

# *Aspire Academy*

## *End of Term Newsletter*

Autumn Term 1 2022

It has been a great start to the year at Aspire with many exciting events happening. It is always great to see the children return after the summer holidays having grown and wearing their new shiny shoes. We have welcomed 3 new pupils so far this year and a new Teacher (Miss Stanislaus) and a new TA (Mr Oliver). They have all settled in well at Aspire and have quickly become a part of our Aspire family. After the holidays we will also be welcoming Miss Lush as a new TA.

Sadly we are also saying goodbye to a much loved member of staff 'Miss West'. Miss West is the longest member of staff at Aspire having been here for over 20 years. She worked first as a teaching assistant and then more recently as a higher level teaching assistant covering classes and working as part of our intervention team. She has worked with many children over her time here and has touched their lives in so many ways. She will be greatly missed but we wish her every success as she moves onto a new job in another primary school.

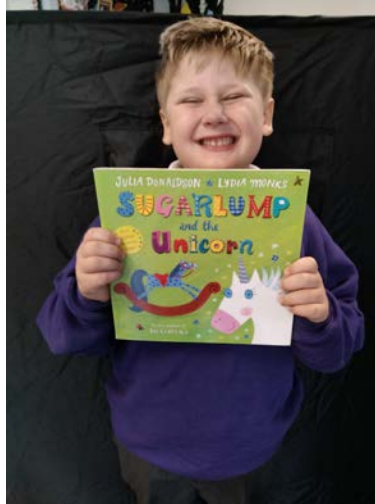
We hope all our children and families have a lovely, fun and exciting half term and we look forward to seeing you all after the 2 week holiday for more fun and learning

From the Co-Head Teachers: Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Arkwright



# Donaldson Class (Mrs Phillips)

This year we have named our class after popular children's poet and author, Julia Donaldson. She has written many books and songs including *The Gruffalo*, *Stickman* and *Room on the Broom*. We have all loved reading and exploring her books this half term. There has been art and craft, role play, storytelling and some writing too.



In history we have learnt about the past and present, exploring the passing of time and the chronological order of events. We enjoyed comparing children's TV from the past to modern TV, like Bluey.

We had lots of fun finding out about ancient Greek pottery, and explored different techniques to create our own clay pots and bowls. We used the 'pinch pot' technique and then the 'coil pot' technique.



Our class has been very lucky to have lessons with a music teacher this term. We loved learning some new songs and actions, and have been having a fantastic go at playing rhythms on the djembe drums.

# Coelho (Ms McGuinness and Mrs Adebisi)

## My Monster

The monster broke my light  
It made me stop and stare  
My light is not very bright  
The monster should take more care.

The monster broke my oak tree  
The tree fell on my head  
The kitten took care of me  
A mini monster was under my bed.

The monster made my balloon pop  
My fizzy drink went bang  
It made me jump and hop  
The monster had a very sharp fang.

The monster surprised me with a treat  
The monster's mission was complete.



By Ethan Ranaldi

We named our Class after the poet Joseph Coelho. He was elected the Children's Laureate in 2022 and has written many fun poems for children, including riddles and tongue-twisters. We wrote sonnets inspired by Coelho's work.



In History we learnt about Ancient Greece. We really enjoyed looking at the ancient Greek artefacts which included a wax tablet, vases and coins. We also took part in a drama workshop where we learnt about Greek gods.



In PE we have been learning how to play tag rugby. We have learnt how to 'tag', 'pass' and score a 'try'. It turns out that we have some fantastic athletes in our class.



In Science this half term we have been looking at 'Animals including Humans'. This has seen us making model mouths out of sweet. Greeting a model digestive system - it even pooped! The children have also learnt about food chains and food webs.

# Silverstein Class (Miss Stanislaus)



So far this term in Silverstein Class, we learned about American poet, Shel Silverstein. He was well known for his whimsical poems and cartoons.

We read his book "The Giving Tree" and talked about what it means to be thankful. Then, we made our own giving trees out of various materials.

Silverstein Class has also been busy exploring ancient Greek artifacts, understanding money's connection to place value and learning the rules of tag rugby!



Silverstein Class loved examining the Greek artifacts and working as a team in PE

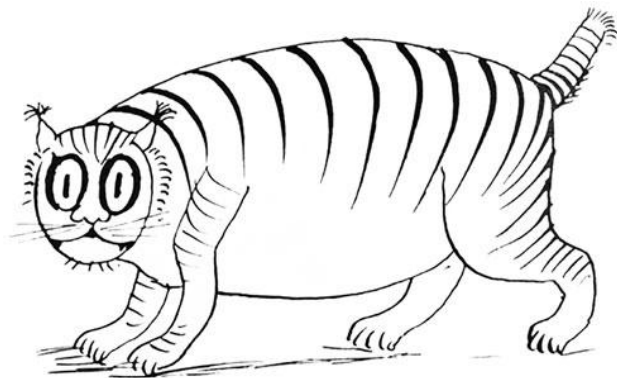


# Lear Class (Miss Hage and Mrs Lee)



This term in Lear class we have been learning about who Edward Lear was. The students listened to some of his poems like The Owl and the Pussycat which was our main focus. We did some art around The Owl and the Pussycat, we made our own character masks and also our own pea green boat. The whole class worked really hard to complete our boat and had a great time pretending to be the Owl or the Pussycat and some students wanted to be the Turkey and the Pig! We also practised memorising our favourite parts of the poem as well.

All of Lear Class really loved how silly Lear's poems were and also learnt that the types of poems that Lear wrote were called Lymmerics.

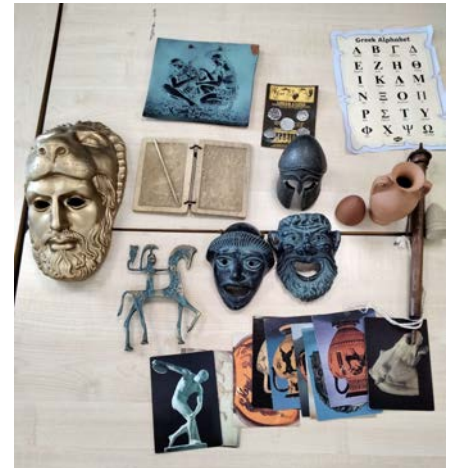


The class loved that Lear had a pet cat called Foss! We all decided that his pictures made Foss look very strange!



# Milligan Class (Miss Kelsey)

This year we have named our class after poet and author, Spike Milligan. He has written many poems including the Ning Nang Nong which our class display was based on. This included some fantastic artwork from the children. We have all loved reading and exploring his poems this term.



In history this term we have been looking at Ancient Greece. We were lucky to borrow some Greek artifacts from Hall Place to have a look at in class and also had an Ancient Greek workshop which was really interesting and fun.



In science this term we have learnt about the circulatory system. We made blood out of strawberry jelly and used sweets to represent the arteries, veins, platelets and red and white blood cells. Then some of the children ate it!



# After school clubs



6 children have enjoyed Art club this term where they have been using a range of resources to produce paper mache Fantasy Creature models



Our sports clubs have continued to be very popular this year with 6 children attending football club and 7 attending basketball. The children have been developing a range of different skills in these clubs and have enjoyed the matches they have participated in.



6 children have enjoyed attending board games club this term. There has been many different games to play and they have encouraged the children to develop their social skills and friendships across the school as well as developing skills such as turn taking.



Please remember clubs need to be re-booked for next term



# Aspire sports



Our Aspire football team have started the year in great form and we are very lucky to have welcomed some new players to the team. We came second in the special league tournament and first in the Bexley special schools tournament. We have more exciting tournaments booked for next term.

This year the Aspire football team have been sponsored by Parkwood Rangers FC. This means they have provided us with an amazing football kit, sports equipment and also we have had the opportunity to use their ground for football tournaments.



It is not just the children that have been having fun this term. Our Aspire Staff football team took part in the LSEAT football tournament against other schools in our Trust. There were definitely a few aching limbs the next day !



# Behaviour at Aspire

A new year brings exciting changes as our children started in their new classrooms, met their new teachers and teaching assistants with some welcoming new children.

As classrooms, teachers and faces around the school change some of our children may, at times struggle. This is where our supportive behaviour policy and core values continue to encourage our children to make positive choices throughout their day. With a wide range of positive rewards from daily Green Letters, weekly Silver and Gold certificates to work towards and the Aspire Way Core Values Awards children's positive choices are celebrated across the school. An increasing number of our children are earning their Green Letters nearly everyday; there has been lots of proud faces in our Friday award assemblies each week!



## The Aspire Way Core Values of:

- **Achievement** - To do your best and work hard to achieve success in all areas of school life
- **Synergy** - To work as a team and care for all members of our school community
- **Perseverance** - To be assertive, positive and have the determination to face challenges
- **Independence** - To have the confidence in your own ability to learn and grow
- **Responsibility** - To take ownership of our learning and our behaviours
- **Equality** - To ensure everyone is treated the same regardless of our differences

help our children to form and maintain relationships with others;  
Supports them to being adaptable to change and other people's expectations;  
Allows them the opportunity to be able to have fun;  
Encourages them to be open to learning;  
Helps them to develop a sense of right and wrong;  
and strengthens their resilience to manage ordinary setbacks.

## We All Have Feelings



Our Core Values aim to foster positive relationships throughout the school with the focus on how our own behaviour can affect others. Sometimes our children cannot make the right choices all the time and need behaviour support. If a child's behaviour interferes with the learning of others, hurts an adult or one of their peers, causes damage to school property or displays risk taking behaviours then our behaviour policy will be followed with the relevant consequence put in place to address and support them.

# Some highlights from the term

On Friday 30th September we invited in parents and carers for our meet the teacher and MacMillan Coffee Afternoon. We had a great attendance and raised £84 for Mcmillan.



This term the pupils at Aspire have all been learning about the Ancient Greeks. In order to enhance their learning all pupils have participated in a Greek drama workshop and had lessons where they have been handling Greek artefacts.

On Tuesday 27th September Trust Awards 11 of our pupils and many of our staff attended the LSEAT awards ceremony at the Orchard theatre. This was the first time that our Trust had laid on such an event and it was an amazing evening for all that attended. Even Loki enjoyed his first trip to the theatre !



# Dates for Next Term

**Friday 21st October** - Last day of Autumn Term

**Monday 7th November** - Pupils back to school

**Wednesday 9th November** - Cinema trip Silverstein / Milligan class

**Thursday 10th November** - Cinema trip Lear / Coehlo

**Monday 14th November** - Odd socks day

**Thursday 17th November** - Cinema trip Donaldson class

**Friday 18th November** - 1:15 Friendship walk Danson Park  
(parents/carers invited)

**Friday 25th November** - Parents day (pupils to attend school for  
appointment only)

**Monday 28th November** - School individual photographs

**Wednesday 7th December** - Hanukkah celebration day

**Wednesday 14th December** - CRIBS Christmas play

**Friday 16th December** - Parent Christmas event 1:15

**Monday 19th December** - Christmas parties

**Tuesday 20th December** - Last day of term 1pm finish

## Uniform Reminders

Grey shorts/trouser/skirt

White/school logo polo shirt

Purple Aspire jumper/fleece

Black school shoes

Trainers are only permitted on PE days.

PE Kit - Purple Aspire t shirt, black jogging bottoms/shorts, Aspire  
jumper/Fleece, trainers