

Issue number 1

In this issue:

- Welcome from the Headteacher
- Update on learning and events
- Information about attendance
- 'Wake up Wednesday' - online safety
- Terms dates

Welcome to the first edition of the Aspire News. We will endeavour to send these out at the end of each term to keep you updated on our pupils achievements and to hopefully provide information you may find useful.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term is upon us and we are keen to share some of the children's successes during this very busy first term of the year.

Our pupils have been hard at work engaging with their learning and have embraced the enrichment activities available to them. We have introduced a 'Personal Best' board and it has been a privilege to welcome pupils into my office to share pieces of work that they are quite rightly proud of.

Staff and visitors have commented on how smart the children look in their school uniforms and the rewards boxes and Dojo shop are in desperate need of restocking!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and for the lovely compliments we have received recognising the efforts of our dedicated staff team. It has been wonderful getting to know the children, some of the families and to be a part of such a vibrant school community and I look forward to seeing what we can all achieve together going forward. I hope you enjoy the success stories and updates below.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable half term break.

Kind Regards

Mrs H McDicken

Football - Aspire Academy 'V' Northstar Academy.

This term has seen a number of our pupils from both primary and secondary being given the opportunity to represent the school in Football matches against Northstar Academy in Bristol.

First up was the KS3 fixture and a dominant display from our squad saw them triumphant in all 3 of the short games we played. A combination of deadly attack play and solid defensive work meant Northstar never really had a look in throughout the fixture but the most pleasing thing overall was the great spirit the games were played in by both teams who demonstrated impeccable behaviour throughout. We look forward to more fixtures in the future.



The following week it was the turn of the KS4 team. This turned out to be a more challenging and competitive fixture. A real backwards and forwards game saw both teams taking the lead at one stage or other until a very late Northstar goal ultimately saw them the winners. Even then there was still time for Aspire to nearly snatch a draw at in the final moments when unfortunately, we hit the post. With the final score of 3-2 to Northstar we are looking forward to hopefully 'bringing it home' in our next fixture.



Once again I would like to congratulate both teams on a game played in the right spirit and to recognise how well all of the young people involved represented their home school communities.

Well done to both of our teams and a huge thank you to all involved.

Mr T.Gibson

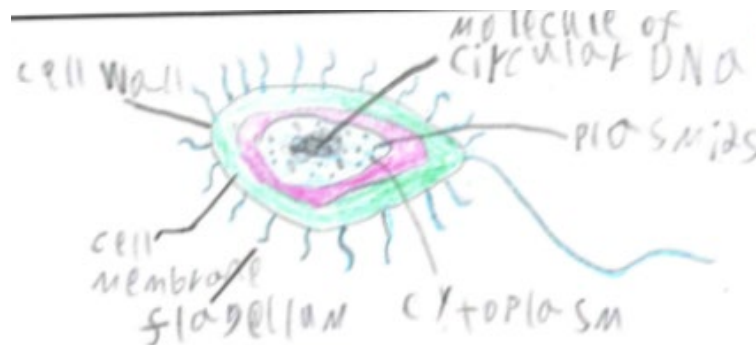
Primary football



Of equal excitement and the first in history was a much-anticipated key stage 1 and 2 'home' fixture on a wet day in mid-October. One could be forgiven for believing it was the world cup given the excitement within our primary department whilst eagerly awaiting competitors North Star. During three matches it became evident that the other team had it in the bag however the behaviour on the pitch and interactions between the two teams was impeccable and both schools were well represented. A huge thank you to our young players who I am sure are already planning their come back hopefully during term 2.

Class based curricular activities

This week Year 7 have been looking at different types of cells with the microscopes. Everyone worked hard and enjoyed discovering different plant and animal cells. We also discovered that bacterial cells can move!

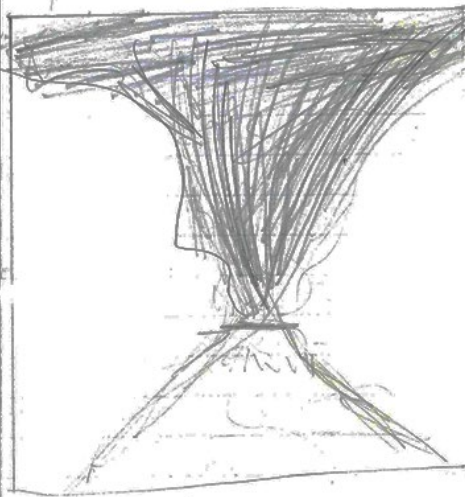


In History we have been learning about the destruction of Pompeii. The children researched the events around the disaster and were surprised to learn that the Ancient Romans did not know what a volcano was and didn't even have a word for volcanoes, until Vesuvius erupted. Sadly they learned the hard way that certain mountains could erupt.

Yesterday, on 24th August, Mt. Vesuvius dangerously erupted and destroyed the town of Pompeii killing thousands of people ✓

At 8am, as usual the ground began to shake but this time there was a little ash cloud above the mountain but that's what they thought it was ✓

After a few hours it got worse. The morning became night because they knew it and buildings began to fall and on Friday the next morning Pompeii was



We are looking forward to a well-deserved trip to the park on Friday as a reward for all our hard work this term!

From Mrs Briggs and Y7



Food Technology



Across the secondary year groups we have been focusing on the skills required to prepare quick Savoury Dishes, hearty enough to either feed an individual or a whole hungry family. We have chopped, reduced by simmering, stirred frantically and created tasty dishes!

The recipes have included Savoury Spicy Rice, Veggie Fritters, No Yeast Pizzas and Cheat Samosas. We have chosen ingredients that are cost effective, helping pupils to think about how to reduce costs when they are cooking for themselves in adulthood.

Food Technology

During Friday enrichment time, we create dishes of our savoury choosing or a sweet treat. We have made various delicious flavours of cupcakes, suggested by one of our brilliant baking students and some Puff Pastry delights.

Primary children have also been making good use of the food technology room and the corridors have been filled with the smell of tasty delights. This week has seen a baking extravaganza resulting in this incredible Harvest loaf. Can you spot the mouse?



We are always very grateful for any empty plastic containers you might have that are spare to transport our delicious goodies in, so please feel free to bring or send any containers in. Alternatively, if your child mentions that they will be cooking, please send them with a large plastic container which they will fill with their scrumptious cooking to bring home for you to sample.

English Key Stage 3 and 4

We have been working hard in Key Stage 3 on developing the key skills to help us access texts through a topic of Ghosts. We have read various genres of texts, from 19th Century extracts to modern thrillers. We have been skimming texts to get a feel of their content, scanning to find specific information and answering comprehension questions. We have looked for similarities and differences in texts and how to put our views and opinions into answers.

In Key Stage 4 the students have been studying the GCSE Assessment Objectives. We have looked at an overview of the different exam papers, and what skills they are tested on. Initially, we focussed on Reading Objectives, answering quick fire questions and retrieving information with highlighters. We then moved onto Creative Writing skills where we have looked at the structure of narrative texts, tone and style of our writing, descriptive writing and characters. Some have written fabulous 'Flash Fiction' pieces, which are short stories of 50 words long, others contributed to descriptive texts changing a tattered armchair to a decaying corpse in an extended metaphor! All the students have risen to the challenge of beginning to tackle skills to prepare them for their GCSEs. They should be very proud of their efforts so far!



_11b Pumpkin Project.

After a great term of learning and some amazing effort completing their assessments this week, class 11b picked and carved the pumpkins we had grown ourselves in our vegetable patch. They showed maturity while using knives, thought carefully about their designs and persevered through the hard task of cutting their designs. Miss Brennan and Mrs Silva are incredibly proud of the wonderful first term 11b have had and look forward to next term together.



Otters

This term Otters have compared two cities in Geography and have brought this study into our English lessons whilst learning about and writing information reports. We also got the chance to cook and compare English and Brazilian dishes. We looked at our world through our study of 'Autumn Art', how different religions view the world and through our exploration of the woods in our forest school sessions. We enjoyed testing how magnets work in a series of science lessons and even though it was tricky, we can now understand place value in 4-digit numbers. We loved cheering on our friends in the football match, playing with Bear and making our own classroom cinema.



Squirrels

In the Squirrels class we have had fun looking at magnetism. With our new knowledge we made some fun magnet based games. We have enjoyed swimming and taking part in forest school as well as participating in the recent football match.



Term Dates:

Term 2

Starts: Monday 30 October 2023

Ends: Friday 15 December 2023

Term 3

Starts: Wednesday 3 January 2024

Ends: Friday 9 February 2024

Inset day: Tuesday 2 January 2024

Monday 19 February 2024

Term 4

Starts: Tuesday 20 February 2024

Ends: Thursday 28 March 2024

Term 5

Inset day: Monday 15 April 2024

Starts: Tuesday 16 April 2024

Ends: Friday 24 May 2024

Term 6

Starts: Monday 3 June 2024

Inset day: * Monday 24th June 2024

Ends: Tuesday 23 July 2024

Please note this date has changed from 8th July.

Attendance in schools

Nationally, school attendance is becoming a chronic issue. As such all schools have been asked to tighten up on school attendance.

Please note the following guidance.

Medical Absence I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to contact the School Absence Line - 01225 832212 on every day that your child is absent and most importantly, let us know at your earliest opportunity if you have any difficulty in getting your son / daughter to school. Please be advised that we may request evidence of contact with a GP for any absences over 3 days. If your child has seen a GP or is issued with medication, please forward this onto the school office as a matter of course as soon as possible. Wherever possible please schedule medical appointments out of school hours. If the appointment has to be within school hours, please ensure that your child returns to school as soon as the appointment is finished if they are well enough to do so. Many thanks in advance for your support.