



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to all those parents who met with their child's teacher this week. It was good to see so many parents having important discussions with teachers about their children, their progress and what they need to do next. Please may I ask that those of you who were not able to meet with your child's teacher, that you do so as soon as possible. These are really important discussions and I would urge you to make sure you have the opportunity to find out how your child is doing.

Some changes for September:

Within this newsletter today I need to make you aware of a key change we are aiming to make at Ark Dickens Academy at the end of this academic year. My current role means that not only am I Principal here at Ark Dickens but I also have Executive Principal responsibilities over Ark Ayrton too. This means that I look after the day to day running of our school here and have senior leadership responsibility over Ark Ayrton too. This large role is a significant challenge and some changes need to be made, so that both schools thrive and offer all pupils the opportunities an outstanding education can bring.

Therefore the intention is for us to seek to appoint a Head of school / Principal for Ark Dickens, similar to that which they have in place at Ark Ayrton. This would then enable us to bring in additional capacity to the school and allow me to look more closely at the strategic direction that both schools are moving in, moving forward together to offer an outstanding education to all.

I am delighted with the progress the school is making and that we are ready to bring in additional capacity while I retain overall responsibility. From September, though, I will no longer be in charge of the day to day running

of this school; I will remain on in my capacity as Executive Principal, continuing to oversee both Ark Dickens and Ark Ayrton Primary Academy.

The main purpose of this change is to allow me to concentrate my efforts on the overall strategic direction of both schools, while making sure there is still a strong and experienced leader at Ark Dickens who can build on the educational progress we have made here the past year. I believe this is good news for Ark Dickens – we will start the recruitment process immediately, and I think we are in a very good position to find a strong day to day leader for our school. I will of course update you when we have news on who we have appointed.

As always, if you would like to discuss anything with me, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Thank you for your continued support.

Important Reminder



We need to reiterate to you the importance of parking safely near our school. Our car park is busy at all times and must be kept clear for emergency access.

Unfortunately there has been 2 near miss incidents involving our children this week.

Please **DO NOT** park by the school gates or use our car park to drop your children off to school.

For the safety of your children please make sure you find a safe place to park.

Next week in school

Nursery

During our literacy sessions we will be drawing ourselves. In our Maths Meetings we will be talking about & sorting heavy & light things. We will be making Valentines cards for someone we love!



Reception



All of our Reception children enjoyed our trip to Hilsea Lido this week! We had a wonderful walk over lots of different bridges. We heard the children having many wonderful conversations with their friends about all the things they could see.

Communication and language is one of the prime areas of their early learning. Our top tip includes having a special time to talk about the day. It can be useful as it gives your children a time to talk. Talking about what has happened that day will help your child's memory skills. It also helps them to talk about things they cannot immediately see and to talk about the things which happened in the past.

Year 1

On Monday it is Nightingale's turn to go to Carnegie library. Can parents please check their child has their library book with them, so they are able to change it when we visit?

Next week in literacy, we will be writing our own fairy tales based on the story of Hansel and Gretel. We have been enjoying learning this story and are working on using some interesting describing words. In maths, we will be learning how to add and subtract numbers up to 50; for example, $23 + 8$ and $39 - 6$. If you have any vegetables at home that are too old to use (carrots, potatoes, parsnips etc), please bring them in on Monday as we will be using them for a science experiment.



Year 2

Firstly, we would like to say a great big thank you for attending last week's parents meetings. It was lovely to see you all and fantastic to discuss your child's progress, their next steps and how you can help them at home. Next week, Year 2 will be writing about our exciting trip to Goodwood Farm in the form of a diary entry. We are challenging the children to write an excellent piece of work using the skills they have been taught over the last half term. Keep a look out on the school website and Facebook page to see if your child's work is featured. In maths, we will be spending the week mastering our addition and subtraction skills, practising both written and mental strategies. Try the Techno Tortoise game on www.ictgames.com to help your child with this. We are continuing our science work on plants and trees and will be looking to see if our seeds have germinated.

Please remind your child to bring their library book back to school so that they can change it for a new one to read over the half term holiday. Thank you for your continued support.



Year 3

Year three have had another great week and have been working very hard. Moving into next week the children will be continuing to work hard, mastering time in maths. We would really appreciate it if you could practise telling the



time with your children at home as this can be a tricky concept. The children will be publishing their very own advertisements in literacy, using all of their persuasive writing knowledge. Year 3 will also be finishing their unit on Lowry, producing their own masterpieces.

We would like to gently remind you to encourage your children to be reading daily and to be filling in their reading records. We are keen for the children to be reading as much as possible in order to further progress in reading and literacy.

Year 4

Firstly, we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all of you that attended the parents evening. It was really beneficial to sit down with you and discuss your child's learning. Across the two Year 4 classes, homework was mentioned quite often, with regards that you do feel that your children are not receiving enough. After having discussed this as a year group, we have put in to place something rather special regarding homework going forwards...watch this space.

In the meantime, could we please ask that you spend some time over the week with your child discussing TIME. Asking children what the time is at different points of the day in conversation is a subtle way of improving their understanding (at breakfast, lunch, dinner, getting into the car, going to the shops and bed time etc).

A final request from us is that if you have any old newspapers at home, could you please donate it to Year 4 as we are moving on to our new topic of Africa and these newspapers will be very useful for when we make our very own African face masks. Thank you once again.



The Year 4 team

Year 5

Next week, Year 5 will be writing their own persuasive letter using everything they have learnt over the term. In maths, they will be continuing their work on decimals, and

beginning to round them to the nearest whole number and nearest tenth.

Hockey with Chris continues on a Wednesday - please make sure that children have a suitable PE kit in school as



it is expected that they all join in. Indoor PE is on a Thursday.

Year 6

Thank you so much to all the children for showing great effort and resilience this week in their practice SATs. We are so proud of how hard they have worked. Thank you too to all the parents who attended parents evening; please do contact your child's teacher if you need to schedule an appointment.

Next week, we are really excited to begin writing and editing our entries for the BBC 500 words competition. We already have lots of exciting and original ideas so we can't wait to share our finished stories with you! In maths, we will be continuing to learn how to get to grips with algebra and then applying this to find areas of a range of shapes. For topic, Travers will be making their WW2 scenes and Luther King will be taking a look at Space and our solar system in Science.

Attendance

Winners

Well done to all our winners this week : Peake class, Nelson class, Dahl class.

Also well done to Potter class, Peake class, Edison class, Dahl class & Curie class for the least amount of lates this week.