



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the New Year! I trust you all managed to have a good break over the Christmas period and that you have enjoyed the children being back at school.

Many people to thank:

Please may I begin this letter to you, by thanking you all for the smartness of the children at the beginning of the new school term. I am well aware that this does take plenty of effort and organisation, but you need to be aware that this makes such a difference to the children, their behaviour and overall attitude to school. Thank you too to the parents of the children in Year 6 who met with me to talk through the importance of the final year at primary school, the National Tests in May and the ways in which you are able to support your children with all of this. For those of you unable to make the meeting, we will be holding a series of workshops which we will be inviting you to, to help you help your children prepare for this important time. Dates of the workshops will be in next week's newsletter. A final 'thank you' to the Year 3 parents who were so patient in waiting for the children to arrive back from their London trip yesterday. The children had a fabulous time, were well behaved and a credit to the school and therefore a credit to you. I am sorry that the return journey was so long, not made easy by the weather and the less than 100% success of the text messaging. Do please make certain that we have your up to date number whenever a change is made.

Thank you!

Attendance and Punctuality:

May I remind you once again that it is essential that your child comes to school every day and on time. You will be pleased to know that our attendance as a school is slowly improving and punctuality is much better. However, we are still below the National Average, which simply means across the country more children attend their school every day and on time than we do at Ark Dickens. There is no doubt that a good education is one of the best investments in your child that you can give them and that starts with you making sure they come every day and on

time. In next week's news letter you will hear about a new scheme which we are launching which could have you winning a £100 Asda voucher in time for the Easter Break. It will not be possible to win if your child is not here! We have to do better with this and I am asking for your commitment to make this happen for each of the children in our school.

Breakfast Club Changes:

We are looking to make some significant changes to Breakfast Club from the start of the Summer Term. I am keen for you to fully understand what these changes are likely to be and how these will affect you. I am also keen to hear your views on the proposed changes. In next week's letter there will be details of the proposals and an opportunity for you to feedback your thoughts. Please do this in order to contribute to the discussion.

More of your views please:

Please could we continue to encourage you to give your views on the school using the Ofsted website "Parentview". <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> It is exceptionally easy to log on, select the school and give your views. We are not able to see who has contributed to the results and can only view the results themselves; this makes it completely anonymous. Please do register your thoughts and opinions but do please also come in and talk to us.

With very best wishes

Joy Waelend
Executive Principal

Well Done to Ennis Class & Luther-King on their highest attendance for the week beginning 6.1.17 – 12.01.17.

Also well done to Potter class & Nelson Class for the least amount of lates for the week beginning 9.1.17 – 13.1.17

Now News from the Year groups!

Nursery Newsflash:

On Monday we will be visiting the hall to do PE. Please help your child by encouraging them to be independent in their undressing & dressing. We will have some pets visiting us next week & continuing over the next few weeks.....guinea pigs, a hamster, gerbils, lizard, tortoise, snail & budgies.

We will be practising writing our names for our writing wall.

Every Friday we get to vote for the story we would like to read. Have a look to see if it's one of your child's favourite books this week.

Also on a Friday, every week we will be taking part in 'Write Dance.' This is a fun way to develop children's pencil control. First we "dance" to the song, then we make marks on a big piece of paper to the song, then we make marks in shaving foam, slippy paint or sand to the song. It is great fun!

Reminder: Deadline for starting school September 2017 is Sunday 15th January.

Year R:

In Reception the children have drawn a piece of art for our very own Art Gallery! Their drawings have been inspired by the story of, 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds. They look amazing and the children have even signed them with their names!



Year 1:

Nightingale's art topic this term is self-portraits. We have been using mirrors to draw our own self-portrait. We would like to ask that every

child brings in a baby photograph of themselves to copy.

On another note, it is Nightingales turn to go to Carnegie Library on Monday 16th January. Can all children please remember to bring their library books back so they can swap them on this date. Thank you.

Year 2:

Next week we will be learning to tell the time (on analogue clocks) in maths, you can help your child by talking about what time it is as you go about your daily activities. In literacy we will be continuing to write diary entries and to learn about 'The Chimps of Happytown'. In Science we are learning about plants and growing, your child came home with a seed last week, have you tried to plant it to see what grows? We will have a spelling test on Monday, the words were sent home with your child last Tuesday. Our PE days are Tuesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor).

Can you please bring the reply slips and money to the office for our farm trip as soon as possible.

Thanks, Year 2 team.

Year 3:

This week Year 3 visited the Natural History Museum and had a great time, this was for our final learning on last terms topic 'Volcanoes'. They were told by staff at the museum what a credit they were to the school for their superb behaviour. In Literacy we are learning how to write suspense stories and in Maths we are learning measurement. Our topic this term is 'Lighthouses' which we are looking at all things by the sea.



Year 4:

In Year 4 this half term we have changed our PE days to the start of the week. Indoor PE will take place on a Monday afternoon and outdoor PE will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. Please be mindful that the weather is still a little cold at this time of the year, so your child may benefit from wearing a pair of tracksuit bottom (Outdoor PE days only).
 Currently, Year 4 are studying Australia in their topic work. We are learning about where Australia is in comparison to other countries as well as the cities and landmarks in Australia. If the children have anything related to this topic at home, they are allowed to bring it in for a brief show and tell on a Friday afternoon only, thank you.
 We are pleased to say that our music teacher, Mr Nichols, is still helping year 4 every Friday afternoon to improve their drumming skills.

Year 5:

This week we have powered through equivalent fractions and begun to add and subtract them. Next week we will continue with fractions and begin to order and compare them. In literacy we will continue to read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in order to inspire amazing writing. We are also going to begin our entries for the BBC Radio 1 500 word story, and discuss Fairtrade chocolate options in Topic. Our homework will be focussed on writing and we encourage parents to support and get involved!
 Reminder: PE is on Wednesday (in) and Thursday (out). Many thanks.



Year 6:

Thank you for a great week in Year 6 this week - we have been particularly impressed with your resilience in multiplying and dividing fractions and your fantastic letter writing as evacuees! For your homework, keep practicing your times tables and year 5&6 spellings. If you need any extra sheets then please tell your class teacher as soon as possible. Please also bring in your PE kit on Tuesday and Friday for your hockey lessons with Chris.
 Next week, we will be continuing to learn about WWII and will start to learn about what it was like during the Blitz. We would love you to save and send in any recycling (plastic tubs, cardboard boxes etc) you have over the next few weeks so that we can use it to make World War 2 scenes in our upcoming topic lessons.



Dates for your Diary:

20th – 24th February – Half term

17th March – Inset Day

23rd March – School Nurse Screening for Year R & Year 6

10th April – 23rd April – Easter Holidays

24th April – Inset Day