



# Anstey First School

4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Newsletter 6

## A Note from Mrs Myers

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school (although by now the summer feels like a distant memory!) and welcome to those of you who are brand new. We are going into a new school year with an exciting focus on our own, customised curriculum which merges the National Curriculum with the Montessori one and focuses all the time on what our children, here at Anstey, need to develop them as rounded individuals. We are also focusing on getting our children to write creatively and well and have been privileged to have Phil Davis of Write Inspired to train both teachers and students in generating ideas – do have a look at Phil's website

<http://www.writeinspired.co.uk/> for more information.

We have a new staff room and new classroom furniture – both of which were badly needed.

We have been really working with kids this half term on 'zones of regulation' which looks at how kids are feeling and why. There are 4 colours – **Blue** (tired, ill, low), **Green** (Happy, calm, ready to learn), **Yellow** (Grumpy, grouchy) and **Red** (out of control, angry) The kids have really latched onto this and their emotional intelligence is growing in leaps and bounds! It helps us to get the kids all ready to learn and receptive to what we need to teach. I am looking forward to the rest of an exciting year ahead.

Sincerely

Mrs Myers

Did you know that there are resource links on the school website? You can find out more about Montessori, look at curriculum maps and much more. The website is constantly being worked on and the photo gallery has just been updated so do keep checking it!

Did you also know that we use Discovery Education within school to support our curriculum. You can use this highly visual teaching and learning tool at home with your child. To use Discovery Education you will need a username and password from your child's class teacher or the office

[www.discoveryeducation.co.uk](http://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk)

## Dates and Things to Note

- For parents of children in Owlets, Nursery and Year 4 please note that the applying for school deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Years 1-4 will be going to Hertford Theatre on the 18<sup>th</sup> October to see Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors. The trip will be funded by money given to the school by the Woodman pub and by the PTA
- The end of term is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October
  - Please take all PE kit home at the end of school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Assembly will be at 3pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>
  - The Halloween party for the children will take place following the end of school
  - Please send costumes into school in **named** bags and your child can then get changed in school before returning to the village hall for the party
- The Car Park is being levelled and regraded during half term and extra space for car parking is being worked on to come soon.....

Have you  
sent in  
your lunch  
choices??



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## Messages from the Classrooms



### **Anstey has been awarded the Silver School Games Mark!**

Congratulations to Mrs Modeste and Mr Fitzgerald for putting so much into developing our physical education programme!



Ian Palmer from Anstey Chapel paid a visit to talk about his faith

**Fledglings** have been undertaking work around their topic of 'My World' linking into the Montessori 'First Great Lesson'. They have been using Google Maps to look at where people live and making clay models of the world (globes!) and looking at the solar system. They have also been learning the routines and settling in along with having the materials in the classroom introduced. Alongside this they have been looking at likes and dislikes, things they are good at and things they find more difficult along with strategies to get around the difficult bits!





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## Messages from the Classrooms

Wise Owls have been using an Atlas of Adventures to 'go to' different countries and places such as Finland, Paris and London! They have learnt about festivals such as the Feria De Cabbalo in Spain, Rio Carnival, the Hong Kong Lantern Festival, Holi festival and Cherry Blossom in South Korea and have created their own. They have been looking at prepositions in English and Place Value in Maths.

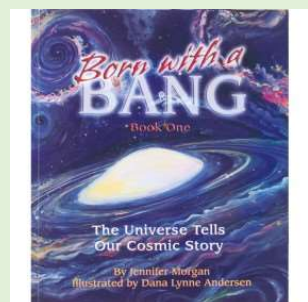


Our new Sports Crew



Mrs Modeste led the first great lesson – one of 5 Montessori lessons which shape the Montessori curriculum – for the whole school. It talks about the start of the universe and is a dramatisation based on scientific and historical facts. There were black balloons filled with stars, a candle for light and a water bowl full of stars. They also looked at the beginnings of the galaxy using a solar system model and golden balls representing the sun and the Earth (huge and tiny!) and light/heavy matter using layered liquids. After all of this the kids generated questions for them to investigate such as "What did the Big Bang smell like?" and "How do we know this happened if there was no-one to see it?"

Little Owls Participated in the First Great Lesson and are focusing on the book 'Born with a Bang' which is a Montessori resource book where the Universe tells its autobiography. They have been looking at the periodic table and the elements which make up our world.







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## From the Governors:



I have been lucky enough to be a governor of Anstey School for nearly four years, and am thoroughly enjoying the experience. Having lived in Anstey for 13 years, I know the village fairly well, but it has been very interesting to get to know the youngest members of the community and their lovely school. I was myself a primary school teacher for many years, ending up as headteacher of another Hertfordshire village school, and I have been very impressed by the caring, innovative, lively and creative atmosphere at Anstey School, and by the dedication of its staff, both teaching and non-teaching.

I visited the school just before the beginning of term and was very pleased to see the improvements to the building that were made during the summer break. The Year 1/2 classroom is now a much tidier and more attractive environment for children to learn in, the Year 3/4 classroom is more spacious

and at last there is a dedicated room for staff to work and hold meetings in. My congratulations to the staff who worked so hard during their 'holiday' to make sure all the works were completed in time and the classrooms reorganised ready for the children's return.

My fellow governors and I were invited to take part in the staff training day on September 2<sup>nd</sup> led by Phil Davis of 'Write Inspired', alongside teachers from both Anstey and Great Hormead schools. And inspiring it certainly was, focusing on how to develop children's thinking skills, imagination and creativity by giving them a rich variety of experiences, including movement, sound, wordplay and visual stimuli. Phil reminded us that effective learning should be lively, active and fun, so that children are inspired to want to write and helped to generate their own ideas, and I am sure that the children will have benefitted hugely from working with Phil themselves earlier this month.

At a recent governors' meeting we were shown how the staff have worked together over the summer to review and develop the school curriculum, as Natalie, my fellow governor, explained in the last newsletter. I feel sure that our children will be engaged and inspired by the rich, creative and thought-provoking learning experiences planned for them, that carefully combine the statutory National Curriculum with a more child-centred Montessori approach, personalised for the needs of each pupil.

Kate Oxley. Governor

## PTA Events 2019-2020

**25<sup>th</sup> October** – Halloween Party

**5<sup>th</sup> December** – Winter

Wonderland Fair

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2020** – Fairies and  
Fantastical Creatures Festival

*Are you making any jams, chutneys, sloe gin, rhubarb vodka, Christmas cakes, etc? We would love to donations of these kind of homemade treats and gifts which we can sell at the Winter Wonderland Fair so please make some extra if you can!*