



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Meet the Principal – Coffee and conversation**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 @ 8.45am**

We have had another lovely week at Ark Dickens with trips and visitors and fabulous learning throughout the school. The Year 2 children and Year 3 children have had some great trips out this week with superb behaviour to accompany the experiences they have had. It has been a complete joy to see so many children working so hard to improve their learning and as a result to really increase their life chances at every turn; well done to those children.

Just a couple of requests please on behalf of all the staff:

**1: PE Kit: Too many children are coming to school either with no PE kit or incorrect PE kit. All parents need to ensure that children come to school with their correct PE kit on the right day.** It is a small expectation we have of parents and I would ask you to make sure all children have the correct uniform. The children need to take part in PE and need to be correctly dressed to do so. Thank you.

**2) Too many children are not being collected at the end of the school day and are often still in school after 3.15pm on a Friday.** As parents you have a responsibility please to ensure you bring your children to school on time each day and collect your children on time each day. Please could I ask that all parents fulfil this responsibility and collect the children on time. Thank you.

### **Nursery News**

We have had a busy week in Nursery Mrs Oram has been out for 2 days learning how to drive the mini bus so that she can take us out on trips.

In Nursery next week we are innovating our story Dear Zoo to encourage the children to think out what else would make a good pet. Don't forget we would love to meet your pets if you can bring them in, come & talk to us about arranging a convenient day.

We will all be doing our writing for our writing wall. Come & look at the progress we are making.

### **News from Reception!**

The children have really enjoyed exploring the ice this week.

Next week we will be learning a new story called 'Handa's Surprise.' The story is about a little girl called Handa who puts seven delicious fruits in a basket to take to her friend. It would be lovely if could talk about lots of different types of fruit and maybe challenge them to try a new piece of fruit.

In Maths we will be learning about one less and one more. Please encourage your children by singing number songs such as, five little monkeys jumping on the bed, ten in a bed and ten green bottles.

### **Year 1**

Next week in school, we are lucky enough to have a company coming in on Friday to run a workshop with year one.

They will get to experience what it is like to be a palaeontologist! They will get to dig for fossil and learn all about how the dinosaurs lived. Alongside that, in the afternoon each child will each make their own paper mache dinosaur egg to take home.

## Year 2

The children had a fantastic time visiting Wagamama at Gunwharf Quays this week. They enjoyed tasting Japanese food as part of a restaurant experience, making super green juice and watching the chefs cook! Next week, we will be starting a new unit of literacy, we will be looking at story writing. Please try and read as many stories to your child as possible to help with their imaginations. Encourage your child to change their school library book as often as they can. Keep practising their spellings at home too!

In maths we will be beginning to look at fractions. Help your child by showing them how to cut things like pizza and cake into halves and quarters.

Along with Year R and Year 1 we will be taking part in the Infant Voices music festival. The children will be learning songs about different jobs. Ask your children to sing you the songs they have been learning.

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon the children will be visiting Tesco to take part in a 'Farm to Fork' experience. They will be learning where food comes from.

## Year 3

This week Year 3 have made a great start to creating their own inventions in Literacy, many have been incredibly creative! In maths we have completed learning about measurements and length and in topic have looked into famous inventors. Next week in Literacy we will be rehearsing the narrative George's Marvellous Medicine, in Maths we will be learning about multiplication and division and in topic we will be continuing with learning and creating our own inventions based on the works of famous inventors.

In preparation for next week may we ask if you can practise times tables with the children (we have learnt 2,3,4,5 and 6 so far) and continue with their reading and reading journals.

## Year 4

It has been another good week in Year 4.

In literacy the children have created some rather impressive mythical creatures and have been able to apply what they have learnt in other literacy lessons to describe it and include it within a narrative.

In numeracy this week we have been learning to identify fractions of shape and amounts. This has proven to be a bit tricky at times, but the children have shown some true resilience with their own learning.

Next week we are looking to move forward with our work in fractions, including adding and subtracting fractions and moving on to identifying mixed numbers.

In literacy we are going to be writing our own portal stories using our mythical creature from this week.

A polite reminder that homework is handed out every Friday and is expected to be returned, completed, the following Wednesday.

Unfortunately this week, we have had a number of children who have not submitted their homework. As you are aware, we had a conversation with you at the start of the year regarding the importance of homework and how some extra learning at home will be crucial in order for children to perform to their full potential.

## Year 5

Year 5 have been thoroughly enjoying learning about the rainforest. Next week, we will be using all of the interesting facts that we have learnt to create our own information texts about survival in the rainforest. We are focusing on the skills of using formal language, technical vocabulary and relative clauses.

In maths next week, we will be learning to multiply fractions using the methods we have been taught over the past couple of weeks.

We will also be beginning our science topic for this term: Water, acids and alkalis. The children may be asking you about the acidity of items at home and we will also be linking this to keeping our teeth healthy (due to the alkaline toothpaste neutralising the acids in our foods).

**We really need shoeboxes and large cereal boxes – please send them in to school as we will be creating our own rainforest art projects next week.**

Thank you.

## **Year 6**

Next week we will be investigating the effect of rationing on the Nation's health during World War 2. In literacy, the year group will be producing an independent piece of writing using a flashback based on the book we are reading 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. We will start our science and the focus for this learning journey is water, acids and alkalis. Please remember PE is Tuesdays and Fridays. It is important that every child is prepared for these lessons as it is part of the curriculum.

## **An important Year 6 message from Miss Waelend too!**

We are beginning to prepare for the SATs test in May. These are the National Tests which all Year 6 children will be expected to take during the week beginning May 14<sup>th</sup>. It is very important this year that our children perform well because to date they have worked hard and deserve to achieve high outcomes in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Many of the children have made good progress and are set to do well IF they continue to work hard, focus and decide that they are going to do well.

It is exceptionally important that not only the teachers know what the preparation involves but that you, as parents, completely understand what the tests involve and how you can help us, help your children to do the best that they can. So as part of the preparation for SATs, we are going to hold an Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents and we need you to attend one of the planned sessions.

## **The sessions will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at either 9am or 6pm.**

We have selected these times in order to cater for the needs of ALL Year 6 Parents. I have also given you 4 weeks' notice of this meeting so that you are all able to make arrangements to attend this meeting. You will

be very welcome to bring your Year 6 children but we would be grateful if young children and babies did not attend so that we can focus 100% on the Year 6 pupils and the support we are asking you to give the children.

We will soon be sending out a letter about this in more detail and will be asking you to tell us which session you will be attending. If there is a need to have a third meeting then we will base on the needs of all of the parents. It is essential that all parents attend one of the sessions. Thank you so much for your co-operation with this important date.