



Dear Parents

Yesterday we had a visit from the Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson. He toured the school, chatted to children and lead worship as well as meeting with the Ethos Council. I was so proud of the Council who chatted to him so confidently and answered his questions, showing a real understanding of the importance of our Christian ethos and how it impacts on how we treat each other in school. The children had prepared their questions, and Rosie gave a great interview. Sid shared a detailed retelling of the parable of the Good Samaritan, which Archdeacon Mike said was his favourite Bible story!



Thank you to all parents who came to the Talk for Writing morning before the half term break. We had a lovely morning of sharing our learning as Children had the opportunity to share their work with their peers and share their texts with other classes. Teaching using the Talk for Writing approach is really improving the children's writing at Astbury School.

Many thanks, Pip Blythe

Mrs Hamilton

Congratulations to Mrs Hamilton who gave birth to baby Chester on Tuesday. He weighed 8lb11oz – mum and baby are both doing well!



Class Mary's trip to the canal

Children in class Mary set out from Astbury School to walk to the canal. Their English text 'The Canal' was the inspiration for the visit to provide the children with further experience to support their writing. It was good to be out walking in the countryside – thank you to all the parents who came to support.



Indoor Athletics



Astbury children in years 3 and 4 competed in the athletics tournament at Congleton High School. The children looked great in their new Astbury sports' kits and certainly represented the school well, encouraging each other and trying their best. The girls' team achieved a brilliant third place. Well done to all the team.



Class Noah's science learning

Class Noah have started their topic 'Plants'. They began with a 'Show what you know'. In small groups, children worked together to share all the knowledge they have already about plants.

Each group then presented their knowledge to the rest of the class. Some children could name plants, others could label parts of a flower, some could talk about the things plants need to grow and Leo was able to tell everyone about how plants need carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen! Mrs Stevens thinks she has a resident expert to help the class with their learning!

There was a slight break in the rain showers which meant their 'Buddy Time Plant Hunt' could go ahead. It was lovely to see the collaborative learning between the younger children and their Y6 buddies.

Village Hall Parking



Astbury children in Class Jacob enjoyed an educational visit from Rebekah and Niall from the Air Quality Team at Cheshire East Council. The children learnt about types of air pollution and the main causes of pollution in the UK. They were taught about measures the council uses to check levels of pollution. Using a map of the local area, children learnt about the pollution from car engines, especially during drop off and

collection time. The children made lego models of the school and completed an investigation looking at how the air pollution is concentrated and then spreads out. At the end of the lesson, the children made posters to share the main messages about air pollution. SWITCH OFF YOUR ENGINE! The posters being made by Class Jacob are almost all finished!

Please also consider where you park as there is a big puddle by the gate which children (and parents) need to navigate. If a vehicle is parked over the gateway it makes it difficult or impossible to get by without getting wet feet.



Science Week (6th – 15th March)

A reminder for all children that there is a Congleton Town science competition linked to this year's theme – our diverse planet. Children in reception and KS1 are asked to make a habitat (no bigger than a shoe box) or a poster (no bigger than A3) about a habitat. Children in KS2 are asked to make a poster (no bigger than A3) about an endangered habitat. Entries need to be in school by Friday 13th March. Winners at Astbury will receive prizes and also be put forward to the town competition.

Mother's Day/ Grandmother's Day lunch

Alison will be serving up a special lunch for Mothers and Grandmothers on Tuesday March 17th. The cost of the meal will be £2.40 payable on the day. There will also be a special pie day for the children only on Thursday 19th March to celebrate National Pie Week. Look out for the special menus to follow next week.



Singfest Festival – Wednesday 25th March

Tickets are now available to purchase if you wish to attend the Singfest Festival at Congleton Town Hall on Wed 25th March at 10.30am. If parents/grandparents etc. are attending then tickets must be purchased via the link below on the Singfest website. Tickets are £6.00 each. Children who are performing do not require a ticket. Parents/visitors must use the public car parks around Congleton Town if attending as no parking will be available around the Town Hall.



[-https://www.priorbooking.com/e/singfest-we-are-the-champions-concert-6](https://www.priorbooking.com/e/singfest-we-are-the-champions-concert-6)

Astbury May Day Quiz Night

There will be a quiz night on Friday 3rd April in the Village Hall. All welcome to attend to raise money for Astbury May Day funds. Tickets are available for purchase. Tickets are available in school and are £10.00 each. For more details Facebook @AstburyMayDay Quiz Night Astbury Village Hall.

Drinking water for better brain functioning

We encourage all children to bring a water bottle to school each day. As a healthy school, we need this to be filled with water only – no juice please.

Coronavirus

The DfE have launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk. Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Parents and Friends' Association

Would you be able to help to serve tea and coffee at the Easter coffee morning? Friday 3rd April 9 – 10:30am. If you have not volunteered for a PFA event before, then this is a great way to start! Please let school know if you can help.

Look out for the next PFA letter about the Easter Extravaganza to see how you can support and take part.

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Diary Dates

Thursday 5 th March	PFA Film Night 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 11 th March	Indoor athletics Years 1 and 2 at CHS
Friday 20 th March	Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day (21 st March)
Sunday 22 nd March 11am	Mothering Sunday Service in St Mary's Church, Astbury
Monday 23 rd March	Last swim for group 2
Wednesday 25 th March	Singfest Concert at Congleton Town Hall 10:30-11:45am
Wednesday 1 st April	Parents' evening for spring term 3:30 – 7pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Service in church – 9.15am
Friday 3 rd April 9am	PFA coffee morning and Easter extravaganza