



Ark Academy Primary Newsletter

7th September 2016
Issue 1

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to the new academic year at Ark Primary Academy. I do hope you and your family have had a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break and it was lovely to see the children return today raring to go and ready to learn.

The staff have been back in school since 30th August preparing for the start of this term and have worked really hard to ensure the school is ready to open and immerse the children back into their learning. As with all fresh starts, we have spent time refining and, hopefully, improving our systems and routines and this newsletter contains lots of important information that I would appreciate you spending some time reading and familiarising yourself with. With this in mind, this newsletter has been printed for you. All subsequent newsletters in the new format will revert to being posted on the school notice board and sent by email. As always, we will also provide some printed copies in the school reception and will post it on the school website.

I very much looking forward to working with you and your children in the coming weeks and months during which time we will be working extremely hard to ensure we provide the best possible learning environment here at Ark and that your child makes the best possible progress throughout the year. Please feel free to come into school and say hello and if you wish to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the school's provision or your child's education then do contact the school office to arrange a suitable time to meet with me or another member of staff that you wish to speak to.

Thank you for your continued support

With every best wish

Ian Doswell
Headteacher

A warm welcome to Ms Jacobs

As you are aware we said a sad goodbye to Ms Nathan last term but I am very pleased to introduce her replacement, Ms Mandie Jacobs. Ms Jacobs will fulfil the role of Headteacher's PA and Office Manager and will be working closely with the office team to ensure that the school administration runs smoothly. Do feel free to pop in and introduce yourselves, as I know she is very keen to get to know you all and work alongside you in support of your child's education.

School Uniform

As I outlined in the last newsletter of the summer term we will be very stringent with all school uniform this year. We aim for high standards of both the behaviour and appearance of the children at Ark Primary and know that by meeting these high expectations this promotes a positive and aspirational environment that has a direct impact on the quality of the pupils' learning and outcomes.

Correct school uniform gives the children a distinct identity and sense of belonging to the school and also ensures that all children feel equal and part of the team. We feel that standards slipped last term and we have seen too many examples of incorrect uniform (including hair styles and accessories) creeping in.

We will be working really hard this term to ensure that ALL children come to school in the correct uniform and their appearance is in line with our school policy. Please can I ask that you ensure your child has the correct uniform, footwear and wears only the permitted accessories at all times in the new academic year.

To help embed this successfully we will be making daily contact with all parents whose children do not meet the expected standards in uniform or whose children are arriving late to school. We will expect any issues with uniform and appearance to be corrected on the day. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and the class teachers will be monitoring the children daily and I would appreciate your full support in ensuring we can maintain the high standards that we expect. Do come and speak to myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any uniform in good condition that you no longer require, we would be very grateful to receive it to use in school.



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Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting for all parents in the school hall **on Wednesday 14th September at 4.00pm**. This meeting will replace the individual year group meetings that we ran last year but will cover the same agenda and will provide you with lots of useful information about your child's education for the coming year. It will be a super opportunity for you to meet all of our teaching staff and for us to fully explain and present our philosophy and expectations. **For those of you unable to attend the meeting at 4.00pm, Mr Doswell and Mr Watkins will present the meeting again at 6.45pm on the same evening.**

School Hours

In our last newsletter I reminded you that our school day has changed for this new year. Please remember that your child should arrive in school from **8.20am for a prompt start at 8.30am**. All children arriving after this time will be marked as late.

The school day now ends at 3.40pm (Friday at 3.00pm) when all children should be collected from their class teachers. Reception and Key Stage 1 children can be collected from their classrooms and Key Stage 2 children will continue to be dismissed from the main KS2 playground.

Healthy Snacks

We have always encouraged children to bring in a healthy snack for their morning break. Last year we found that many children's snacks were far from healthy or that they were bringing in too much food to eat and then not wanting their lunch. Please ensure that your child is given either a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat mid morning and do avoid giving them crisps, chocolate, biscuits etc. All children should bring in a bottle of water, which they can drink from during the school day. This should be in a named bottle and be only water, rather than juice, squash or other sugary substitutes.

Home Learning

We aim to start Home Learning on Monday 19th September, and we have made some slight changes to way this will work. This will be explained during the Parent Meeting next week and further details will be given in next week's newsletter.

Time out forms

As you are aware, some children occasionally receive a time out from class. During this time they are asked to complete a reflection form. From now on all time out forms will be given to parents at the end of the school day. Further information about this can be shared at the parents meeting next week.

November Inset day

We apologise that there was a misprint in the last newsletter. The November Staff Training day will take place on Monday 14th November (not Friday as previously stated.) This replaces the previously published date and Primary will now reopen after half term on Monday 31st October 2016.

Further dates for your diary will be sent home shortly in the Parent Calendar. Term dates can be found on the school website www.arkacademy.org

Roald Dahl Day

We will be celebrating the eternally popular children's author Roald Dahl on Friday 16th September 2016. A letter has been sent home with your child giving full details about this exciting fund raising day. All proceeds from the day will go towards Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's charity.

Eid

Eid al Adha takes place on Monday 12th September and we wish all of our families celebrating Eid Mubarak. I will authorise 1 day's religious observance for this. Please ensure you complete the correct form and return to the school office if you are planning to take a day off. I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating.

Parent Handbook (online)

We are in the process of updating the Parent/Pupil Handbook and this will be available via the school website. There are a few minor changes but in the meantime do use to the current one as a first point of reference.