The Astbury Express

"Walk in love as Christ loves you"

Ephesians 5:2

CDAT Chester Diocesan Academies Trust

Astbury St Mary's CofE Primary School 17th October 2025

This week in school

It was a pleasure to accompany our junior tag rugby team to a cross-schools competition this week. The team demonstrated amazing sportsmanship and skill, making it all the way to the finals, where they narrowly lost 9-10. In our worship this week, we learnt about the work of the Operation Christmas Shoebox appeal. I encourage as many families as possible to get involved, there is more information provided in this newsletter. Our aim is to build a 'shoebox' wall in our school hall, another opportunity to walk in love.

Invent Write

On 7th November, our whole school will take part in 'Invent Write' day. This initiative, planned by our KS2 staff, encourages children to engage with a creative prompt, allowing them to ask questions and collaborate before writing. Each child in Year 1 has their own 'Invent Write' book, where they will complete three pieces of writing throughout the year. Parents are warmly invited to join us on Tuesday, 11th November at 3pm, to read their child's work and celebrate their imaginative ideas. We look forward to hearing their fantastic ideas!

Attendance Matters!

Parents/Carers have a statutory responsibility to ensure children attend school regularly and on time. Pupils: should attend school everyday, unless in exceptional circumstances.
All absences must be reported to school.

Jonah	Noah	Mary	Jacob
94.6%	96.5%	90.3%	99%

Operation Christmas Child

This week, we welcomed visitors from New Life Church who shared information about the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. We are proud to support this initiative again this year.
New Life Church is collecting donations, and we encourage you to participate by filling a shoebox with gifts. Please return all boxes to school by 14th November. If you need a box, some are available in the school office.
For gift suggestions and items to avoid, kindly visit the Samaritans Purse website at https://occ.samaritans-purse.org.uk/ Let's unite to spread festive cheer and show children across the globe they are loved.
Thank you for your support!

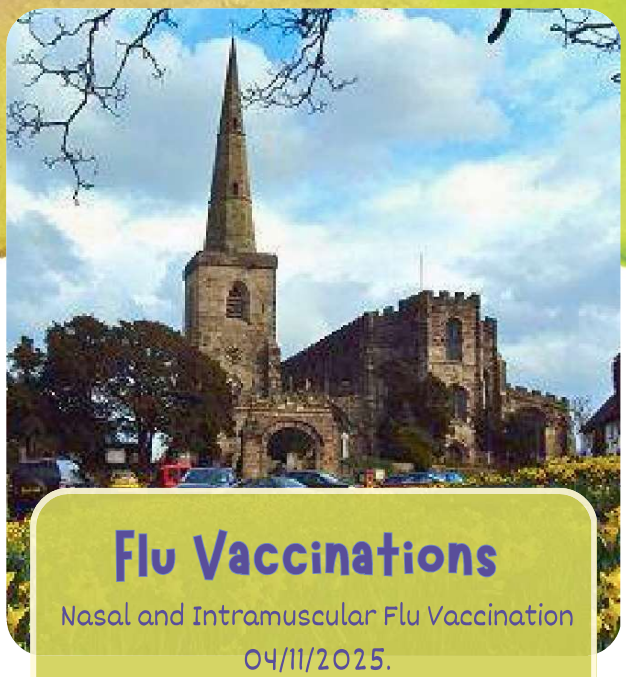
Staff Book Recommendation:

Mrs Hodder loves to read:

Where the Wild Things Are
by Maurice Sendak

Upcoming Dates

- w/c: 20/10/25 Parents' Meetings (booking on School Spider)
- 24/10/25 PTFA Disco
- 24/10/25 Finish for half term
- 4/11/25 School starts for Autumn 2
- 4/11/25 Flu vaccinations
- 5/11/25 Singfest zoom rehearsal 1-3pm
- 7/11/25 Invent Writing session
- 14/11/25 Deadline for shoeboxes
- 18/11/25 Whole school trip to Chester Zoo
- 2/12/25 PTFA Pantomime in the village hall



Flu Vaccinations

Nasal and Intramuscular Flu Vaccination 04/11/2025.

Fill in the consent form using the link below by 30/10/2025
https://nhsImms.azurewebsites.net/session/89ee5d54

Snack and Lunch Orders

We would like to remind you to please order snacks and lunches on School Spider in advance. This ensures that our kitchen team has enough time to prepare meals and snacks. Booking for snacks will close promptly at 8:30 am each morning, and it is essential that children book and pay for their morning snacks before this time, as orders cannot be taken in the classroom. While we encourage advance ordering for lunches too, classroom orders will be permitted. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a smooth and efficient dining experience for everyone!

500 Words Competition... Get Writing!

We're encouraging all children to take part in the BBC's exciting 500 Words story-writing competition! It's a fantastic opportunity for them to unleash their creativity and share their imaginative ideas in a short story of up to 500 words. To enter, parents must follow the link: The ultimate guide to 500 Words 2025/26 - BBC Teach and email their child's story to aWade@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk.
In the email please include :
· Your child's name and age
· A brief written permission to submit the story on their behalf.

We can't wait to read the wonderful stories our young authors come up with!

Spotlight on... Music

We are thrilled to share our junior children's musical successes this term! Their achievements resonate throughout the school and can also be heard on drumming mornings down the local lanes! Years 5 and 6 have been finding their rhythm with weekly drumming lessons, while Years 3 and 4 are exploring the glockenspiel. We eagerly await the arrival of new glockenspiels, funded by the May Day donation, which will enrich our learning experience. Attached to this newsletter is further information from the Love Music Trust, offering a range of local music lessons and opportunities. Learning a musical instrument brings numerous benefits to a child's overall development, as well as nurturing a skill and interest that can last a lifetime.

Friday Celebrations

	Jonah	Noah	Mary	Jacob
Walk in love:	Charlie	Daisy	Lily	Lily Lou
My Happy Mind:	Hope	Evie	Matthew	Joseph

Contact Us:

Miss Blythe
T: 01260 272528 | E: admin@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk
www.astburyschool.org.uk astburyschool @Astbury_St_Mary

Learn an instrument at school!

Music for Life
INSPIRE | CREATE | PERFORM

www.musicforlife.org.uk
info@musicforlife.org.uk
01244 728 922

Music, like language, is a fundamental part of human existence and of the societies in which we live.
The opportunity to learn to play an instrument enables children to participate in an activity which many will find to be one of the most formative experiences they have as they grow up, developing an interest and a skill which opens up so many possibilities now and in later life.
A bonus is that involvement in music has been shown to have a positive effect on other aspects of development - social skills, language, physical coordination and emotional development.

Why choose Music for Life?

Music for Life offers children somethingspecial. We work in partnership with over 100 music tutors who visit 130 schools teaching 4,000 children each week from complete beginners to some of the most accomplished young musicans in the UK. Two national independent reviews of school music services rated Music for Life an "outstanding effective service" offering parents and schools "outstanding value". We have also recently been awarded not-for-profit organisation of the year, where particular mention was given to the quality of work undertaken in schools for all activities under the Music for Life banner.

Instrumental lessons during the school day

Instrumental lessons take placeduring the school day, convenient for parents and meaning students become part of a wider community of young musicians in school, avoiding the isolation that can be felt when learning at home. Thousands of students take part in our extra curricular activities - workshop days, concerts and ensembles, with many taking exams. All tutors are DBS checked, and to work with Music for Life, tutors must be first class musicians and are required to meet professional performance standards.

Instruments offered

Lessons may be availableon guitar, piano, keyboard and violin (usually suitable for Year 2 or above) cello, clarinet, saxophone, flute, cornet, trombone, trumpet and euphonium (usually suitable for Year 4 or above) bass guitar, drums and singing.
If we are unable to provide lessons on your first choice, we will contact you with the possibility of offering lessons on a second choice if you specify one.

Course Fees

Specialist teachingof a musical instrument falls outside the National Curriculum, so there is a charge for lessons. This varies as some schools provide a subsidy, but up to date details of course fees for your school appear on our booking form. Music for Life offers the facility to set up a monthly subscription which makes paying for music lessons so much easier. Support with fees may be available, so please get in touch with your school for details if you are in receipt of Income Support.

Book Lessons

Lessons can be booked online at **www.musicforlife.org.uk** where you will find much more information and a simple online booking form where you can make payment in full or set up a monthly subscription via our secure booking portal. **Alternatively, please email admin@musicforlife.org.uk and we will get back to you.**

"A big 'THANK YOU!' to Music for Life for the wonderful service and great teaching for quite a number of years!"

"May I take this opportunity to say how very happy and impressed we are with the level of care and motivational input given to young musicians by ALL of your staff"

"We have been extremely pleased with the service you have provided over the past 9 years. Your admin has been excellent and you have always been helpful and polite."

CLICK HERE to godirectly to our booking page

www.musicforlife.org.uk
info@musicforlife.org.uk
01244 728 922

@Musicforlife1234
@musicforlifesch
@MusicforLifeSCH

Young Sounds UK
future talent inspiring young musicians
MUSIC MARK

Deadlines for course bookings are as follows:

31st July
to start in September

20th October
to start after October half term

21st December to start in January

30th January
to start after February half term

31st March to start after Easter

Music for Life

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@Musicforlife1234
@musicforlifesch
@MusicforLifeSCH

Music for Life Rocks

For young musicians with a year experience playing any rock band instrument, including guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and vocals.

Playing in a rock band is a fantastic opportunity for students to play the music they love, together with like-minded young musicians and receive top-level coaching.

Monthly Saturday rehearsals at Cransley School

1pm-2:30pm

Sign up here:

www.musicforlife.org.uk
info@musicforlife.org.uk
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