

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to our final seven weeks of the academic year. I trust you all had an enjoyable break and that you all managed to relax and enjoy some quality time with your children. Our last half term certainly ended on a high note with an amazing Science Week and an exciting What Can I Be careers day on the final day of term. You will see we have included a whole host of photographs in this week's newsletter to give you a flavour of some of the many exciting things that the children experienced.

London Bridge Attack

It is with great sadness and shock that I am sure you all watched the tragedy at London Bridge unfold on Saturday. As with all such events around the world, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones. Children find it especially hard to make sense of such events and whilst we do not over emphasise these in school I thought it important to raise with you at this time that we do acknowledge them when they happen, especially those that are widely covered by the media and result in children being aware, needing to question and sometimes frightened or confused. Part of our PSHE and RE curriculum is to look at such issues at an age appropriate level through circle time sessions that focus on tolerance, difference, acceptance, peace, love and so on. We do also look at Universal Values, which is now a key part of the national curriculum, but which reflect the core values of all beliefs, faiths and societies. We also address issues in assembly. In yesterday's assembly, for example, we reminded ourselves of the importance of accepting one another's differences and being tolerant at all times. The school also observed the silence that took place nationally at 11.00am.

Ramadan and Eid

Ramadan Mubarak to all of our families currently participating in Ramadan. We are fully supportive of children who wish to pray at lunchtimes and Mrs Menia is currently supervising sessions in the gym from 12pm each day. If you wish your child to fast, and they are of appropriate age (Year 5 and 6) I would ask you to ensure that you have provided your written permission for your child to fast at lunchtime. A form was sent home before the holidays but if you require another then do please pop into the office and the staff will be able to help you.

If you wish to take a day off for Eid, please complete a form available from the office. I am able to authorise one days religious leave.

Year 6 secondary interviews at Ark Academy

Transition interviews take place for those Year 6 children attending Ark Secondary Academy in 2017/2018 and are held on Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th June. If your child is need to leave Ark Primary during school time to attend an interview with you there is no need to complete a request for absence form for this. The office now have a list of dates and times and will ensure your child is released from class upon your arrival at school. Transition days for the children take place next week on either Monday 12th or Tuesday 13th June and parents of Year 6 children should have now received communication to let them know which day their child has been allocated to. The class teachers will also share this information with the children.

If you have any concerns or need to discuss timings and appointments further please contact our admissions officer, Mrs Boyle (c.boyle@arkacademy.org) If you wish to take your child out of school to attend a transition event at another secondary school then you will need to complete a request for absence form in advance of the visit.

Class photographs

Class photographs for this year will take place on Friday 16th June 2017 throughout the day. Please ensure your child comes to school, as always, in full and smart school uniform. Further details about how these photographs can be purchased will be sent home shortly.

I hope you have a lovely week,

Ian Doswell
Headteacher

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Week

As part of Science week we had several visitors who provided some very thrilling workshops that included making slime, programming robots and looking at the wonders of gravity. Each year group also had a whole host of activities throughout the week that included building bridges from newspaper, towers with pegs and lollipop sticks, making rockets, thinking about the gifts of our planet and exploring shadows. It was a very enjoyable week for pupils and staff and something we will definitely be repeating.





“What Can I Be?” Day

On Friday, at the end of our STEM week, we held an event: the “What Can I Be?” day. It was designed to be part of our work on “pathways”, fitting in with our programme of trips and visits to universities and colleges. On the day, children dressed as their potential career of choice and we had a whole range of parents coming in to give presentations to the classes. We had lots of careers represented, including lawyers, the world of robotics, accountants, computer programming, youth work, nursing, business and more. It was a great day that was not only a lot of fun but also stimulated a lot of conversations at home and school about careers and what options are out there. It seems I also have a new replacement, so Mr Watkins needs to watch out!



My Bank

Today we welcomed representatives from My Bank who worked with children in Year 6 to guide and advise them about the best ways to look after their money and to be wise spenders and savers in the future. The team also delivered an assembly to Year 4 and Year 6 together and the children learned a great deal about finances.

