plastic yogurt or margarine**. After the holiday, we are inviting all families to a 'Stay and Play' after school on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 3.15-4pm. Friends of Minerva continue to work hard to raise more funds for our playground.

A huge thank you to the children, families and staff team that make up Team MPA. It is through working together and hard work that we can ensure all children at MPA have a high quality, enriched education that supports everyone to develop and achieve socially, emotionally and academically.

I wish you all a lovely Easter break

Warmest regards,

Jenny Harvey (Principal)

### EID MUBARAK TO ALL OUR MUSLIM FAMILIES

We hope all our Muslim families had a joyous and blessed Eid with loved ones. May the blessings of Eid fill your home with love, and may the year ahead bring health and success to you and your family.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PLAYWORKER TEAM

Our lunchtime playworker team have now completed their play essentials training led by Ms Archer. They each received their certificates and continue to be committed to improving playtime for all our children. Great work!



### WE ARE PHILOSOPHERS

MPA have been learning about Easter and Reverend Lizzie from St. Mary's Church in Fishponds kindly came in to lead an assembly on Easter for us.

Alongside this, Year 5 were able to extend their time being Philosophers by enjoying the 'Easter in a Box' experience which is run by Christian volunteers from local churches. This was a chance to hear more about what happened to Jesus in the Christian story of Easter and the Resurrection and ask questions from 'experts'.



## WELCOME

We welcome Miss O'Brien who will be joining our office team. She will be starting in Term 5 sharing her role with Mrs Westbury, who will also be working at another school in our Trust from Term 5.



## CLF BIG DAY OF MATHS

Our MPA citizens had a great morning celebrating the Big Day of Maths alongside so many schools across the world. Our EYFS and KS1 pupils focused on shape, searching for different shapes in the world around them and then creating their own pictures using them. Years 3 & 4 explored symmetry by creating their own flags. Years 5 & 6 focused on problem solving and used systematic methods to work out if they had a full set of dominos. There were such brilliant mathematical conversations taking place around the school - we are all so proud of the children!

## WE ARE MUSICIANS



Music learning has been in full swing this term, with our wonderful Bristol Beacon team delivering whole class lessons to Y2&3, and viola, violin and rock band lessons for our instrument learners in Year 4, 5 and 6.

As a school we've also been starting to learn songs for our whole school performance of Wind In The Willows: The Musical at the end of the year, with some whole school songs, and different classes being assigned either 'goodies' or 'baddies' songs.

## PRESCHOOL LEARNING THIS TERM

This term Pre-school have been exploring the forest school area.



We have been on a bug hunt, looked for shapes in the clouds, counted aeroplanes and learnt the song, 'The Grand Old Duke of York' as we marched up and down the hill!



## YEAR 3— WE ARE HISTORIANS



Year 3 had a very exciting trip to London this term to visit Hampton Court Palace.

We explored the gardens and had a tour from Master Thomas!



Children became princes, princesses, kings, servants and courtiers. On our long journey we saw Windsor Castle, planes taking off from Heathrow and practiced our singing.

## Yr 5— WE ARE HISTORIANS

In term 1, year 5 learnt about the ancient Egyptian civilisation. We looked at how they lived, their beliefs, their cultural practices and more!

Last Friday, we were able to go to the Bristol Museum and Art gallery to attend a workshop about ancient Egypt. We followed the journey of the Bristolian historian Amelia Edwards and her journey through Egypt. Our prior learning helped us understand and relate to where she had been and the artefacts she discovered.

Before and after the workshop, we were able to explore the museum in groups. We enjoyed the Ancient Egypt Exhibition and the Wildlife displays.





## RECEPTION CLASS TRIP TO WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM



Last week Reception had a lovely trip to Westonbirt Arboretum. First, we went on a yellow coach. We saw lots of trees and houses, horses, cows and sheep. When we got to Westonbirt Arboretum we met Claire who was helping us for the day. We sat on the benches and had snack before we took part in an Easter Egg hunt. We carefully looked for different materials on the floor to make our nests. We tested our nests by putting an egg in the middle.



After lunch we used the map to try and find the Gruffalo and his friends in the deep dark wood. We found the Gruffalo, the fox, the owl and the snake.

We had such a fun day at Westonbirt Arboretum and lots of children had a sleep on the coach on the way back to school.



## YEAR 2- WE ARE SCIENTISTS

This term year 2 visited Bristol Zoo Project as part of our scientists learning. We have been learning about animals and their habitats, and food chains.

We were lucky enough to see the giraffes, zebras, bears, wolverine, and meerkats really close up. We also visited the lemur enclosure and watched as they had their afternoon snack.

In class we have been learning about wolves and have written fact files all about their habitats and what they eat. Did you know that wolves have 42 teeth?



## MOTHERS' DAY SALE - FRIENDS OF MINERVA

A huge thank you to the volunteers in Friends of Minerva for creating a Mothers' Day shop in school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. **You raised £450** which will go towards buying more benches and equipment in the playground.

Due to the success, look out for the Fathers' Day sale in June!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Tuesday 22nd April</b>	First day of Term 5 for pupils. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school.
<b>Friday 25th April, 3.15-3.45pm</b>	EID school community picnic- Please come along and bring your own food to enjoy (no nuts please). Friends of Minerva will also be selling refreshments.
<b>Wednesday 30th April, 3.15-4.00pm</b>	Stay & Play for all families-Outdoor Play & Learning (OPAL) launch
<b>Wednesday, 7th May</b>	Class photos
<b>Wednesday 21st &amp; Thursday 22nd May</b>	Sports day – more details to follow next term
<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	Last day of term 5 for pupils.