

8th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Extra curricular clubs

We are so pleased that we have been able to start extra curricular clubs and children have been having great fun accessing a range of activities. These include cooking club, arts and crafts and a sports club. We are sharing lots on social media so you can see what the children have been up to! Thank you to all of our support staff and Mr Kirk for offering their time and expertise to enrich school life.

Welcoming new families to ASM.

We are delighted to have had new children and their families join our wonderful school community this term. The children absolutely love the excitement of welcoming new friends and have really helped new children to settle quickly. We do still have spaces at school, so if you know of anyone new moving into the area, please do tell them about ASM and ask them to contact the school office for a welcome tour.

Applications open in November for pupils to join Reception in September 2022 and we have already started to run tours for families. Please do contact us if your child is starting school next year and spread the word to other families. We would be delighted to chat to you about our early years provision and introduce you to our reception teacher, Miss Robertson.

Lines of Communication

A little reminder to make sure that communication between school and families happens as quickly as possible. Please always contact your child's teacher (via the admin office) in the first instance if you are worried about something. They are the absolute expert on your child and will be able to support you. If you would rather not chat on the gate please arrange an appointment for a time that suits you both. If, after speaking to your child's teacher, you still feel an issue has not been resolved the senior leaders in the school will be happy to meet with you.

Celebrating being in school Every Day!

Next week we will begin to celebrate great attendance again. The importance of being in school everyday has never been so great. Children have missed so much learning as well as time with their peers already so we really encourage all of you to talk to your children about how important attendance is.

We do understand that things have been very different during the last 2 school years and some people are still feeling anxious.



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE



We will be rewarding the class with the highest attendance each week with some treats to have during golden time.

Building Lifelong Foundations Together.

Being part of a schools Trust, the Learning Academy Partnership, means your child benefits from the expertise and support of many, not just the team here at ASM and the past few weeks, staff have been working together on a number of exciting developments. Miss Burton has been working with teachers at Dunsford to develop how we teach reasoning in maths, Mrs Rippon and Mrs Armstrong have been working with our Trust Phonics and Reading specialist to look at developing a love of reading.

We have also had visitors into our school this week. Mrs Bone, Director of Education for the Trust came in to talk about development of teaching and learning across the school and Miss Watson came into look at how we teach while class reading. Teachers have also benefitted from the expertise of our Trust Maths Lead Mrs Palmer.

Making our library beautiful!!

Our school library is looking a little tired and untidy after two years of being blocked off due to COVID restrictions. Now that we are able to use the space again we want to make it an inviting and warm area that children can relax and enjoy a book in.

We have lots of high quality texts but we are in need of some new furniture, book shelves and comfortable seating such as bean bags and large floor cushions.

Our incredible finance team are looking in to grants that we can apply for to fund this and I am meeting with our Estates and Services manager next week to talk about how we can re-design the space. We will keep you updated!!

Year Six Secondary Applications.

A reminder that Year 6 secondary applications are due by 31st October. If you are struggling with your choices or how to do this please do contact Mrs Webber in the school office who can help you with this.

Harvest!

Finally thank you so much for your incredible contributions for Harvest. Mrs Webber has shared some pictures of the huge pile of donations on social media. These items will be collected by HITs this week and provide a well needed stock up of their foodbank.



School Photos

Jelly Images will be joining us on Wednesday 20th October for our individual school photos. Please can the children come wearing their best smiles!

PTFA MUFTI Day – Friday 22nd October

Please support our PTFA buy bringing in a pound in return for wearing non-school uniform!

Christmas Excitement - Save the Date – Thursday 9th December

The PTFA have started to plan our Christmas Fair. The staff and children are so excited to have some 'normal' back and enjoy celebrating together again. Watch this space for more details.

Working together to help one another



As a community we are aware that the pandemic has had a huge impact on children and families both financially and emotionally. We really do want to support families and wanted to share with you further areas of support if you are having financial or other hardship.

Below are links to some websites that can offer advice and guidance.

<https://www.dcfp.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing/emotional-and-mental-health/>

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/support-for-people-and-families/>

If you are worried about your child, their sleeping, diet, socialising or their mental health, ChildLine has a brilliant website as well as phone line to see advice & support at <https://www.childline.org.uk/>.



Finally, I wanted to say a huge thank you to each of you for your continued support.

Have a restful and enjoyable weekend

Mrs Secker

Head of Academy