



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 6

14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up this term, we are delighted to share some of the wonderful activities and achievements that have taken place at our school.

We had a successful children's mental health week, where students engaged in various activities focused on the NHS 5 Ways of Wellbeing under the theme of 'Know yourself, Grow yourself'. Highlights included:

Taking Notice: Children from across the school participated in the RSPB Birdwatch, observing and appreciating the natural world around them.

Being Active: Our newly designed EYFS outdoor learning space has provided lots of opportunity to enjoy and learn through physical and creative activities.

Connecting: Year 2 children embraced their inner artists, working collaboratively creating beautiful pieces of art and learning about different artistic techniques.

Several year groups had the opportunity to go on educational trips this term. We received heartwarming feedback from a member of the public who emailed the school to commend our children for their excellent behaviour, politeness, and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to hear how well our Year 1 children represented the school.

Our first Minerva's Got Talent event was a tremendous success! The participants showcased their incredible talents, and the audience was thoroughly entertained. Due to the positive response, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting another Minerva's Got Talent in Term 6 on Tuesday 22nd July 2025.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Warm regards

Jenny Harvey (Principal)

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL)



We are thrilled to announce that MPA is starting a new programme to enhance playtime for our students. The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme aims to boost physical activity, social skills, cooperation, creativity, and overall enjoyment through better play opportunities.

What is OPAL? OPAL has been developed over 20 years and implemented in over 800 schools. It has won several awards, including the best active school's programme in Europe. Supported by Sport England, OPAL helps schools create better play environments.

Why is Play Important? Children spend 20% of their school time playing, which is crucial for their learning and development. With changes in childhood habits, many children now spend more time on screens and less time playing outdoors. OPAL helps address this by providing more opportunities for play at school.

Benefits of OPAL: More enjoyment of school, less time lost to disputes, fewer accidents, improved behaviour

What to Expect: As we improve play opportunities, you might notice changes in how the school grounds are used. Children may get messier and face more challenges, but these experiences are vital for their wellbeing.

Get Involved: We will be supported by OPAL for 18 months, and there will be opportunities to meet the OPAL mentor and learn more about the programme. Stay tuned for events where you can see the changes and join in the fun! We are excited about this project and hope you will support us in making playtime better for all children.

OPAL parent survey: Thank you to everyone that took the time to complete the survey we sent out. A summary of the results has also been shared.

YEAR 2 LEARNING



Year two have had an exciting few weeks in school. We took part in the RSPB Birdwatch to see what kind of birds we have visiting our playground.

We had a very special online musicians' session in which we joined other Year two classes in schools across Bristol to sing the songs we have been learning.

Bristol Beacon led the session for us - Pearl and Sam our visiting music teachers were part of this. We all enjoyed showcasing our singing!



WE ARE COMPUTER SCIENTISTS



This week we celebrated Internet Safety Day on Tuesday 11th February with assemblies taking place to explore this year's theme -

'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.'

Lots of classes then explored this further by identifying what information we should keep private and who to talk to if we are unsure about something online. We are looking forward to putting our knowledge around using the internet safely into practice next term when we start new computer scientists' units.

WE ARE ARTISTS



With much excitement, many year groups have been getting creative as artists this week. We're using different types of paint; powder paint, tempera and acrylics with increasing levels of skill.

Year 2 have been experimenting with powder paint to create tones of the same colour. We even used these skills in our creations as designers, adding levers or sliders to our designs.

Of course, celebrating our efforts is the best way to motivate us and to grow our confidence, so in terms 4, 5 and 6, each year group will have a chance to showcase their art through an exhibition. Watch this space!



MINERVA'S GOT TALENT

On Wednesday 12th February, we held our very first Minerva's Got Talent Show. It was a great afternoon and we are really proud of all the children who performed sharing their talents and interests beyond the school. We had performances from:

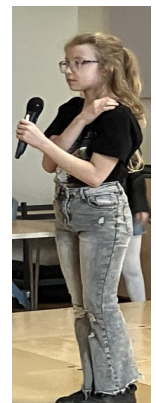
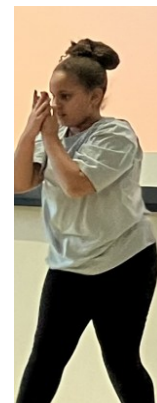
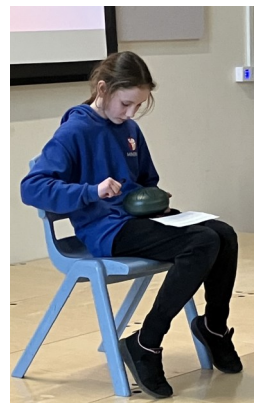
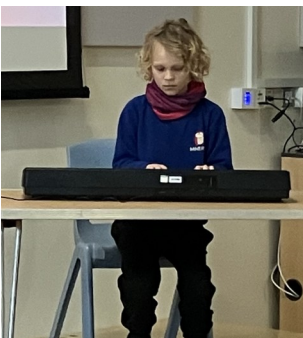
Year 3 - Muhammed dancing and Jasmine singing and signing

Year 4 - Celina, Lola and Rachel in a rock band and Maidah and Halle

Year 5 - Isra singing and Onni playing piano

Year 6 - Zuri dancing and Ivy drumming

Well done to everyone for taking part.





CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children really enjoyed our assembly , learning that we grow and develop by understanding who we are and what makes us tick.

We also revisited our favourite calming images and strategies so we can be our best-.

Squeezing lemons , 

Rainbow Breathing 

Finger Breathing 



INTERNET SAFETY DAY

On the 11th of February we held an online safety workshop for parents.

Thank you to the parents who attended! it was great to have discussions about online safety and how this works in your home.

Here are the links to the websites that we discussed.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday 14th February | Last day of Term 3 for pupils. |
| Tuesday 25th February | First day of Term 4 for pupils, We look forward to welcoming you all back to school. |
| Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th March 3.30pm—6.00pm | Parents Evening in school. |
| Thursday 6th March | World Book Day - Pupils can dress up as their favourite book character,. |
| Friday 21st March | Red Nose Day-Pupils can wear something red with their school uniform. Eg: a pair of red socks, a red hair band, a red scarf or a red nose! |
| Tuesday 25th March—Thursday 27th March | Child learning in class week <i>(see details in What's Coming up for term 4 to be published on 28th February.)</i> |
| 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. |