



## Issue number 2

In this issue: Head Teacher's message, looking towards employment, Meeting our wild neighbours, reward trips, Santa, Mrs Clause and lots more.



Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive season is upon us and we are keen to share some of the children's successes during this very busy second term of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to work with such wonderful children and young people and to celebrate with them their achievements. It has been an absolute pleasure to read the end of term reports and to hear of children trying hard and making progress.

There have been many highlights this term however for me, it has been seeing the children's enjoyment during our festive celebrations. From our trip to the local church through to Santa's visit, the surprise appearance of the Christmas float and finally our Nativity extravaganza. It truly has been magical!

It was wonderful to see so many of you during pupil review day and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. We received lots of positive feedback from the parental questionnaires, particularly highlighting the dedication of our exceptional staff team. If you did not have an opportunity to complete the questionnaire, please call the school office and a member of our reception team can complete it over the phone to ensure that your voices are heard.

Kind Regards

Mrs H. McDicken



### Careers

The year 9,10,11s and sixth form have been involved in some fantastic Careers, education, information and guidance experiences this term.

Bath College gave a very informative awareness assembly where the students found out about life at College, courses and education progression pathways.

They were also given an awareness assembly by ASK Apprenticeships where the students gained knowledge in options for apprenticeships and the different Apprenticeships on offer. It was brilliant to see the students interacting with the guest speakers and fully immersing themselves in the Q and A session.

Building a solid foundation of the wider world and the developing the key skills to help you grow throughout life are important themes for our students. 'Daniel McIntyre' a successful entrepreneur gave a talk to the Secondary students about employability skills, resilience, work ethic and exploring possibilities. The behaviour and attitude of the students was excellent and stimulated some very interesting discussions.

### Aspire Secondary English

In English we have been concentrating on Creative writing - using literary devices such as similes, metaphors and descriptive language. The students have been given lots of different writing prompts for which they have to create engaging stories or descriptions.

Next term it's going to be a terrifying one - studying Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde for Year 10 and Sinister Stories for Year 9.



### Larkhall URC Christmas Tree festival

Primary took part in the Larkhall URC Christmas Tree festival. We each made a decoration to add to our unique tree created by the wonderful Mr. Bentley.



### Secondary Food Technology

In food technology, we have been cooking up various savoury dishes, which are quick and easy for future independent living! We have been spicing up our lives with either more curry-based spices or Italian herbs and trying to understand the difference and when to add to produce maximum flavour.

We hope you have enjoyed our most recent sweet Christmassy treats!





### Secondary Football

This Term saw two more fixtures for the secondary school football teams. The KS4 team got revenge against Northstar after last terms narrow defeat with a commanding 5-0 win. Goals were scored by Ellis, Jack C, Jack H and Dylan H (pictured below scoring). More importantly, this was the best overall performance by the whole team with some really good, controlled football played throughout with all players contributing strongly. Well done to all.

The KS3 team played the school's first game against Soundwell Academy. In a match which had just about everything you would want to see in a game of football Aspire took a strong early 4 – 0 lead which unfortunately slipped away to be 7 – 4 down. This inspired a fight back from our team to bring it back to 7 – 6. Despite trying everything, including having approximately two more good chances we couldn't quite get the equaliser. A good day had by all though and it is now set up beautifully for a rematch.



### Dressing Up

Primary celebrated Halloween this year by dressing up as all sorts of spooky characters!

The day consisted of lots of eerie fun, including trick or treating around the classes.



This year Primary managed to raise of £60 for Children in Need by dressing spotty and donating.







### Wildlife at Aspire

Over the last term during my 1 to 1 sessions with Joey a pupil in Primary, he asked if we could look into the badger set and badgers more, we laid a sand trap to see if we could capture any prints. The following day we did. Two sets of badger prints were there in the sand. Inspired by this he asked if we could get pictures. We set a Trap Camera up and over a month period, these are some of the results.

Mr P Bentley



### Badgers class

Badgers class have had another fun filled term with a festive end. We particularly enjoyed learning about Ancient Islamic civilisation and the incredible inventions they created in the house of wisdom. Badgers class worked hard on multiplication and division in maths with a focus in English on writing an alternative ending to a traditional story. The class came up with creative ideas using impressive descriptive vocabulary. The class fully participated in the weekly Forest school sessions and learnt how to first build a fire and then cook pizza, and cinnamon swirls over it. They have shown huge resilience with some class changes and have continued to make everyone around them proud as they continue to rise to challenges and take pride in the work they do.







## Year 7

This term Year 7 have been studying the book 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. We loved the story and used it to discover what life was like in World War 1, writing poems and thinking carefully about the themes of the book.

Year 7 also had the honour of choosing the school Christmas Tree. We had a trip to Dunkerton to the Christmas Tree Farm and enjoyed running around in the mud, finding the perfect tree! I think you will agree that they children chose a fantastic one!



## If You Build It They Will Come

It was a short while until the end of term and time was racing towards Christmas. Aspire's Head Elf Franki sat in her room thinking how she could get Father Christmas to visit the students at Aspire. Knowing Santa quite well, Aspire she knew he and Mrs Claus could never resist visiting a groovy grotto. She gathered her best elves together and told them "If you build it they will come". They all worked very hard and very late on Wednesday evening and eventually the grotto was finished and it was spectacular. On Thursday morning, the ringing of sleigh bells were heard and then there with a loud and jolly "Ho! Ho! Ho!" Santa and Mrs Claus magically appeared in the grotto.

They met the students one by one in the grotto to hand out presents. Everyone was excited to see them and behaved very well. Once every student visited, there was another "Ho! Ho! Ho!" and with sleigh bells ringing once more Santa and Mrs Claus vanished just as magically as they had appeared. Just as we thought they had left, the carpark was filled with joyous Christmas classics and the children were greeted by Santa his Christmas float covering the children and the carpark with Christmas snow and cheer.



Special thanks to, Head Elf Franki, Elf Morgan and Elf Blanca - who were with Franki from start to finish.

Elf Rebecca - who raised the funds so every child could receive a gift

Elf Jas - who's amazing fireplace brought the whole grotto together

Elf Martyna - who took amazing photos for the children to share with their families

## Cinema Trip



Primary enjoyed their end of term treat. A cinema trip to watch Arthur Christmas complete with delicious popcorn.



## The Nativity

For the first time all of primary have worked together to create a spectacular Nativity performance!





### Christmas Lunch and Celebrating Together

On the last Wednesday of term, Primary and Secondary enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner provided by our excellent cooks. Primary and Secondary then went to The United Reform Church at Rush Hill to celebrate Christmas together. There was impeccable behaviour and engagement from everyone.



### Well Done

Congratulations to Leo Parr who managed to get 100% of the behaviour and engagement points that were available to him this term.

Great effort was also shown from Corey Finnigan, Willis Ruddick, Adrian Waller, Lily Simmonds, Devyn Edgecombe and Ethan Ball who had 3 or more 100% weeks in the term.

## Term Dates

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Ends:** Tuesday 23 July 2024

Please note this date has changed from 8<sup>th</sup> July.