

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe this is the final week of the academic year and that we will all soon be enjoying a well-deserved summer break. I hope you are looking forward to spending some quality time with your children and (hopefully) enjoying the summer sunshine with them.

Sports Day results

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend Sports Day last Monday. It was, as always, a great success and the children worked so well together in their teams. A special thank you to Mr Slegers for all of his hard work in organising the event so well. The results from the day are as follows:

Overall		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 1	
Imperial	1984 points	Imperial	1395 points	Imperial	589 points
Goldsmith	1911 points	Goldsmith	1322 points	Goldsmith	589 points
Nottingham	1851 points	Nottingham	1320 points	Nottingham	537 points
Durham	1776 points	Durham	1315 points	Durham	461 points

Our Wonderful Choir

Also well done to Miss Burke, Mrs Nwandison and the Primary choir for their wonderful participation in the Creative Quarters concert last Wednesday evening. The choir is a wonderful ambassador for all that is good about Ark Primary and they are so talented.

Welcome Back!

Last week we welcomed Mrs Halsall back to the school who returned from her maternity leave. She has been busy reacquainting herself with the children and helping to cover classes across the school. We are very pleased to have her back. On Wednesday 19th July, we welcome back Mrs O'Carroll, who is also returning from maternity leave. We are looking forward to having her join the team once more and I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best upon her return.

End of Year Reports

Please note that your child's end of year report will be sent home to you by **Wednesday 19th July 2017**. We would appreciate it if you could read it and return the comment sheet to school for our records.

Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the school, most of it unnamed. We will ensure all named items are returned to the relevant children. Unnamed items will be out for collection in the gym on **Wednesday 19th July between 8.15 and 8.45am, and again between 3.30 and 4.00pm**. Any lost property left at the end of this day will either be recycled or thrown away, so please ensure you have checked if you are missing any items.

The new academic year

Please be reminded that children returning to Ark Academy come back to school on **Wednesday 6th September and Thursday 7th September 2017**. However, school is closed again on **Friday 8th September** due to the staff having to attend their final talk for writing training day. I appreciate this is far from ideal but these dates are not set by us, so the Friday date was out of our control and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

International Day

International Day last Wednesday was a great success. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day and especially to those of you who attended the Primary performance in the hall during the afternoon. The children all performed wonderfully and I would like to thank them and the teachers for such a range of interesting and diverse presentations. A great time was had by all. With donations for non-uniform added to our collection we raised an amazing £301.86. All donations received across the academy will be sent to the Grenfell Tower Charity.

Photos of some of the amazing costumes are on the next page.

Parent Survey

As always, we welcome your feedback on how well we are doing as a school and how we can improve. Please take a few minutes to complete the annual parent feedback survey and let us know how we are getting on. The link is below and is completely anonymous. As always, we are always available for appointments for feedback at any time of the year. If you want to see a member of the SLT, please see the office.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2RVVFQ2>

Well done and good luck

The Year 6 leave on such a high, with their wonderful SATs results. Their amazing efforts have placed Ark Academy at the top of the ARK network of schools and well above the national average, with an amazing 79.3% of children achieving at or above expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths combined. This is an fantastic outcome for the children and the school and we are very proud of them.

I am sure you will join me in wishing our Year 6 leavers every success as they venture on in their journey to secondary school. 85% of our children will transfer to Ark Secondary with the remaining children attending a variety of other secondary schools, in and out of the borough of Brent.

I wrote to you recently to inform you of those members of staff who will be leaving us and those who will be joining the school from September. We wish them all the best for their new roles.

And finally...

I am sad to be writing this, my final newsletter to you but as you all know as of the end of this week, I will no longer be serving you as head of our lovely school. I am currently busy packing up ready to move back to the West Country and take up my new post. I have been reflecting on an amazing four years here at Ark. There have indeed been some extreme challenges to face but as time has gone on and we have all worked together so well. The school has settled and is thriving with a love of learning from the children and a sense of real purpose and dedication to ensure success for all. I have had a wonderful experience and have learned so much from so many.

The school can only improve further under the new leadership team and I would like to send every best wish to Mr Watkins and the superb staff as they journey forth in the next chapter of Ark Academy's story. I know you will all be behind them and give them your full support. I would like to thank you for your support and friendship over the years, and your many kind messages and best wishes. I can honestly say it has been a privilege to know you and your children and to work alongside you in their best interests. I hope to be invited back to visit the school and will hopefully see some of you again.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very peaceful and relaxing summer holiday.

With every best wish for the future,

Ian Doswell

