



Dear Parents / Carers,

It hardly seems possible that our Summer Fete was almost two weeks ago! Because of our Academy Training Day last Friday, I haven't really had the opportunity to thank you all for coming to this wonderful occasion and for making the day so very special. Thank you too for all the help offered to us by parents, staff and friends of the school; all so very much appreciate by all of us. A Christmas Fete is now being planned!!

Hearing the views of ALL parents:

I was pleased last week to have the first look at the Ofsted report which is soon to be published about our school. I am delighted to say that the report contains no surprises at all. The Ofsted Inspectors were of the view that we know our school well, know the strengths it has and the weaknesses still to be addressed. What is clear from the report, which we will hopefully send to you next week, is that leaders know what they are doing and know how to make the school 'Good'.

Now having said that, what is also clear is that a number of parents had some fairly negative things to say about our school and the happiness of their children within it. It was these comments that caused me to genuinely write the Newsletter 2 weeks ago about not bringing your children to our school if they are not happy. Now there are two things to say about that newsletter. Firstly, there were some parents I clearly offended by saying what I did and for that I sincerely apologise. It is never my intention to cause offence and I am sorry if I did. The whole reason I do the job I do is to make a positive difference to the children, their aspirations and their lives. If I am not doing that for ALL then clearly we need to do better. So, what I would say is that perhaps I should have said "If your child is not happy then come and speak to me and together let us sort this out"; and I would ask you again to do that. I want you to do that because your children are all precious to you and I have no desire for any of them to be unhappy at our school. Having

said all that, I also want to thank the parents who told me how positive they felt the newsletter was and how they completely understood what I was trying to say.

So in September I want to make communication better with parents and I want parents to feel that we are 100% there to support their children and to work together on any issues which might arise. In order to do that, please let me how best that would work for you?

How could I better improve communication with all parents? Please let me know email me directly at j.waelend@arkdickensprimary.org and share your ideas with me? What do we need to do to make the partnership with parents better than it is?

Charity Day from Year 6 on Wednesday 19th July raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support:

On Monday morning this week I set the Year 6 children a challenge. The challenge was to organise completely a Charity Fundraising Day and Evening Entertainment (with Raffle) in order to raise money for a Charity of their choice. By voting they elected to raise money for Macmillan Cancer support and for many reasons, personal to the children, this charity was chosen.

The children have asked that they have a GREEN (Macmillan Colours) non uniform day. To do this we would ask that the children across the school donate 50p and wear as much GREEN & WHITE as they can as an alternative to uniform on that day.

During the morning the children will have the opportunity to take part in a Sponsored Fun Run, making their way round the school field as many times as they can in 20 minutes. On Tuesday we will let you know what time the children in your child's class are running and if you would like to, you could watch them do so, and help count too!

During the afternoon there will be a number of stalls and activities for the children to take part

in and in the Evening the Year 6 Children have planned an Entertainment Show for you to enjoy.

Tickets are £1 each and are on sale at the front office from Monday. All of the money raised on this day will go to Macmillan Cancer support.

Pupil Behaviour:

I find myself in the position again where I have to remind parents of the fact that at Ark Dickens we expect all the pupils to behave in an exemplary manner, showing respect and kindness to all. Unfortunately, in recent weeks some children have felt it acceptable to become rude to staff, swearing at staff, threatening staff and displaying an attitude to staff that is argumentative and difficult. This behaviour is unacceptable and will not be permitted in our school. I would be grateful if, over the weekend, parents could reinforce the message that behaviour such as this should not be acceptable. I want to create a school here where every child and adult feels safe, where every child and adult is treated with kindness and respect and where every child and adult is able to come to school to teach and learn. We will now be operating a zero tolerance to such behaviour and so in order that both you and your child are aware of what is expected, please do talk together over the weekend.

Just a couple of reminders please:

1) School will close for the end of the summer term on Tuesday 25th July at 1.30pm, in order for us to make preparation for some work being carried out on the school during the summer break. Nursery will conclude at the normal time.

2) Next Term, school will finish on a Friday at 3pm and not 3.45pm. This is to enable Teachers and Teaching Assistants to receive additional training. We will be providing 'booked' provision for children between 3pm and 3.45pm on a Friday who need it and next Friday we will be asking you to let us know if you would like to take advantage of that.

Many thanks for your continued support.