



AD ASTRA INFANT SCHOOL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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TEACH Trust Poole

Trust Excellence Aspiration Collaboration Honesty



Ad Astra Infant School



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Summer message from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,



The TEACH Trust has enjoyed another hugely successful year. I am incredibly proud of how our schools work collaboratively as a Trust to ensure all the children who attend any one of our wonderful schools on Canford Heath, receive the best possible education and care. The children have worked so hard throughout this year, and we are extremely proud of all their achievements academically, sporting, musically and in a number of other ways. They all make a huge difference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children, staff and parents across the Trust for their continued hard work, to ensure such great outcomes for our four schools.

The return of the TEACH summer concert after 3 years, was an amazing example of our talented children coming together to produce another breath-taking performance led by our incredible Music Director, Mrs Rebecca Turner. Once again, I was blown away by your children: their motivation, enthusiasm and dedication is second to none.

We sadly say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils who are moving on to their Secondary Schools and we wish lots of luck to all our Year 2 pupils who are moving to Junior School, in September. It is always hard to wave the children off as they have been such a large part of our Canford Heath family for such a long time. We would like to thank them for the joy they have brought to us and wish them luck and happiness always as they begin a new part of their school adventure. We also look forward to welcoming our new Early Years children to our Infant Schools.

This year, I have been especially proud that Canford Heath Infant School achieved the top Ofsted award in its inspection, especially after fifteen years of waiting. I know that our other three schools are now ready and waiting for their imminent Ofsted inspections themselves, which are now due. Whilst we are aiming for an outstanding outcome in all of our schools, the way the current Ofsted Framework works, this will not be possible for AAIS, CHJS and HTS, as their next inspection is an ungraded one due to them all being currently 'Good' schools. This is out of our control and is an Ofsted Framework policy. However, our aim is that each school will show so many aspects of outstanding practice at its next inspection, the inspectors agree to re-visit the school within the following two years for a graded inspection, which will then allow us to go for the top grade. We will always want to achieve the best for your child - whatever school they attend.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for your commitment to your child's education. With best wishes for an enjoyable summer holiday. I hope the sun continues to shine for you and your families.

Kate Carter

Mrs Kate Carter
Chief Executive Officer



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





Summer message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly fantastic year it has been for Ad Astra Infant School! I would like to start by saying what an enormous pleasure it has been spending it with your children. They are incredible learners, wonderful friends and little rays of positive sunshine wherever they go. Thank you so much, to all of you, for everything that you do to support your children, our staff and our wonderful PTA, Friends of Ad Astra, to help all Ad Astra children to reach their potential and love the journey of getting there.



Our Early Years children started the summer term with the 'Circle of Life' topic. They enjoyed learning about life cycles; watched ducklings hatch from their eggs and even had a visit from Crazy Creatures, where they were able to handle creatures big and small. After half term, the children started their 'Literacy Let's Learn' lessons where they produced some fantastic character descriptions about characters from the book 'Supertato'. Next, they focused their learning on Space and have also been preparing for their transition to Year One.

Our Year One children began this term with a wonderful topic all about plants where they learnt all about what plants need to grow and about different types of trees. The topic culminated with a sunflowers and cress plant sale with a little bit of art inspired by Van Gogh included in there too. After half term, they kicked off their sporting topic with an Olympic and Paralympic sparkly starter, where the children had a go at boccia, tennis and athletics. As the topic continued, the children produced excellent fact files about Sir Mo Farah and Ellie Simmonds, as well as participating in a fantastic sports day.

Our Year Two children returned after the Easter holidays as superheroes (literally) with the determination to prepare for their Secret Agent Training (SATs). The children worked incredibly hard during the half term writing action-adventure stories; becoming Secret Agents and designing, creating and racing model superhero getaway vehicles. Their final half term with us has been just as action-packed with an exciting musician in residence workshop and performance; a visit from the life bus and a trip to Moors Valley. I can't tell you how much we will miss our Year Two children as they move up to Year Three. From the very first day of school in September, they have impressed us with their enthusiasm for life, their kindness and empathy for others and their dedication to their learning. We all wish them the very best as they take their next step towards their very bright futures.

This term, we have also been busy planning for next year and I have a few changes to share with you. We will be saying a very sad farewell to Miss Nicholas who leaves us at the end of term. We are so grateful for her care of Dolphins' class this year and wish her every success in the future. Teaching in Year One next year, we are very pleased to welcome back Mr Booker, who you may remember taught in Zebras' class earlier this year, and also Mrs Adams and Mrs Blake-McKeown, from Canford Heath Infant School. We will also, say 'goodbye for now' to both Miss Carne and Miss White, who will be taking up positions at other lucky TEACH schools in September. Teaching in Year Two in September, we will welcome Miss Clark and Miss Davis, from Haymoor Junior School. Also, we are so pleased to be able to offer a learning support group, called Otters' class, to some Year One and Two children next year and I am delighted that Mrs Doyle will be leading this for us. Finally, we will be welcoming to the team SENTAs Ms Tarasenko and Miss Wells who will be working in Year One and Two next year.

Once again, thank you so much for all your support with everything that we do for the good of your children. On behalf of all the staff at Ad Astra Infant School, I wish you and your families a wonderful safe and happy summer holiday.

Best wishes,

Clare Tantrum
Mrs Clare Tantrum
Headteacher



Summer message from our Pastoral Care Team



What a wonderful year it has been at Ad Astra! We would like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to spend time with your lovely children.

It has also been lovely to see so many parents and carers in school for shows, events, parents' evenings and special assemblies.

How amazing it has been to see our Early Years children settle in and grow in confidence as they get ready to now move up to Year One, where I am sure they will do brilliantly, and be great role models to our new Early Years children, joining us in September.

We know that our Year One children, will be such a credit to Ad Astra and as they become the oldest group of children in school, 'top of the school', moving up to Year Two.

We are so excited but also sad to see our wonderful Year Two children start their next school journey moving into in Year Three. We would like to wish them all the very best of luck as they begin their junior school adventures.

Please remember that we are here to help and support not only the children of Ad Astra but also yourselves. If you have any worries or concerns, big or small, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We can offer a variety of interventions in school as well as provide contact information and signposting for outside provisions.

You can contact us by telephone on 01202 602113 ext 114 or by email: pastoral.aais@teachpoole.com

We wish you and your families a lovely and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back to school in September.

Best wishes

*Mrs Nikki Penfold & Miss Caroline Hutchins
Pastoral Care Worker & ELSA*



Early Years

We absolutely loved our 'Circle of Life' topic! We really wanted to learn about the life-cycles of butterflies and ducks, so we wrote to Mrs Tantrum to ask for some. And guess what? She got them for us! We really enjoyed watching the ducklings hatch from their eggs and run around the classroom.



The Evil Pea trapped our veggie friends around the classroom! We wrote letters to Supertato to save the day and made up our own story using the characters.



We had our first Sports Day! We had to run, jump, throw and complete an obstacle course.



We loved learning about Space! We learnt facts about our solar system and had a visit from Space Odyssey.

Year 1

We played tennis games and had running races as part of our 'We Like To Move It Move It' sparkly starter.



We have been learning about Vincent Van Gogh this term and have been putting our own spin on his famous artworks, like Starry Night.



We held our annual plant sale before half term, selling sunflowers, cress and our wonderful artwork. Thank you to everyone who supported us with this.



What a fantastic sports day we had this year! The highest quality sports and top notch effort was there for everyone to see - well done to everyone involved.





Year 2



We demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and a competitive spirit during our Sports Day.



We thoroughly enjoyed our 'Superheroes to the Rescue' topic, starting it by coming into school dressed as our favourite superheroes!

Our green fingers have completed two experiments to see if plants grow in a light or dark place, and in a warm or cold place.



We developed our handiwork while making our superhero getaway vehicles, which we enjoyed racing at the end of our topic!



Long Service Awards



Everyone at Ad Astra Infant School would like to say a huge congratulations to Darren Luff, who will be celebrating 5 years of service to our TEACH schools on 1st August 2023. Thank you Mr Luff.



Pupil Voice



Each year, our Year One and Two classes elect Eco-Warriors who attend regular meetings where they represent their class by sharing their views and ideas about how we can improve our school environment and make active contributions to help the wider world. Our Eco-Warriors have been incredibly busy, planning and implementing a range of actions to make Ad Astra Infant School a more environmentally friendly place to learn. So far this year, our Eco-Club have completed the following:

- Used recycled Christmas tree pots to create pretty flowerpots with a mixture of colourful plants to encourage butterflies and bees.
- Crafted wild bird feeders using recycled plastic bottles, twigs and old yoghurt pots to encourage small, wild birds into the school grounds.
- Promoted simple key actions that our children can take to help improve our local school community and wider world. These include encouraging children to walk, cycle or scoot to school; turn off running taps; use both sides of any paper to reduce wastage and notify staff if lights have been left on in the classrooms.
- Become #LitterHeroes by participating in the 'Great Big School Clean' – a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign.
- Made plans to submit an application to become an 'Eco School'.

Here are some wonderful photos of our Eco-Warriors in action:





Autumn/Winter School Uniform Reminder



	Ad Astra	Not Acceptable
Trousers	Grey, black or charcoal tailored school trousers School conventional material Full length	No jeans, corduroy, leggings, tight fitting, Lycra or skinny fashion trousers (Please note: some shops do sell 'skinny' trousers as part of their school uniform range, but they are <u>not acceptable</u> for our school)
Jumper or school sweatshirt or school cardigan	Bottle green with Ad Astra school logo	Other sweatshirts Hooded tops Fleeces Non regulation jumper/cardigan
Skirts	Grey, black or charcoal knee length skirts	Fashion skirts, i.e. pencil or mini skirts Stretchy or mini-skirts Skirts shorter than the knee
Pinafore	Grey, black or charcoal knee length dress	Dress shorter than the knee
Socks and tights	Plain grey, black or white socks Plain grey, black or white opaque or knitted tights	Fashion tights Coloured or patterned socks or tights Bare feet Tights of less than 50 denier
Shoes	Traditional black and low heeled <u>school</u> shoes Velcro, laces, buckle or slip on only	Trainers (even if black) Hi tops High heels, sling backs or open toed sandals Wedges Boots Logos
Polo shirt	Plain white with no motif	Shirts Coloured polo shirts



Whole School Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2023 01 st September - 20 th October 2023	
Friday 1 st September	INSET Day
Monday 4 th September	Children return to school
Friday 1 st September, Monday 4 th September and Tuesday 5 th September	Early Years home visits
Wednesday 6 th September, Thursday 7 th September and Friday 8 th September	Early Years children start school in small groups for one morning this week
Thursday 7 th September	Welcome to Year One parent meeting Welcome to Year Two parent meeting
Monday 11 th September – Friday 15 th September	Early Years children are at school until after lunch each day
Tuesday 12 th September	Welcome to Early Years parent meeting
Thursday 14 th September	Year Two art exhibition
Monday 18 th September	Early Years children in school full-time from today
Thursday 21 st September	Parent Volunteer Workshop - 2:15pm Early Years Phonics Information Evening for EY parents – 6pm
Tuesday 26 th September	Year Two trip around the local area
Friday 29 th September	Macmillan coffee event
Monday 2 nd October	Early Years and Year Two school discos
Wednesday 4 th October	Year One school disco
Thursday 5 th October	AAIS school photos
Friday 6 th October	AAIS/HJS cross-school photos
Monday 9 th October	Year 2 Cockle Trail Poole Quay Trip 1
Tuesday 10 th October	Year 2 Cockle Trail Poole Quay Trip 2
Wednesday 11 th October	Year 2 Cockle Trail Poole Quay Trip 3
Monday 16 th October	Early Years 'people who help us' launch – visitors to the school in all week
Tuesday 17 th October	Parents Evening
Wednesday 18 th October	Parents Evening
Friday 20 th October	Julia Donaldson Day – launch of sponsored read
Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October	Half Term



2023-2024 Term Dates

Autumn Term: Friday 1st September 2023 to Friday 15th December 2023
Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023 - Friday 27th October 2023
Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December 2023 – Monday 1st January 2024

Spring Term: Tuesday 2nd January 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024
Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024
Easter Holiday: Friday 29th March 2024 – Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term: Monday 15th April 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July 2024
Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024
Summer Holiday: Wednesday 24th July 2024

*Staff Inset Days: Friday 1st September 2023
Friday 24th November 2023
Monday 27th November 2023
Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Monday 24th June 2024*

