

# Newsletter

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

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## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas dinner / Christmas jumper day  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – whole school to Cast to see Beauty And The Beast (FS2/KS1 am and KS2 pm)  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Pupil of the term assembly at 9.30  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Picnic lunch followed by parties for all year groups in the afternoon  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – school closes for Christmas at 3.25  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – school reopens at 8.40  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Y2 SATs meeting 6.00 (Hall)  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Y3/4 mixed basketball at Hungerhill  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Y5/6 mixed indoor athletics  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – KS1 Dance Off at Hungerhill  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Y1 safe touch talk with school nurse  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Hollowford meeting for Y5 parents at 6.00  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Chinese New Year dance workshops  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – School closed for INSET Day and half term  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February- School reopens at 8.40 after half term

## Urgent -Parent Representative Needed

Currently the school still has a Transition Management Board in place of a Local Governing body. Astrea are currently looking at the best ways of structuring governance across its academies. I'm pleased to say that we are now in a position to appoint a parent representative to the Board. As the Board continues to develop we are looking to build a good cross section of skills on there so people with backgrounds in finance, health and safety, legal, premises, business, safeguarding or education would be especially welcome to apply.

Currently we have around six meetings a year, held from 5.00 until 6.30. We are looking to ensure we secure people with a keen interest in the Academy and its development in securing the best outcomes for all of our children. An interest in working across a number of Astrea academies in close proximity would also be beneficial.

If you are interested please contact me before we break for Christmas so we can talk more about the role and what the next steps will be in securing greater strength on our Board.

**Jonathan Moody**  
Principal

## Attendance and punctuality



Good attendance is so important for every child in school. This is something we'll really be pushing across school and across Astrea over this academic year. We're striving for at least 97% attendance and so each week in assembly we'll be rewarding the class or classes with the best attendance for the preceding week. For week 13 the attendance hit 96.5% which is below our target. For each class:

**Supernova (Y6) – 97.9%**  
**Shooting Stars (Y3) – 97%**  
Superstars (Y2) – 96.7%  
Starlight (Y4/5) – 96.5%  
Star Makers (Y4/5) – 96.2%  
Starlets (FS2) - 95.3%  
Starburst (Y1) – 95.1%

Each week we analyse our tracker and identify any children whose attendance is giving us concern. All class teachers have access to this and so will share information with yourselves and the children. Successes will be celebrated – children achieving 100% and those with green upward arrows showing improved attendance through the awarding of smiles.

In terms of year groups and their attendance over the term so far well done to Y6 on 97.94%. they are followed by Y3 on 97.09%, Y5 are in third place on 96.79% and Y2 on 96.69%. The year groups giving us most concern in terms of attendance are Y4 on 95.75%, FS2 on 95.39% and Y1 on 95.32%.

At the moment boys are beating girls in terms of attendance. Boys currently stand at 96.68% against the girls on 96.24% (although the girls are catching up).

Thank you for your support over the coming months in building on these foundations and encouraging the best attendance possible for our children.

## Christmas Concerts

Well done to everyone throughout the school on two fantastic concerts last week.

It was great to see everyone from Y3 to Y6 come together and show such enjoyment for singing as they performed a selection of carols on Tuesday afternoon and evening. There were some fabulous groups pieces, instrumental accompanists and readings. A special mention has to go out to the outstanding soloists- Belle Norman, Elivia Chattin, Brooke Harvey, Alice Briggs and Gracie Chattin. Many thanks to Mrs Sykes who put this all together and rehearsed over the last few weeks with the children.

The choir not only performed at our recent Christmas fayre and at the concert but have also been out and about in the community. They performed a selection of carols at the community centre and at Tesco on a very cold Monday morning. Well done to them all for representing the school so well. Thank you again to Mrs Sykes.

Key Stage 1 and Foundation provided a lovely concert with their performance of Whoops A Daisy Angel. They sang with lots of enthusiasm and made sure their audience could hear every word that was said or sung. People certainly left the concert with a big smile on their faces. Thank you to all of the team for their work in putting this together.

Thank you also to members of the PTFA for serving refreshments at all of the concerts and for washing up afterwards!



## Looking Back....

It's been an incredibly busy term with lots of changes and opportunities for the children. It's been great to see so many people taking up the chances provided by our clubs and our music provision. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the various sporting events and well done to the teams who went through to the Doncaster finals for dodgeball and football. There have been visits to Eyam, Stockport air raid museum, Subway and Conisbrough Castle really helping to bring the learning to life as well as the Hollowford residential for Y6. We have had children out at the English and Maths conventions, Shakespeare festival, the poetry recital competition, Doncaster Book Awards and carol singing in the community. Our Y6 children led a moving remembrance assembly in school and at the memorial. Our new PTFA launched and have held several successful events such as the Halloween disco and the Christmas fayre. We have raised money for charity through the Macmillan coffee morning and Children In Need and provided a donation to the food bank to help with over 200 meals locally. Our Y4 and Y5 children have launched exciting projects such as Minimus and Reading Gladiators. Thank you for all your support and feedback – it has been a privilege to become part of the school and I look forward to what 2018 has in store.

## Y3 Samba

Well done to everyone in Y3 for a brilliant Samba performance last Wednesday. The children really brought a party atmosphere and this made sure the audience members from across schools and the families who joined us took part as well. There was some great singing in Spanish and a terrific sense of rhythm shown by everyone. It was a real treat for a cold December morning!

## Christmas In School

On **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** it will be our Christmas dinner day. We hope to make this a special dinner with Christmas music, crackers, table decorations and staff joining the children for the meal. Everyone can wear their Christmas jumpers that day as well so it should be a great occasion. Please place your orders as soon as possible. We're really looking forward to taking the children to Cast on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** to see the production of Beauty And The Beast. This is a great chance to see a production staged in a local theatre and it will be great to go as our school community. Finally, on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** there will be a picnic lunch at dinnertime followed by parties for all year groups in the afternoon.

## Music Lessons

Unfortunately, a number of children have decided not to continue with their instrumental lessons. This means that there are now a number of vacancies especially in the woodwind group. There is an opportunity for any child who would like to learn to play a musical instrument in Y3-Y6 to take one of these places at £50 a term. Please contact school for more details.

## Times Table Rockstars

There's a great sense of competition in school at the moment amongst children and staff in our Times Table Rock Stars. It's a great fun way of encouraging your children to develop their rapid recall of their times tables. If your child hasn't been online yet then please encourage them to do so. Our current leaders in school are:

Muhammad Hamid (new in to the top 10) on a fantastic 1.22 seconds

Malak Zraidi (down from first) on an improved time of 1.39 seconds

Seth Brooke (stuck in third) with an improved time of 1.92 seconds

Isabelle Ward improving her time on 2.17 seconds and up one place

Katie Liddle (new to the top 10) with 2.26 seconds

Finlay Soffe (new to the top 10) with 2.31 seconds

Millie Hadfield (new to the top 10) with 2.32 seconds

Elivia Chattin (down from second place) with an improved time of 2.36 seconds

Jake Allen (down from fourth place) with an improved time of 2.44 seconds

Liam Cresswell (new to the top 10) with 2.46 seconds

The times have really improved as the time of 2.46 seconds was in second place two weeks ago.

Out top 10 took on Mrs. Williams who is current staff champion.

## Let's Celebrate

Each week in our Celebration assembly we give recognition to a child from each class across school who has really demonstrated one of our pupil value partners. Well done to the following children:

Starlets: Isabelle Richardson – inclusion and collaboration

Starburst: Olivia Mainprize – inclusion and collaboration

Superstars: Katelynn Peat – aspiration and development

Shooting Stars: Frederick Gale – aspiration and development

Star Makers: Maja Szpak – honesty and integrity

Starlight: Lola Robinson – responsibility and leadership

Super Nova: Elivia Chattin – responsibility and leadership

KS1 playground: George Fleming – aspiration and development

KS2 playground: Gracie Pitkin- responsibility and leadership

Our Values Leaders awards went to Lewie Gale and Grace Whiteley.

**Bronze Award:** Well done to the following people who have gained 50 smiles and so have received their Bronze awards. Each child has been presented with a certificate and sticker and have chosen a prize from the box: Violet Riley, Ebony Amess, Elliott Noble, Alex Brown, Bryony Woodhouse, Ruby Keenan and Elizabeth Adamsons.