



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at Ark Dickens has been one of those weeks which has seen some wonderful achievements by the pupils, some superb role models in action, some disappointing behaviour by a few and genuine sadness for the Ark Community. I am sorry to say that as a result of the terrible fire in West London earlier this week, two of the Ark Brunel Primary pupils lost their lives along with their parents and their younger siblings. Our thoughts and offers of help, genuinely do go out to the leaders at Ark Brunel, their children and the parents of that community. At Ark Dickens, we will be looking to support the school community in any way we can as we move forward together.

Classes and Teachers for next Year:

I had hoped to be able to tell you today, which classes would be taught by which teachers in the coming September. Unfortunately this has not been finalised yet. We were fortunate to recruit a new teacher to join our team earlier in the week and so this has enabled us to make just a few additional changes to the classes and teacher composition for September. We have also taken the decision to take the opportunity of a new school year to re-balance some of the classes and this also has not been finalised as of today. So, apologies for the delay, but I assure you that by the end of next week we will have let you know who your child's teacher will be and also give you the opportunity to come in and meet with them alongside other parents from the class.

Just a couple of reminders please:

Uniform:

This is a key part of what we value at Ark Dickens and it will continue to be so as children move through the school. Uniform, brings balance to the children and unites us as a team across the school. As you begin to think about September, it is important that you do not leave it until the last minute or the last few days of

the holiday to order your uniform. Children currently in Year 4 will need to order blazers in readiness for Year 5 as well as other uniform which needs to be ordered ready for the start of the new school year. In order to help you to do this a letter will be sent out today inviting you to come into school next week on particular days and place uniform orders.

Behaviour Expectations:

I just want to remind parents that our expectations of pupil behaviour remain high and will do so until the final day of term. Good behaviour is essential if all children are going to be offered an equal opportunity to learn and thrive together. In September we will be making our behaviour policy, easier for parents and children to understand but I want to make it clear to all parents that we will be expecting the children to continue to behave well as we enter the final few weeks of school. I have been saddened that this year I have had to exclude a number of children from school due to quite extreme behaviour but it is also rudeness and disrespectful behaviour that some children appear to think is acceptable; please be assured it is not. Thank you for your support with this important matter.

Reminder:

Due to the warmer weather please can you make sure your child has sun cream on & a named hat if needed.

Nursery

Next week in Nursery we will be innovating our story 'We are going on a bear hunt,' asking the children what other sort of hunt we could go on. We are hoping that the weather stays nice week so that we can do some big painting outside.

We will also be drawing pictures of our families and writing our names for our writing wall.

Year R

Next week in Maths, Reception are learning all about Time. One of the Early Learning Goals is for our children to use everyday language to talk about time. We know how much the children love to play family games, it would be a great idea if you could play 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' and record this on your weekend wow card.

Additionally, as the weather is getting warmer, please would you ensure that sun protection cream is applied to your child's face, neck, arms and legs or any other areas exposed to the sun.

Year 1

Ennis class had a fantastic afternoon last week. We had a large number of parents come to join us for our science activity. We were making giant marble runs (as we have been learning about forces).

The children (and parents) all worked together amazingly and I am so proud of what they achieved. I have attached a few photos.



Year 2

What a wonderful week Year 2 have had! We have really enjoyed making our masks and we hope you enjoyed coming into school to see them.

This week we have been learning column addition and subtraction and all the children have been enjoying the challenge.

In literacy we have been reading an exciting story about dragons and the children will be starting to write their own stories.

During our outside PE sessions we our practising for Sports' Day, please can you ensure your child has the correct footwear.

Year 3

Next week Year 3 will be visiting Butser Ancient Farm in relation to their Stone Age topic. We are all incredibly excited about this as we shall be making pots and will be learning about archaeology.

Can we remind you that children arrive at school wearing sun cream prepared for the day (Edison will be visiting on 21.06.17 and Picasso will be visiting 23.06.17). We are due to arrive back to school in good time before the end of the day meaning end of the day collection will be as normal.

We also begin our new Maths unit next week which will focus on 6 and 8 times tables. It would be greatly appreciated for children to practise their times tables in preparation for next week's learning!

Year 4

This week the children have enjoyed creating their own play scripts in literacy. They have also shown their expertise in interpreting data in maths.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to our art exhibition and learnt lots about your child's chosen inspirational British person. We also took part in a Guinness World Record attempt at the Guildhall, which was an amazing opportunity for us to take part in and it was enjoyed by everyone; and we were VERY successful!

Next week, the children will be creating their own descriptive poems taking inspiration from another inspirational Brit, Rudyard Kipling. We will be moving on from interpreting data next week in maths and learning more about calculating area and perimeter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 4 Team.

Year 5

On June 15th, Year 4 and 5 spent the morning at the Portsmouth Guildhall taking part in a Guinness World Record attempt with Portsmouth Music Hub.

We are pleased to say that we were part of 900 Portsmouth school children who beat the record of 'The Most People Drumming Continuously for 5 Minutes'.

It was a superb morning, which ended as we sat on the Guildhall steps watching a performance from the Royal Marines Band, and finding out that we have beaten the record!

The children were superb, and every single one of them was able to drum for 5 minutes without stopping - all whilst being filmed for the BBC News! We couldn't be more proud! Ark Dickens Primary now have over 100 pupils that hold a world record - WOW!



will involve group challenges, bug tasting and problem solving activities - we cannot wait! You can help at home by watching survival shows, researching famous explorers or reading information texts about jungles.

Attendance

Winners

Well Done to Nightingale Class, Peake Class & Dahl Class on their highest attendance .

Also well done to Potter Class, Rowling Class & Curie Class for the least amount of lates.

Year 6

Wow! We've been busy polishing off all of our writing skills this week. Some of us have been writing about the foxes that have taken up residence in the school playground; others of us have been writing our own horror stories and some of us have started an epic journey on a 2000 word twisted fairy tale - all have produced some fantastic writing!

In science this week, we have been investigating seed dispersal.

Next week we will be delving head first into our 'I'm a year 6, get me out of here!' topic. This