



Astbury St Mary's C of E Primary School

Walk in love as Christ loves you. Ephesians 5:2

A Christian family who care, share and learn together

School Lane
Astbury
Cheshire
CW12 4RG
01260 272528

admin@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mrs P. Worswick

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year. A special welcome to our new families and children.

There will be another newsletter next week (usually fortnightly) but I just wanted to update you on some diary dates, a few introductions and share with you our fabulous review of 2017/18.

Each teacher moved classrooms over the summer holidays, the new entrance area had its skirting boards, architraves and new carpet throughout - including the corridors. The office moved to its new location so if you are looking for Mrs Cameron then please ask if you're not sure where to find her! The school library returned to its former position, class Noah had a new carpet area fitted and class Jacob had new tables and chairs throughout. The school environment looks fresh - everyone has worked so hard to create excellent learning spaces. Please pop in after school and have a look!

The new infant space has created a great learning environment for our reception, year one and year two children. This new class is called class Noah. Class Mary and Jacob have new rooms but keep their names and their year groups, Y3/4 and Y5/6 respectively.

During the summer we appointed a new clerical assistant to support Mrs Cameron in the school office, Mrs Suzanne Loomes. She will be in the office on Thursdays and Fridays.

Please remember that the staff and I have an open door policy and welcome you to discuss your child with us at any time that is mutually convenient. Please keep yourself updated with what is going on by downloading the school app, following our Facebook page, following us on Twitter, reading the newsletter, looking on the website, attending meetings, looking in your child's homework/reading diary, looking in bookbags for letters, supporting the PTA, following their Facebook page . . . and coming soon . . . new class pages on the website that the staff will use to blog about the learning that is going on in their classes.

Astbury School 2017 – 2018 What an amazing year we have had!

The year started with a victory for Astbury School in its distinctive eco work. The hard working Eco team won 3rd prize in the Congleton and District Horticultural Society Schools' garden competition and were presented with their prize at the Town Hall by Fiona Bruce MP. Two members from the club even met the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall on their visit to Congleton this year.



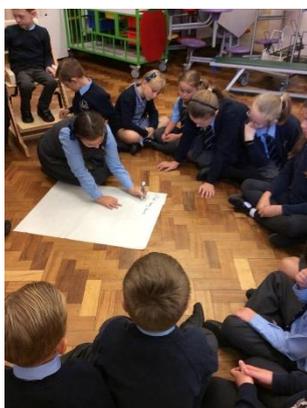
Lots of excited Y3/4 children set off on their visit to Standon Bowers. Cases packed and ready to go! So happy to see some

sunshine and full of aspiration to tackle the challenges that lay ahead as they started their residential.



Diocese of Chester





Older children, appointed as team leaders, regularly support their younger friends. Children work together in teams to share ideas about new things they have learnt and discuss questions posed to them. Daily acts of worship at Astbury School help nurture the Christian values that form the ethos of the school. In September world Peace Day was celebrated with a peace lunch. Children in Y5/6 attended a cultural diversity day at Congleton High School – wheelchair basketball was a firm favourite!

At the beginning of October, the aspirational speeches of two of the Y6 children earned them the positions of new Head Girl and Head Boy. Children in Y5 joined others for a pilgrimage day at Chester Cathedral. They toured the cathedral; pretending to be monks, learning the story of St Werbergh and making prayer bracelets. Astbury children completed some beautiful calligraphy and made stained glass windows in creative workshops.



Y5/6 showed some excellent creativity in their performance of a distinctive Soul Play based on our wonderful village of Astbury. They had worked with the Minerva expressive arts company to develop characters, write story lines, make up speech and a song to accompany the play. The children showed real dedication in practising and during the performance they spoke and performed with confidence.



This year has been busy for Eco club as some of the members met in the poly tunnels in the park to plant the bulb pots for the town. Good fun and a great community spirit as many children from other schools joined Astbury children in this venture! Children returned to the poly tunnels twice more this year to plant the summer planters and to build our aspirational back to back garden based on the theme of five for the Congleton in Bloom competition.



Children in reception and Y1 had a brilliant trip to Manchester Airport Their natural curiosity was nurtured as they learnt lots about aeroplanes linked to their topic on transport. One child said Concorde was massive and had wings like Bat Man! The children look so small under its nose! They also had a visit from 'people who help us'. The fire brigade came to school - it was very exciting! The children tried on the clothes, looked at the engine and learnt about how the fire brigade help us. Thank you to Congleton Fire Brigade.



It is with thanks to those who lost their lives that children at Astbury can be aspirational for their futures. The children wrote prayers and hung them in a poppy curtain over the cross at school and attended a



MARK INCLUSION QUALITY IQM



BD A Dyslexia friendly schools



Diocese of Chester



remembrance service at church. Later in the year the school council returned to church to plant the poppy seeds grown by the children to remember each soldier on the war memorial. Our school choir have blossomed this year and have performed in the community at many events. One highlight was the Christmas Light Switch on as well as taking part in a choir festival and singing at Astbury Mere care home.

We acted out our own nativity – distinctive in performing to a packed church one Sunday morning - the children acted and sang so beautifully with children from reception acting as Mary and Joseph.



Amongst other Christmas celebrations, the Christingle service is a favourite memory from the year for many. The staff at school have nurtured the children's love of science this year through many clubs, lessons and opportunities to visit other schools to work on science



investigations – finding the DNA of a banana amongst other

investigations! One highlight was science week when lots of new scientific vocabulary was learnt and investigative skills developed in each class, culminating in a presentation for parents to share in the children's learning.



The curriculum at Astbury School is exciting and enriched as children are encouraged to ask questions and explore answers. This stone age visitor certainly

got everyone asking questions and was an enjoyable and engaging way to start a topic!



New for this year has been the PE skills challenge days. Children across the school have made lots of progress in their key PE skills. In the Town Sports this summer, four children won individual medals for their field events; long jump and javelin.



Developing a love of literature is nurtured at Astbury School. Children dressing up for world book day, learning about authors and loving a good story!

With the support of Eco club leaders, the children developing a distinctive wild life There is a bird hide, planting and much more.



have been area on the field. area, bog garden



Astbury children from Y3/4 performed in Eaton Bank's Primary Dance Festival - they danced to 'A Million Dreams' which inspires them to be aspirational in their dreams for the future. The high school students worked with the dancers to give them the confidence to step out on stage and take part in a great night of dance.



Children in Y1/2 had fun measuring in litres and millilitres! At Astbury, we love to work outside when we can in our distinctive surroundings – it's great to be outside learning! Children in year six had a fantastic time at Congleton High School completing a code breaking challenge. They pushed themselves to work hard to crack each of the codes. Great reasoning,



Diocese of Chester



application of knowledge and problem solving.



Laches Wood residential centre was visited by the Y5/6 children who really pushed themselves to be resilient and work hard. This visit appears in the memories of many of the children as they reflect back over the year.

Representatives from the school council received first prize from Cheshire Constabulary for their social media stay safe radio clip. The children wrote and recorded their safety message and designed all the sound effects to accompany the clip. They were finalists with twelve other schools. A highlight of the year for the school is being the winners!



This year's progress, achievement and success is to be celebrated and is a credit to the hard work of all involved in the Astbury family. Thank you to everyone in the community of Astbury for the part that you play – all at the school look forward to another excellent year ahead.

May Day

The community rallied this year and many were involved in organising and running the traditional village May Day celebrations.

The May Queen was chosen by having her name drawn from the old top hat at the school. Her attendants were also chosen in this way and they posed for their traditional photograph with the daffodils on the beautiful village green.



On the day, the school children were led down the road by the Rode Hall Silver Band. The procession made its way to St Mary's church where Rector Jeff Cuttell led a short May Day service. The traditional May Day hymn, 'It's the Astbury School May Day' was sung with great gusto by the children from the school! Once back at Glebe Farm, the retiring queen, Hiermarnie Perry led Savannah Jones, this year's May Queen, to her throne where the crown was brought forward by William

Salmon. He was followed by the Sceptre Bearer, Charlie Norbury and the Sword Bearer, Kodie Kivel – Gibbins. Savannah was crowned by the Rector and gifts brought to her by Rebecca Carey, a pupil at the school. The younger children at school danced four traditional country dances and the Y5/6 performed the single plait and spider's web on the May pole.

Apart from watching the dancing and the ceremonies performed by the school children, the games, events, refreshments, stalls and activities that



Diocese of Chester



had been superbly planned by the May Day committee were enjoyed by everyone. There was a great family atmosphere as crowds watched the Royal wedding and the FA cup final as well as listening to a performance by the Astbury school choir in the tea tent.

The community spirit at work during this year's May Day was fantastic and a credit to all involved.

Diary Dates

Sunday September 9 th	Class Noah to help in church 11.00am
Wednesday September 12 th	Reception picture for the Chronicle – please inform school if you do not want your child in the picture.
Friday September 14 th	Cultural Diversity Day at CHS – Yr 6 “Open The Book” starts for the infants
Monday September 17 th	Swimming starts for group one – letters to follow
Friday September 21 st	Community litter pick in partnership with Radio Stoke. 1.00-2.00pm
Monday September 24 th	Singfest rehearsal for choir children 12.45-2.45pm
Thursday September 27 th	Year 5/6 Open Evening at CHS at 6.30pm
Friday September 28 th	MacMillan Coffee Morning – all welcome 9.00am
Thursday October 4 th	Bible Explorer – Yr 5/6
Friday October 12 th	Tempest in to take individual and family group photos. Start 8.30am
Monday October 15 th	Chester Cathedral trip for year 5
Friday 19 th October	NSPCC workshop – whole school
Monday 5 th November	INSET day
Thursday 22 nd November	Bikeability day 1 for Yr 5
Friday 23 rd November	Bikeability day 2 for Yr 5
Tuesday 27 th November	Scholastic book fair
Monday 3 rd December	Last swim for group 1
Friday 21 st December	Last Day before Christmas holiday



Diocese of Chester

