



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 8

13th March 2026

As part of our **Minerva Global Citizens** curriculum, all classes have been busy preparing healthy foods this term. This wonderful project began as an idea from our Pupil Council, who thoughtfully considered the skills children need and how these could progress from year to year. It has become one of our most loved enrichment activities—something pupils truly enjoy and remember.

One year ago, our Pupil Play Leaders also shared their ideas on how to make playtimes even better for everyone. It has been a joy to see these ideas come to life. Children are now enjoying new opportunities such as dressing up, music, the mud kitchen and exploring our loose parts resources. Playtimes have been further enhanced by the daily opening of our nature area and the installation of our brandnew roll over bars. We are incredibly grateful to our brilliant *Friends of Minerva* team, whose fundraising efforts made these improvements possible.

This term, we have been exploring the 'Growing' element of our school ethos: **Learning, Believing, Growing, Achieving**. At first, children needed time to think and consider what "growing" means and how it connects to personal development. Each class has now recorded their discussions in floor books, reflecting on what personal development looks like at MPA. One Year 1 child designed a poster saying, *"You are all welcome here. It doesn't matter what colour you are."* This beautifully captures our inclusive ethos and our belief that every child deserves the very best education.

Children have used their oracy skills to share the experiences that have helped them grow—such as school trips, Citizens and Talk Assemblies, visiting speakers, Interfaith Week, our Diversity, Equality, Inclusion & Belonging books, fundraising and cooking. These rich opportunities help pupils thrive beyond the academic and support their social, emotional and personal development.

A huge thank you to our children, families and staff who make up **Team MPA**. It is through your continued support, hard work and partnership that we can provide every child with a high quality, enriching education that helps them learn, grow and shine.

Warm regards,

Jenny Harvey (Principal)

Minerva Global Citizen -(PSHE) '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 they are making. If they do not know yet, they can look at the display in school.

PRE-SCHOOL—SHOWCASE OF LEARNING



Our new preschool children started in January and have settled really well.

They have been exploring lots of exciting activities and getting to know their teachers and each other!

Recently we have been thinking about sorting and matching different colours.



YEAR 3 & 4– SHOWCASE OF SCIENCE

Across MPA, pupils have been embracing their roles as budding scientists and diving enthusiastically into their new topics this term.

Year 4: Investigating Sound and Hearing

Year 4 have been exploring the fascinating world of sound, learning how vibrations travel through different states of matter to reach our ears. As part of their studies, they enjoyed a special visit from a hearing specialist, who explained how sound is experienced differently by children with hearing loss.

The highlight of the session was the opportunity for pupils to handle and explore real hearing aids, giving them a hands-on understanding of how technology can support people with hearing impairments. The children were extremely engaged and curious, asking thoughtful questions throughout the visit.

Year 3: Exploring Light and Shadows

Meanwhile, Year 3 have been learning all about light. To bring their learning to life, they headed out into the playground to observe their own shadows at different times of the day. By comparing their observations, they were able to see how the position of the sun affects the size and direction of their shadows.

The investigation sparked great excitement, with pupils eagerly predicting, measuring and recording changes in shadow length as the day went on.

Looking Ahead

It's been a fantastic start to the term for science across the school. With so much curiosity and enthusiasm already on display, we can't wait to see what other exciting learning opportunities lie ahead for our MPA Scientists over the rest of the year.

OPAL NEW SOMERSAULT BARS



We are very excited to share that our playground has a new addition: **Somersault bars**. These metal bars offer a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their balance, coordination, strength and confidence.

As a school in our OPAL assembly this week, we have thought carefully about the benefits of the Somersault bars, the risks and how we can manage the risks to ensure everyone is safe.

Risk management:

Ensure there is a safe zone around the area to minimise injuries through accidental kicks, choose the bar that is the right height for you, decide if you are hanging or somersaulting. Adults have provided demonstrations on how to use the equipment safely and will be around to help.

YEAR 5—SHOWCASE OF LEARNING

Year 5 have had an exciting, fun-filled term of learning. With an increased focus on writing, we have been using the afternoons to motivate young authors with hands on activities and experiences. Recently we have looked at the picture book *Flotsam* by David Wiesner. This encourages inference skills and imagination. We looked at trays of flotsam to infer who it may have belonged to.

Being in the period of lent, our philosophers focus this term was the story of Easter. We discussed holy week, the last supper, and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. This was interesting for us as it fits in with the timeline of the Roman Empire which we learnt about last term.

Our citizens focus this term has been Healthy me. We looked at the impact of smoking and healthy foods. We are looking forward to making a fruit crumble later this term.

THANK YOU ASPENS

A big thank you to Aspens for their wonderful contribution to World Book Day!

The children absolutely loved the themed outfits and the special menu created for the day, which helped make the celebration even more exciting.



ASPENS COMPETITION



Aspens is the firm which provides catering services across the trust, and it marked Census Day with a special competition for pupils. The draw attracted over 200 entries from pupils across the federation, including many from Minerva Primary Academy. The winning name was drawn by Martin Thomas, Estates and Facilities Director, who selected Jude, a Year 1 pupil at Wallscourt Farm Academy.

A sticker was placed underneath plates at all Aspens Services-catered sites within the CLF. Pupils who found a sticker were invited to write their name and academy on it to be entered into a prize draw. Becky Neale, Student Engagement Manager at Aspens Services, said: "It was fantastic to see such a high level of excitement from all the pupils taking part in our Census Day competition. Seeing Jude's face light up with his new bike and helmet was a perfect moment, and a wonderful way to celebrate a successful day."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 16th March 2pm	Pre-school, Reception, Years 1 & 2 - Emergency evacuation practice.
Monday 16th March	We welcome all students back to school – Gates open 8.40am.
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day. – more information to follow.
Tuesday 24th March 8.45am – 9.15am	Years 1 & 2 Parents welcome to join C.L.I.C - Writing
Wednesday 25th March 8.45am – 9.15am	Reception WOW Wednesday– Drawing club & early writing
Wednesday 25th March 9.00am -9.30am	Pre-school Miss Gledhill WOW Wednesday– Drawing club & early writing
Wednesday 25th March 12.15pm –12.45pm	Pre-school Mrs Radford WOW Wednesday– Drawing club & early writing
Thursday 26th March 8.45am – 9.15am	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Parents welcome to join C.L.I.C -Writing
Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th March 3.30pm – 6.00pm.	Parents evening.
Friday 27th March	Bake off competition—Bring cakes to hall at 8.40am.
Friday 27th March 3.15pm -4.00pm	Friends of Minerva – Eid picnic in main playground.
Thursday 2nd April	Friends of Minerva – Easter egg hunt in school.
Thursday 2nd April	Friends of Minerva – Easter sale more information to follow.
Friday 3rd April	Good Friday – School closed to all pupils.
Monday 20th April	We welcome all students back to school – Gates open 8.40am.