



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 11

18th March 2022

It is always a delight to see children across the school so engaged and enthusiastic about learning. My highlights over the last fortnight include joining year 4 for our music and singing assembly led by Miss Troughton. Joy filled faces across the school learning about the 7 different elements of music before each class then rehearsing and applying their learning to their chosen song. Parents and carers will be able to see each class perform as part of our summer showcase in July. I was invited to attend our year 6 stone age exhibition. I was really impressed how they had learnt from so many different sources and then each curated their sections. Year 1 and 2 have been computer scientists learning how to write an algorithm or simple set of instructions for each other and the Beebots. Ask them to tell you about it.

In these year groups, and others across the school, children have been demonstrating their **self-agency**, like the ELLI animal of the owl. They are taking responsibility and using the resources and knowledge they need to achieve an end goal. Children also have been able to demonstrate the ELLI skill of **innovation**, like the phoenix. They have been willing to take risks, play with ideas and use their imagination. If you want to find out more about our different MPA lifelong learning skills or animal characters, click on the link to our website.

<https://minervaprimaryacademy.clf.uk/curriculum/>

Next term parents and carers will be able to join us to celebrate such achievement in person in our weekly assembly on a Friday.

Our weekly year group knowledge organisers continue to go home on a Friday. This tells the adults at home what your child will be learning the following week. We provide a paper copy so you can stick it to a wall or fridge, discuss the learning and then use it to support your child's homework. Learning across MPA can also be seen on our Twitter page.

Enjoy the sunny weekend

Jenny Harvey
Principal

CHANGES TO THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY FOR TERM 5

Now that many of the COVID restrictions have reduced, we are going to return to all children starting and finishing at the same time. These changes will begin after the Easter holiday from **Monday 25th April**.

Start of day

- The main gate will be opened at 8:35am.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be able to go straight into their classrooms at 8:45am.
- Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will be invited to enter the building through the far stairwell door at 8:45am and go straight to class.
- Children in Year 5 and Year 6 will be invited to enter the building through the first stairwell door at 8:45am and go straight to class.
- The main gate will be closed at 8:55am so if you arrive after this time you will need to go to the main office with your child.

End of day

- The main gate will be opened at 3:15pm.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be collected from their classroom doors.
- Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will be dismissed from the far stairwell door and the 3 hall doors.
- Children in Year 5 and Year 6 will be dismissed from Zone 3 in the playground.
- The main gate will be closed at 3:25pm.

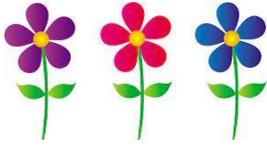
These changes will mean that our playground will be busier, so it is important that parents and carers continue to supervise their children before they go in to class or when they come out.

We hope that this change will support parents with children in multiple year groups to have a quicker start or end to the school day.

MOTHERING SUNDAY SALE

Friends of Minerva will be selling beautiful gifts after school on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March in the main playground.

Cost £1 or £1.50



YEAR 1- WE ARE ATHLETES

Year 1 have been enjoying doing PE in the hall this week as they've been learning to balance on lines and beams. A few even took on the challenge of throwing and catching a ball whilst balancing



How can you help me with my reading at home?

Every week I will bring home a leveled book to read.

Before reading the book:

- Ask me to look at the front cover & blurb on the back. What do you think this story will be about?
- Ask me, what genre is it? (E.g. Fiction or Non-fiction).

During the reading of the book:

- Encourage me to read **fluently** with appropriate pace, smoothly, using **expression** and intonation.
- Can we shared read? E.g. I read to you, you read to me.
- Remind me to pause for **punctuation** on the page.
- When I am trying to sound out an unfamiliar word give me **time** to do so.
- Remind me to look closely at the **first letter** or letters of the word, use my **phonics** to decode. Show me how to break the word up into smaller chunks by segmenting it, then **blend**.
- When I make a mistake, gently point it out to me so I can go back and re-read it so I don't lose the meaning.
- **Re-read** the book, even a few times to improve fluency.

READING BOOKMARKS

Don't forget to use your child's book mark when reading with them at home.

It has helpful prompts to use before, during and after reading to help them with their comprehension.

Please ask the school office if you need another one.

YEAR 4- WE ARE SCIENTISTS

Clifton class have been investigating our key question: "If we had no ears, would we be able to hear?" We asked questions like the ELLI animal of the Meerkat whilst making our instruments about how sound is made and how we hear it.



YEAR 6- WE ARE HISTORIANS

Year 6 were busy this week curating their stone age museum displays and preparing to share what they have been learning about the stone age ready for parents who came into school on Thursday.



Thursday 24th & Friday 25th March

Mother's day gift sale

Friday 8th April:

Last day of term 4 for pupils.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25th April:

First day of term 5 for pupils.

Friday 27th May:

Last day of term 5 for pupils.