



Dear Parents and Carers,

WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!

We have found a new Principal for Ark Dickens Primary Academy

I am delighted to begin this newsletter you to by telling you that we have been very successful in finding a new Principal for Ark Dickens Primary Academy. The new Principal is Mrs Fiona Chapman, who is not related in any way to Mrs Anne Chapman, head of Ark Ayrton. Mrs Chapman was interviewed with one other candidate last Friday and was offered the job that very evening.

Mrs Chapman will become the full time Principal at Ark Dickens on **Monday 9th April**, ready for the start of the summer term next year. This will mean that I will then be able to take up the full time role of Executive Principal at Ark Dickens and Ark Ayrton, which is a job I have been trying to do as well as the full time job of running just Ark Dickens. We are delighted that Mrs Chapman will be joining us and look forward to welcoming her from Reading to Portsmouth in the spring of 2018.

I have to say the Year 6 Prefects and pupils were quite superb on the day in showing the two candidates round the school, showing them their work and discussing their views of the school. Mrs Chapman (Principal at Ark Ayrton) was also present at the interviews and was hugely complementary about the children who were involved in the day and also the children she met more generally across the school. They were all an absolute credit to the school; well done!

ATTENDANCE MEETINGS WITH PARENTS

Just to remind parents about one of the actions we are going to be taking about poor attendance. We have a large number of parents who will need to make appointments to come to meet with me because your child's attendance is already poor or becoming poor. You will firstly have a letter from me, early next week, letting you know that I wish to speak to you about your child's attendance. The reason for this meeting will be given to you in the letter. You will then be asked to make an appointment with me so that we can discuss your child's attendance and what we can do to help you improve this. If you are unable to meet us at school then we will arrange a home visit at a time of your choice. Thank you for your co-operation with this very important action.

A CHILDREN IN NEED SUCCESS!

The children look just amazing in their PJs today in an effort to raise money for

"CHILDREN IN NEED"

Today will be great fun for the children as well as supporting a worthwhile cause! Watch out for photos on the website.

Nursery News

In nursery next week we will be starting our 'Talk for writing' book for this term.

The book is 'Brown Bear Brown Bear what do you see' by Eric Carle.

We will be learning this story so that by the end of this term the children will be able to 'read' this story to you! If you would like to support your child's learning you could visit your local library and borrow the book.

We are doing lots of work on colour this term as the book has colours as well as animals in it. We will be doing colourful paintings and learning some songs about colour.

Year R

Next week in Literacy, Reception will be learning the story of The Gingerbread Man. Please ask your children to describe a Gingerbread Man. What does he look like? What does he smell like? We are really encouraging the children to talk in full sentences. If you could do this with your child at home this would enhance their learning.

In Maths we will be learning to count 10 objects carefully. It would be great if you could encourage counting around the house such as how many stairs or cushions. We look forward to hearing all their counting stories!

Year 1

In Literacy we have been learning the story of 'Leo the Lightning Bug'. Next week we'll be innovating the story to write about our own animals.

In Science we've been learning about changing materials. We made our own snow using powder and next we'll be investigating 'bouncability'!

Year 2

Next week we are beginning a new unit in literacy. We will be focussing on writing a non-fiction text. Over the weekend, discuss what non-fiction means and see if you can find some non-fiction texts. Either books from the library, newspapers, articles etc online. In our topic work we are continuing to learn about mythical creatures. We will be doing some art, design and technology and music. Our PSHE is continuing to focus on differences.

Thank you for your continued support

Year 3

This week Year 3 have started a new unit in Maths, addition and subtraction with numbers up to three digits. We have been continuing to develop our writing skills in preparation for our volcano narratives in Literacy. Next week we will be writing our own stories about volcanic eruptions, we will also be creating our own volcano paintings and in PHSE we will be discussing how to resolve an argument.

This part is from Miss Griffiths:

Thank you for all parents/carers in Year 3/4 who came to the Harry Potter workshop last week. The workshops will be continuing every Thursday afternoon from 1:00pm until 3:30pm up to Thursday 7th December. If you are interested but haven't signed a letter please catch a class teacher on the door.

Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have finished reading 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens and have even begun to write a letter in the role of Oliver himself!

In Numeracy we have continued to look at types of graphs and really enjoyed constructing our own pictograms! Next week we will be looking at techniques to help develop our understanding of our times tables in Numeracy and in Literacy we will finishing and publishing our letter as Oliver Twist.

In the afternoons, we have been learning about Victorian children and how different their lives were. Next week we will be exploring what life might have been like at school for Victorian children.

If you have any questions please do come and speak to a member of the Year 4 team.

Thank you from the Year 4 Team.

Year 5

In literacy, we are continuing to develop our understanding of figurative language and will be using this, next week, to write our own portal stories where a character will travel to another time or place. In maths, we will be learning about time. It would be hugely beneficial if you could talk with your child about different timings and help them remember how to tell the time to at least the nearest 5 minutes on the analogue clock.

Year 5 are very much enjoying their topic on Ancient Egypt and; next week, will be starting to find out about mummification and the different beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians.

Please start saving glass jars (jam/sauce) as we will be using these in a few weeks' time for some Christmas craft.

Year 6

The term is racing by and before we know it we will be beginning our celebrations for Christmas in earnest. Thinking about our citizenship learning, we have decided to ask the year group to organise a 'bring and buy sale' for the school. The idea being to enable you to have a clear out and make space for new toys, books and clothes for your child to bring in and donate to the sale. Proceeds will go towards the Y6 end of year celebrations. The children absolutely have to raise money for this by themselves and this is the first of several events to help them achieve this. Not every child will be needed for the event itself but they will have a role to play in the sale including promoting the event, sorting stock, quality control, supervising stalls, meeting and greeting, refreshments and accounting. We will contact you again nearer the time when we are ready to receive items for the sale. We look forward to your support in helping this venture be a success.

Best wishes the Y6 team.