



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 9

9th May 2025

Welcome to the beginning of another new term. It has been a fantastic start with more children learning outside in our playground and embracing opportunities to be active in our local community planting, watering and weeding in the Hill-fields community garden, joining the Silver Explorers group to play board games at the library and enjoying trips that enhance learning further afield. These opportunities are planned for children's personal development and form part of our **Minerva Global Citizens** curriculum. We believe it is crucial for children to learn and develop skills for life and to become active and responsible young people. It is always great to hear and read a message from a volunteer or member of the community about how polite, engaged and helpful our children have been. We work hard teaching and rehearsing our values of **Safe, Respectful and Learning**.

Along with children and adults continuing to work hard in class learning, excitement is growing at Minerva for all the upcoming activities. Children are learning new songs for our whole school summer showcase, the drama club are designing props, costumes as well as learning all their lines and we continue to have children practising playing instruments both in class and small groups. The Rock band with keyboards and stringed instruments are improving every week and will have an opportunity to perform soon.

Next week all year six children across the country have their SATs (Statutory Assessment tests). Our children are very excited to demonstrate what they have learnt and achieved across their time at MPA. We are proud of all their efforts, resilience and hard work already.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Jenny Harvey
Principal

EARTH DAY



This year Earth Day was celebrated on Tuesday 22nd April. The focus was on harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for us all. We conducted class votes and decided that in order to save energy we would like the lights turned off in assemblies and during lunchtimes in the hall, as long as it is a sunny day. We also discussed how to be a kind geographer in our classrooms and local community. We each made a class pledge to be more aware of our actions around saving energy, and respecting the environment.

OUR POWER, OUR PLANET

TAKE ACTION

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL)



Thank you to everyone who joined our stay and play for our OPAL (outside play and learning) launch.

Our favourite feedback from a child was *"It's like a party out here!"*

So lovely to see children enjoying the new areas including the mud kitchen, the music, water play and dressing up AND there is still lots more to come this term.

Any donations for play are always gratefully received. Our next stay & play

event is to celebrate the International Day of Play, Wednesday 11th June 3.15pm—3.55pm.



YEAR 4—LEARNING

Year 4 have loved our PE lessons this term - we have been learning all about cricket. To help us with playing an actual game we have spent time developing our throwing and catching skills to support us with fielding and bowling. We are really looking forward to putting our skills into practice with a game soon.



YEAR 6 STONE AGE WORKSHOP

Earlier in the term, Year 6 had a virtual talk from an archaeologist about the Stone Age, with a particular focus on our local area's history. We learnt a lot about Stonehenge and were able to ask questions and find out about its significance. We also saw artefacts such as spearheads, arrows, mammoth tusks and replicas of the first types of metal tools and weapons that signified the end of the Stone Age and the beginning of the Iron Ages. Finally, we were able to discuss 'Cheddar Man' and the children wrote fact files that demonstrated what they had learnt about historical significance and civilisations.

'Cheddar Man'

Cheddar Man is the first ever fully complete skeleton found in the ancient times in England, Somerset, in the Cheddar Gorge. He was found in 1903 by some workers who were digging for a new drainage system and they found his skeleton, curled up in ball, in Gough's Cave.

FACTS:

- Cheddar Man was a Mesolithic Hunter-Gatherer.
- Cheddar Man was from the Mesolithic Era.
- When he was found, almost all of his teeth were perfectly white.
- With the power of AI, scientists have created images of how they thought he looked like from his DNA.
- He lived around 10,000 years ago and died in around 7100BC
- Scientists thought that his diet consisted of meat, berries and grains since his teeth were in near perfect condition.
- 'Cheddar Man' was lactose intolerant, therefore he could not eat or drink any dairy as his body could not digest it.



YEAR 1 - WE ARE SCIENTISTS

In year 1 we have been scientists and exploring magnets. The children really enjoyed exploring what materials were magnetic. Using their scientific knowledge the children experimented making the magnets move without touching them! We even pretended to do magic tricks!



MINERVA GLOBAL CITIZEN - RELATIONSHIPS



Healthy relationships are crucial to living a happy and fulfilling life, that includes positive peer relationships, safe online interactions, relationships with different adults in school and at home and those within our local community. This puzzle will help students understand the value of friendship and family. It will also teach them conflict resolution and communication skills to help when navigating through the adult world.

Learning is progressive and age appropriate from reception to year 6. This unit teaches children the essential building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships. We believe that children should learn about relationships as well as the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up in an age-appropriate way. The unit provides lots of opportunity for our children to practise and demonstrate the *Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory* skill of learner relationships (bee).

EID SALE

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Eid sale. We raised just over £73. This money will go towards our OPAL playground development. So far we have bought some storage benches and helmets for scooters.

Our next big event is the International Summer Fayre on Thursday 3rd July.

We hope to raise lots more money to put in to the playground and make playtimes even better for everyone. Please look out for posters and communications as we'd love as many people to get involved as possible. We are holding an open FOM meeting on Friday 23rd May 2:00 - 2:45 so please come along to share ideas and offer your help.

WRAP AROUND CLUB (WAC) BBQ WITH MR STANHOPE

On Thursday 1st May, the children had fun in the sun, playing in the water, playing parachute games and most importantly the BBQ food was a hit! The next one is on Wednesday 21st May. There will be food again, more water play and even ice lollies at the end!

Thank you to all those that supported and attended the event and we hope to see you at Wrap Around soon!



WE ARE MPA SCIENTISTS



At Minerva Primary Academy, science is an exciting and integral part of our curriculum. We love engaging in hands-on experiments and projects that make learning both fun and meaningful. This year, we're thrilled to introduce new Phizzi Science resources that help us explore forces and magnets in fascinating ways. Whether we're discovering how magnets attract and repel or understanding the forces that make objects move, Phizzi Science brings these concepts to life.

We also celebrated British Science Week with great enthusiasm! It was a fantastic event filled with activities and presentations that highlighted the importance and wonder of science. From interactive learning to engaging demonstrations, British Science Week at Minerva was a wonderful opportunity for our students to dive deeper into the world of science and be inspired.

Throughout the school, you will always find a wide range of scientific concepts being covered. Whether it's animal life cycles, electrical circuits, the obliquity of the earth or figuring out why objects fall, we are always busy using our scientific skills and learning something new at MPA!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 16th May, 3.15pm	Friends of Minerva ice lolly sale in the main playground.
Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd May	Sports day – letters available on our website
Friday 23rd May	Last day of term 5 for pupils.
Monday 2nd June	First day of term 6 for pupils.