



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support in all aspects of life at Ark Dickens – your children are just great! They have worked so hard this week, many of them taking their termly tests and assessments and most of the children have been determined to be successful and show fabulous progress. Next week, as you will see from the year groups, the children will be preparing for the Easter Break and we are very much looking forward to all of the activities which we will enjoy with them.

Before we share what the year groups are doing next week, I have one request and a really important piece of information to share with you.

An important request: - Please could we ask you not to smoke outside the school gates whilst waiting to drop off or collect your child.

We have a number of children who suffer very badly with asthma and many who are being negatively affected by cigarette smoke. Please could we ask you to wait until you have dropped off the children before you have a cigarette. Thank you so much.

An important piece of information – A big change which you need to take action on.

I am afraid we are no longer able to support **any** dinner money debt. We currently have an unpaid debt of 89 meals and in order to correct this we are now changing our policy so that you can no longer have debt on your child's account. This simply means that you have to pay for the meal your child is going to eat in advance, in the same way that you would be expected to pay for goods in any shop. As parents you will be fully aware that it is your responsibility to decide what your child has for lunch. This could be a

packed lunch or a school dinner. If you chose a packed lunch and went to buy the food to put in that lunch it would have to be paid for before you could take the goods. This is all we are asking and expecting of parents from now on, that the lunch will be paid for before it is taken. In the light of this change, the following action must be taken please.

All dinner money is payable in advance of your child ordering a school meal, if there is no credit on your child's account then you will receive a phone call home asking for the payment to be made by 9.15am or a packed lunch to be provided. If there is a debt on your account you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child until this debt is cleared, we would then require your account to be in credit before your child can order a dinner. Thank you for your support with this.

Nursery News

We had a very exciting beginning to the week in Nursery as we had lots of snow in our playground on Monday. Lots of the children enjoyed playing in the snow especially throwing snowballs at the teachers!

Next week we will be doing lots of fun Easter activities.

We will be having our Easter Bonnet Parade on Tuesday so don't forget to support your child to make their bonnets over the weekend. Before the parade we will be inviting you to listen to us singing our songs that we have been learning this term.

We are hoping the Easter Bunny will visit us on Thursday and hide some eggs so we can have an Easter egg hunt.

We will be reading some Easter stories, singing some Easter songs and painting Easter eggs.

News from Reception

This week the children have been learning about making healthy choices in food, fitness and hygiene. On Wednesday we are having a healthy picnic and parents are invited to come in at 2.30 PM to join us. Please send in some healthy options for us to share on Wednesday morning, cheese, fruit and vegetables are good for the children to share. We have been working on Subtraction in Maths this week, we have used subtraction, take away and minus as ways of describing what we have been doing. The language we have used is:-

“5 take away 3 is equal to 2”

Please support your child at home by working on subtraction practically with your child. On Thursday we are having an Easter Bonnet parade in the afternoon, please bring in your bonnets on Thursday morning making sure they are named.

Year 1

Next week in literacy children will be writing instructions on How to Make an Easter Bonnet. The children will make these in school on Friday. Please talk to your children about what instructions are and why we have instructions. In maths we will be looking at fractions which is a new concept for the children. We will be looking at what is a half and a quarter. Don't forget on Thursday we will be having a bonnet parade at 2.30pm parents are welcome to come to watch.

Year 2

This week Year 2 have completed a series of challenges to assess their learning this term. We are extremely proud of all the children and how hard they have worked. Next week, we are excited to be taking the children to Marwell Zoo on Tuesday. Please ensure that you have paid your £10 if you haven't done so already. If you have any questions about the trip please speak to your child's class teacher. We will be writing a leaflet to persuade other children to visit the zoo when we return. In maths we will be working on identifying and describing shapes and investigating symmetry. We will be looking

at why Christians celebrate Easter and begin to look ahead to our topic after the Easter holiday.

Year 3

This week Year 3 have continued their writing about their own underwater creature in Literacy, in Maths they have continued their learning of fractions and in topic have planned, created and evaluated their own miniature water rafts. Next week we are looking forward to completing our report writing about our underwater creatures and are very excited to create watercolour paintings and learn about water pollution through science experiments.

Year 4

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 4. This week, the children have worked so incredibly hard in their assessments and they have produced some simply outstanding scores - some children have really shown some amazing resilience and determination in order to achieve to their full potential.

Next week in literacy we will be coming to an end of our Greek Mythology and we will be creating another labour for the mighty Heracles. The children will also be showing their creativity by producing some Greek art work in the form of plates and vases. In numeracy, the children are in for a fast paced four days. They will be revisiting some work they have covered this half term in some consolidation lessons, so that we can move on to new and exciting units after Easter. If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 4 team.

Year 5

This week Year 5 have had a fantastic week. They have thoroughly impressed us in their assessments and have really shown off all that they have learnt. In literacy this week, the children have written some amazing historical narratives set during the Viking invasion.

Next week, in literacy, we will be learning about Lindisfarne and the significance of this during the Viking invasion period. We will then be

using this to create a non-chronological report. In maths, we are focusing our attention on angles: learning to recognise acute, obtuse and reflex angles as well as learning how to measure angles with a protractor. During our afternoon lessons, we will be finishing our topic on Anglo-Saxons and Vikings by learning how the Viking rule of our country was ended in 1066.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 6

This week the year group has worked incredibly hard as we complete our latest round of assessments. There have already been some amazing success stories and it has also been really useful in seeing where the gaps are so we can address this in the coming weeks. In science we have designed a mythical creature that, using taxonomy, would be part of the cat family. The pupils have come up with some interesting designs and adaptations. We really hope the children are excited by the news of our forthcoming trip. Soon after the Easter holiday, we would like to hold a book sale to help to raise funds to help pay for the full cost of the trip, sitting at a £1200 target. This has proven to be very successful in the past. Everyone in the school will be invited to bring in any books they no longer need. They will be put on sale in the hall one afternoon after school. I would be very grateful if some volunteers would be willing to stay behind to help. More news on this after half term. Meanwhile, if you could return the permission slip along with the £10 contribution we are asking you to make, thank you.

Finally, Easter school plans have been finalised and we will be in contact with you shortly if we think it your child would benefit from attending.

Have a lovely weekend



Miss J.Waelend
Executive Principal