



School Newsletter



Aspire School

Individual for all, Aspirational for everyone

Term 2

December 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the very busy festive term. The Christmas term is always a wonderful term filled with lots of excitement and high spirits. I am pleased to inform you that we have been able to arrange lots of Christmas activities in school, including Elfridges, visits from Santa, and festive art and craft activities.

Around the school, we have been continuing to enhance our Pathways with the appointments of new Pathway leaders- Kaley Noble (Pathway 1 leader) and Shannon Dean (Pathway 2 leader). Kaley and Shannon are working hard to continue to develop the pathway identities and ethos. They have managed to organise pathway parent events already and I am sure that there will be many more of these as the year progresses. Pathway 3 currently does not have a Pathway leader, but we will be exploring this option as the year progresses. After the Christmas break, we will be looking to continue to develop our outdoor areas, with a focus on developments in the Year 3, 4 and 5 outside spaces. We will also be continuing to enhance our OPAL offer in order to provide your children with as many enriching outside opportunities as possible. I hope that you all get to enjoy the Christmas break and have the opportunity to relax and have fun with families and loved ones.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Neil

Update from Lead DSL/Assistant Headteacher

What a wonderful term we have had at Aspire! We have had lots of opportunities for parents to come in and visit the children's classes in Term 2, and the events have been really well attended with some fantastic feedback. We conducted a parent survey in Term 2 and the results were overwhelmingly positive. Look out for a parent survey feedback letter early next Term where I will share what we have done with the information you provided during the survey.

As we approach the Christmas break, we know the children are tired and excited for a break away from school. It can be an exciting, but also stressful, time. Routines change and there can be lots of noise, all of which can cause the children to find it a challenging time. There are lots of resources online to help, and my favourite is one our Behaviour Lead TA, John shared with me via My Family Coach:

<https://myfamilycoach.com/?s=school+holidays>. This website has lots of ideas about how to support your child through the holidays, with anxiety and with changes to routine. The great thing about this website is that it is from the team behind Team Teach, so it aligns with our behaviour support in school too.

If you are buying electronic devices for children this Christmas, please ensure you are aware of setting up parental controls BEFORE it is given to your child. Again, there is a lot of guidance and support online. I like the Digital Hive page:

<https://tinyurl.com/digital-hive> and the Primary Times guide:

<https://tinyurl.com/primary-times>.

Whatever you do this Christmas, I wish you a safe and happy time and look forward to seeing you in January.

Tracy



Update from the PTA

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Christmas event, Elfridges! The event was met with overwhelming interest and it was fantastic to see so many children taking part. Class teachers who brought their pupils down to the shop have shared glowing feedback, with many children enjoying the experience of choosing special gifts for their loved ones.

A special shoutout goes to Megan, who single-handedly manned the shop for an entire day—your dedication did not go unnoticed, and we're so grateful for your hard work. We are also deeply thankful to the Christine Fox Trust Fund for their extraordinary generosity. Their donation of £200 allowed children from low-income families to purchase gifts for the adults in their lives, making the event even more meaningful and inclusive.

As we reflect on this event's success, we're looking ahead to our Penny Wars and Easter Fayre! More details about these exciting events will be shared soon, so stay tuned.

Thank you again to everyone who made Elfridges such a memorable event. Your support helps us create magical experiences for our children and community!

Shannon

**PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR
ATTENDANCE UPDATE AND
TERM 3 EVENTS**

Attendance Matters Term 2

Whole school attendance this year is 91.4 %

Applegate Class have won Aubrey our school attendance mascot for the highest class

attendance this term with 96.4%. Well Done Applegate Class!

Andersen Class were second this term with 95.9%, amazing.

Newton Class were third this term with 95.5% brilliant.

23 Pupils across the whole school received their certificates and pencils for 100% attendance for both term 1 and term 2 today so they can bring them home with them. This is amazing WELL DONE!

A big **THANK YOU** to all our Aspire families that have supported their children in attending school as much as possible this term especially during all the coughs, colds and tummy bugs that have been going around. Thank you for supporting Aspire attendance and that all non-urgent appointments have been made outside of the school day to ensure Aspire attendance remains as high as possible in accordance with the local authority, DFE and Ofsted.

Below shows the attendance data for Aspire for this Term 2;

Total Number of day's absence this term; **554.5 school days**

Number of pupils with 100% attendance this term; 48 Amazing!

Number of pupils with attendance below 100% but above 96%: 35 Well done!

Number of pupils with attendance below 96% but above Aspire expected minimum 85%: 74

Keep up the brilliant work!

Have a lovely Christmas Holiday and we look forward to welcoming all the children back to Aspire school on Tuesday 7th Jan 2025



TERM 3 EVENTS

Monday 6th January
Staff Development Day
(School Closed to Pupils)

Tuesday 7th January
Term 3 Begins

Monday 3rd February – Friday 14th February
Penny Wars
(more information to follow from the PTA)

Friday 14th February
Term 3 Ends