



# NEWS LETTER



## 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Happy New Year.** Welcome back to school. Despite the abrupt end to the Christmas holidays, the children have returned in good spirits and ready to learn. Thank you to all parents and carers for making the start of term go so well.

### New Build Update

As you have probably noticed over half the new school arrived in the holidays and is now in place. Please don't worry, the outside will be clad in brick and render and will look much nicer than it does at present. The rest of the school arrives, from Yorkshire, in modules during February. We are still on schedule for building completion at the end of July. The rest of the old building will then be demolished with a completion date for the playground due in June 2019.



### City Hall Visit.

A group of 15 children travelled into the city centre by bus to the City Hall to meet the Mayor, Marvin Rees. We were also given a guided tour of the building by Anna Keen, counsellor for Hillfields ward. We were even allowed to sit in the Council Chambers and to experience first-hand how votes are made by our MPs in the chamber- we all felt very important! Mr Rees took time out of his busy day to allow us to sit with him in his office and ask him questions. Sophie asked

“What advice would you give us for the future?” His answer was “Make good friends that make positive choices. Don't be afraid to fail and give your BIG ideas a go!” Wise words!

His New Year's resolution is to go to the gym. He even had a press up competition with Tiago - Tiago won!!



**Bisma, Bayleigh, Chloe, Naveah, Mohamad, Jason, Laila, Sophie and Brandon** with Mr Rees the Mayor.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Friends of Minerva meeting 2.30pm, all welcome

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Menu Change.  
Everybody's favourite - Fish & Chips served today.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan** - Principal's Coffee Morning  
9am – all welcome

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Wacky Wardrobe day. Make a donation and wear your oddest outfit to school.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Clic 8.45am – children learning in class. An opportunity to come in and see what your child is learning in class.

**Y1 Pirate Walk Trip.**

**Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>** – School reports coming home.

**Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Parents evening 1

**Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>** - Parents evening 2

### Friends of Minerva.

We are a small, friendly group and we meet every Wednesday at 2:30pm in school. Come and join us for a cuppa and chat about fundraising plans for this year. You can bring pre-school children along with you.

**We want to thank you all for your generosity last term and are pleased to announce that £341.66 was raised at the Winter Fair, this will be added to the playground equipment fund.**

**Bags 2 School Collection.** If you are having an after Christmas clear out please donate any unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, belts, bedding, curtains, towels and soft toys. Put them in any bag and hand to the office before Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. The more we get, the more money we receive!

**Wacky Wardrobe** day is Friday Jan 26<sup>th</sup> so start planning your crazy outfit! Last year we loved seeing your clashing colours, odd socks and funny hairstyles.

### KS2 Performance.

Thank you to the children who all performed beautifully and with much enthusiasm for their New Year Celebration Concert. They sang songs, spoke of their aspirations for the coming year and shared memories of 2017. Thank you to all parents and carers who came and supported the children.



Sydnee, Martina, Nqco, Ashley, Nicholas and Imam enjoying performing and entertaining us.

### Happy New Year from the Pastoral Team

Following the success of the winter craft course more adult learning in school is being planned. **Please tick the survey boards in the playground to show us which courses you would be interested in attending.**

**PPAP Parenting Course** is taking place at Hillfields Library every Thursday 9:30 – 11.30am. For more information on this free course supporting you to parent children aged 10+ speak to Jess Crossley.

**Reminder** - children need to have their PE kit in school for their PE lessons. They need a white t-shirt and black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms and a pair of trainers.

**Thank you.**



### Menu change Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan



FISHFINGERS AND CHIPS

OR

CHEESE AND TOMATO PINWHEEL

FOLLOWED BY



CHOCOLATE CRUNCH.

*You can also have your choice from the salad bar or one of our delicious jacket potatoes with a choice of filling.*

A good day to try a school meal if you don't usually have one.

### The books we are reading in class this year are

- Reception - *Pirates Love Underpants* by Claire Freedman
- Year 1 - *The Night Pirates* by Peter Harris (and if you want to do some research on pirates at home that would be useful for our learning)
- Year 2 - *The Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartrum
- Year 3/4 - Newspaper reports (non-fiction, so read any papers or magazines)
- Year 5/6 - *Beowulf* (a poem that links to our topic of the Vikings)



## ATTENDANCE

The best attendance in KS1 is LAWRENCE HILL with \*\*\*\* 100% \*\*\*\*

The best attendance in KS2 is Hotwells with 98.8%



At the end of term 2 our school attendance was 94.7% this is well below the national of 96%. In our key stage two classes attendance is amazing but in our younger classes some children are missing a lot of school. We recognise that sometimes this cannot be avoided but want to remind parents and carers that children can come to school with coughs and colds. If your child becomes ill during the day we will contact you

Another reason children have missed school during the autumn term has been for unauthorised holidays. When this has happened the local authority have issued penalty notices which are costly to parents.

With the start of a new year lets improve attendance as it has huge benefits for every pupil both socially and academically. Research has shown that pupils with high levels of attendance over their primary education have better peer relationships and achieve better results.