

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been another fun and learning-filled half term here at the primary school with lots of events happening soon. Thank-you to all of you that have supported us, particularly those of you that have attended our parent workshops in maths and literacy, I hope that you have found them useful. Newsletters from me will now be half-termly but – as ever – if you have any concerns, however small, please see myself or any other member of the senior leadership team before or after school

Thank-you all very much indeed for your continued support.



Mr Watkins
Headteacher

Pupil Premium Funding

You may know that many families may meet the requirements for the school to receive additional funding, known as the “Pupil Premium”. This affects families that qualify for free school meals or have qualified for free school meals at any time in the last 6 years.

Children from Reception to year 2 automatically receive free school meals so many families do not claim, therefore our funding reduces. This is having a severe effect on our school budget. How can you help? Soon, you will all receive a letter to update your details. With this letter will be instructions on how to use a website to check your eligibility for free school meals. I urge everyone to read this carefully and follow the online guide. You may be eligible and not even realise it! The more people that claim, the more money that the school receives. Please do read this information carefully and see me if you have any questions.

Fundraising

You will have noticed the lack of good-quality playground equipment across the school, most notably in the Key Stage 1 playground. We have decided to use this Christmas period as a starting point for our fundraising efforts. Already, we have had a successful Bake Sale and “Movie Night” – thank-you to all of you that have supported this.

We have set up a “Just Giving” page as a central place for our fundraising, the link is below. We welcome individual donations, of course, but we would love to hear from you if you have a contact with companies that may be interested in being involved with our fundraising. We already have some corporate links to support us but we can always use more. If you know of someone that can help us in any way, please do get in touch. In the meantime, keep attending our fundraising events and together we can achieve our £10 000 goal and provide some really high-quality playground equipment for the children.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/arkschools/arkacademy-play-area>

Christmas

The festive season is upon us and lots is happening at Ark Academy. The full programme of events is below and you will receive details of how you can attend each event nearer to the time. As ever, it should be a highly enjoyable and celebratory part of the year for families of all faiths. As many of you will be aware, there will be a pork product served at Christmas Lunch. This will of course be prepared and served completely separately to all of the other food and it remains the only time in the year when we serve any food that is non-Halal. It will be signposted very clearly to the children so there should be no cause for concern; please do come and see me if you wish to discuss the matter.

Aside from this, we have a large programme of events including our annual Christmas Fair on the 15th December. More information on individual events will be available soon but we hope to see as many of you as possible throughout the festive season.

Date	Time	Event
Monday 11 th December	10:30am	Choir perform at John Lewis Brent Cross
Tuesday 12 th December	9:00 am and 3:00pm	Nursery Nativity
Wednesday 13 th December	9:00 am and 3:00pm	KS1 Christmas show
Friday 15 th December	11:45am – 1:15pm	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumpers!
Friday 15 th December	3:00pm	Christmas Fair (classes to run stalls)
Monday 18 th December	9:00am and 3:00pm	Reception Nativity
Monday 18 th December	6:00pm	Choir performance in Secondary concert
Tuesday 19 th December	9:00am	KS2 Coffee and Carols
Wednesday 20 th December	12:00pm	School finishes



Attendance

As we approach the end of year, it is still just as important to ensure your child attends school whenever possible. We understand children do get sick, however we request you still send your child to school if they have a minor cold (without a temperature) or feeling a little under the weather. If you do need to keep your child at home, just to remind you to send a letter in when they return explaining why they were off. If your child needs to be absent for any other reason, please complete a request for leave form which is available from the office. The Headteacher will need to authorise this.

Ark Academy expects children's attendance to be over 97%. Well done to Archimedes who have the highest attendance year to date and have achieved this target.



Class	Percentage
FHAWK	94.47
FNEWT	91.93
1FLAN	93.93
1PYTH	93.95
2DAVN	94.89
2ESCH	95.35
3ARCH	97.95
3FIBO	96.7
4EULR	96.49
4PASC	96.12
5DEVI	96.04
5FARL	96.31
6COPR	93.2
6GALI	92.09
TOTAL	94.99



Shop&Give this Christmas

Raise free donations for our Cause when you do your Christmas shopping via www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk



The Giving Machine

In the past, the school has raised over £400 pounds with Giving Machine. Please may we ask if you do any online shopping, you visit this website first. It doesn't cost you a penny and any money raised will go towards improving the playground. Please visit the link below for more information.

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/ark-academy/>