



IMPORTANT NOTICE

**From Monday 19th
February the school day
will end at 3.10pm for
the main school and
3.20pm for Nursery**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The main theme of my letter to you today is communication with Parents and Carers. I think this is something which we need to get better at but can only do so with your help, co-operation and support as well as fresh ideas.

We try to communicate with you about all the important things. We do this through Newsletters every Friday, a comprehensive website, opportunities to come in and meet with me personally to discuss ideas and ask questions and also a Facebook Page, linked to the school. We also send out text message reminders when we want to make certain you know about a change of plan or when something new is happening.

However, despite this I regularly hear that parents know nothing about what we are doing or what is going on. For example, some parents are still not aware that the time of the school day will change after next week's half term break. The day will end at 3.10pm and 3.20pm for Nursery.

We consulted parents on this in December and also have written to you about this on a number of occasions since then to tell you about the vote results, the proposal to change the day and the outcome from the Governors Meeting. This

change will take place on Monday 19th February and we would be grateful please if you could make sure the children are collected at the new time from that date.

If you also have other ideas about how better we could let you know what is happening, then please do let me know at j.waelend@arkdickensprimary.org

Thank you all

Have a lovely weekend

Nursery

We have had an exciting week in Nursery. Our older children loved going out on the mini-bus to Pets at Home.

We enjoyed travelling on the mini-bus and saw lots of animals, the food they eat, the toys they like to play with and the medicine they need when they are poorly.

Next week in Nursery we will be inviting parents in on Thursday to listen to us telling the story of 'Dear Zoo'.

This will be at 11.00 in the morning and 3.10 in the afternoon.

We hope you will be able to come in and listen.

Reception

As we begin the last week of our half term we will be comparing the environments of the Antarctic and Africa. The children will be talking about how we can keep safe in both hot and cold places as well as how animals survive in these environments. You could talk to your child about the sorts of animals that live in hot and cold places and how their bodies are designed for example, water-proof feathers, a long neck, a long trunk and so on.

We are learning about ordinal numbers in maths this week and will have lots of practical experiences of first, second, third, fourth and fifth. You can challenge your child at home to be

first to get their coat on, get ready for bed and so on to support them with this language.

Year 1

Next week in literacy we will be writing recounts about the dinosaur workshop that the children participated in. It would be useful if you spoke to your children about writing in the past tense so that they have some understanding before we start the topic.

In maths we will be looking at adding and subtracting numbers up to 50. To help your children you could count and write numbers up to 50.

Year 2

Year 2 have been working very hard this week in all aspects of the curriculum. They have also completed assessments in arithmetic and spelling, grammar and punctuation. We ask that you continue to support your child at home please. We have noticed a drop in the number of children completing their homework and reading at home. We will be sending home a copy of the Year 1 and 2 words that the children are expected to be able to spell correctly. Please help your child practise these at home. It is really important that you do this in order for your child to reach their full potential. Next week, we will be beginning to plan our stories, please keep sharing books at home to spark the children's imaginations. We will also be looking at fractions of shapes and numbers in maths. On Monday, Peake class will be visiting Carnegie Library. Please ensure that your child brings their library book in so they can change it for a new one.

On Wednesday 7th February we invite you to join your child to make their fruit faces. Inspired by the work of Archimboldo, the children have designed their own fruit faces and they would love you to come and help them produce their final piece of art work of the term. We look forward to seeing you then.

Year 3

This week Year 3 have been continuing with their learning with George's Marvellous

Medicine in reading and in Literacy we have been creating potion mixtures of our own. In Maths we have been learning to multiply by multiples of 10. In Topic we have been researching into the history of kites and designing one of our own. Next week we will be completing our learning of George's Marvellous Medicine. In Topic we will be completing our designs of our very own kites and flying them!

Thank you to all those that attended Year 3's class assemblies this term. The children have really enjoyed performing these for you!

Next Wednesday we will be hosting a cheese & crackers tasting afternoon in our classrooms, if you would like to join us then please arrive at 2.45 pm.

Year 4

It has been another fun-filled week in Year 4 with lots of great learning taking place. The children have now finished their work on fractions in numeracy and are ready to write their diary entries in literacy. Next week the children will be taking on the role of an Antarctic explorer and writing a diary entry of their expedition. The children will be taking inspiration from our visit on Tuesday where they will be learning more about Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Officer Laurence Oates during their race to the South Pole in the early 1900's.

In numeracy the children are moving away from fractions and will be learning how to convert time from the analogue clock to the 12 hour digital clock - this is a great opportunity for some extra home learning by asking your child 'what is the time?' or 'what time is my TV show on?' or even 'If you start tidying your room now, what time will you be finished?'

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working very hard this week in writing their own versions of Kensuke's Kingdom. Next week, we will be creating our own adventure stories using the skills that we have learnt. We will be focusing on relative

clauses (using which, that, who, where to add more information) and the use of dialogue (speech) to express the thoughts and emotions of the characters.

In maths next week, we will be learning about decimal numbers: rounding them to the nearest hundredth, tenth and whole number. We will also be using the skills that we have been learning to solve word problems involving all four operations.

Next week, we will be concluding our topic on rainforests by learning about conservation, the destruction of the rainforest and how we can help prevent this.

Year 5 had an interesting afternoon at the 'anti-bullying conference' on Tuesday at the Guildhall. We are proud of all that they have learnt and look forward to increasing their level of responsibility in this area.

Year 6

We would like to offer a huge thank you to every child in the year group for their effort and hard work in completing their SATs mock assessments this week. This vital assessment has given the children a better idea of what to expect in May and has given us a valuable insight into where the children are doing well and what areas we need to focus on to bring about further improvements.

On Thursday next week, we have a very exciting opportunity to go to the Guildhall to see and hear the World famous Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. They have very kindly given us free tickets for this prestigious event. We will walk to the Guildhall and, all being well, we should be back within the school day. We will have lunch as usual. All we ask is that your child is prepared for whatever the weather may be on the day as we will still go whatever the weather. In English we will continue with learning how speech in narrative can develop a story and show character. In maths the focus is on algebra. We will of course be starting simply as we build up the children's confidence in this more unfamiliar area of maths. Finally, we are looking forward to meeting with you after half term to discuss your child's progress. Please do make sure you book an appointment to see us.