



MINERVA NEWSLETTER 3

9th October 2020

I am delighted to have been appointed the new permanent Principal of Minerva Primary Academy. I am proud to have worked in the school for many years, first as a class teacher and then in a number of leadership roles. During this time there have been many changes including the school name, the uniform and more recently the school building and grounds. However, what has not changed are the fabulous children and families who attend our school.

I will continue to lead a great team of staff who are committed to ensuring all children receive a high quality education that is ambitious, supportive and joy filled.

I would like to thank you again for your support and patience as we continue to learn and adapt to new ways of educating our children in school and at home.

You will see as a school we are moving to Microsoft TEAMS for our blended learning approach. In school children are receiving lessons on how to access and remain safe online. Each year group has its own private channel where teachers are saving sequences of learning for anyone who is needing to self-isolate but well enough to continue learning. To be more environmentally friendly and our COVID risk assessment we are trying to reduce the need for paper copies of work and communications going home to families.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and stay safe

Jenny Harvey (Principal)

PARENT VOICE is important to us

Thank you to all of those who have completed the survey we sent out this week. We have had over 60 responses already.

As a result, we will aim to move all parent/carer events to the morning or after school from term 2. The feedback on our school communication and payment systems is useful for us so we can continue our improvements in these areas.

It was also great to see so many families would welcome more support on different areas of our curriculum – reading, THRIVE, writing and using TEAMS. We will look at organising these.

If you want to participate in our survey the link was emailed out and will close on Friday 16th October.

If you do have any particular concerns you can contact us in a variety of ways.

Email: info@mpa.cabot.ac.uk

Phone: 0117 3772990

It has also been lovely to receive so many positive messages that can be shared with the MPA staff team.

MEET THE PRINCIPAL, JENNY HARVEY AND THE FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER, JESS CROSSLEY

We appreciate all your support with the new systems in school, and would like to hear your thoughts and ideas about what is working well, and what we could do better. So that we can get feedback from all year groups, we will be holding weekly parent/carer meetings. The dates so far are:

Years 2 & 3: Thursday 15th Oct – 2.30-3pm

Year 4: Friday 6th November at 9.05

Space is limited to 10 so please contact the school office to book your place – 0117 3772990 or info@mpa.cabot.ac.uk. Once your place is secured, we will let you know all the details of our control measures to keep everyone safe in school.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

- Please can you assist us to ensure children are safe by parking safely and keep the zig zags clear outside the entrances at the busy school pick up and drop off times. Thank you to all the families who already keep the zig zags clear or who walk, cycle or scoot to school!
- Please do not use the school car park.
- Please follow 2 metres social distancing, following the markings on the floor, at all times.

ATTENDANCE

It is great to see every child back in school and engaging with their learning. Our attendance across the school is currently 95.7%. This is better than some schools but lower than our figures from last year. To further raise awareness of the numbers of days of learning missed, we are starting to text parents again from this Friday. This will not be absence due to COVID but all the other reasons provided. If you are concerned or want to discuss further, please contact Mrs Harvey via the school email.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This month we are celebrating Black History. Each class is learning about a different notable figure including some with a connection to Bristol such as Carmen Beckford, Jasper Thompson & Vanessa Kusuule - why not ask your child who they are learning about, and look out in the next newsletter for a celebration of their learning.



Congratulations to the following pupils from Year 1-Year 6 who have been elected to stand on our new school council this year:

Harry, Jayden, Cody, Lucas, Mabel, Ruby, Arifa, Cameron, Remy, Manha & Rava.

They are the pupil voice for our school and also have a very important role in assisting with the prospective staff interview process, including our recent Principal interviews!

Well done!

There is a new process for changing your child/ren's school reading book which began on Monday 21st September.

Monday - Year 4

Tuesday - Year 5

Wednesday - Year 1

Thursday - Year 3

Friday AM - Year 2

Friday PM - Year 6



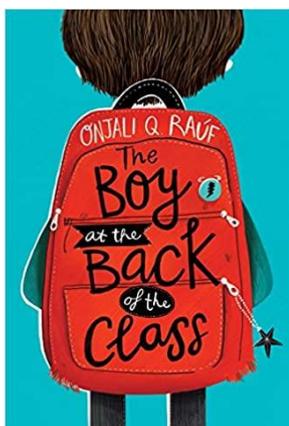
To comply with quarantining, your child can **only exchange and return their book on this day.**

Thank you for your assistance.

MISS RODEN'S BOOK RECOMMENDATION For Years 5 & 6

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf

Winner of the Blue Peter Book award 2019 and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019.



This novel offers a child's eye view and an ambitious, adventure-filled plot.

When a new boy is introduced at school, no one is exactly sure where he has come from; what is a "refugee kid", anyway, and how can Ahmet be helped to feel that he belongs? This is a powerful story about friendship and kindness.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 12th October

Black history month assembly

Tuesday 13th October

School photos for Reception class only

Monday 19th October

Harvest festival assembly

Wednesday 21st October

Halloween pumpkin or cat dress up day

Wednesday 21st October

Last day of term 1 for pupils

Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October

INSET day

Monday 2nd November

First day of Term 2 for pupils



ART EXHIBITION!

Open to all year groups; new or practised artists alike.

We need your pictures! You can use any medium (paint, drawing, chalks, charcoal, collage etc) to express your creativity and interpretation on the theme 'Curiosity'.

All entries to be submitted by the **1st November** and selected art will be shown on the very first MPA Virtual Art Exhibition.

For mounting the finished pieces, **please make your artwork 15cm x 20cm.**

Don't forget to put your name, class, and year on the back.

Go on.....go get artistic!

MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF MINERVA

We are a small but very friendly group of parents, who regularly organise and run fundraising events for the school. With the money we've raised we have bought gifts for teachers and children, contributed towards the playground and bought a new sports uniform. We also set up and ran a Stay and Play for parents with young children.

Many more things could be done and we are looking for more parents to join us to help us raise more money for our children to support their education and have a more enjoyable time at school.

Due to Covid, this year things will be a bit more challenging as we are not able to fundraise in the usual way. We have some ideas and welcome any suggestions you may have. We hope that you will continue to support us with our fundraising efforts as without you, none of this would be possible. If you would like to join us or have any suggestions or ideas please do get in touch, via our email friendsofminerva@mail.com

We look forward to hearing from you.



On **Monday 19th October** we will be having a Harvest Festival Assembly.

This year we would like to support a local charity, Kingswood Young Homeless Project with our donations.



Please help by bringing to school food tins or toiletry products.

THANK YOU

HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER WITH FRIENDS OF MINERVA

Wednesday 21st October



Come to school dressed as a pumpkin or cat!

Costumes do not need to be bought. We know the children can make amazing costumes too (eg: If you would like to come as a pumpkin an orange T shirt would be ideal!)

Donations will be collected on the school gate.



A **BIG THANK YOU** to Friends of Minerva who gave every pupil a 'Welcome Back' pencil in September.

They also, very thoughtfully, gave staff a cute hand sanitiser dispenser to use.

PLAY POD BACK OPEN!

Exciting news - The Scrapstore have ensured that our Play Pod is COVID safe so we have been able to open it again for the children to use at play time! Everyone, children and dinner ladies, have really enjoyed having the equipment to play with!

