



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term! I do hope you managed to have a good Spring Break with the children and that both you and they feel refreshed after some relaxed time together. The children have certainly worked really hard this week and we are working hard to ensure they achieve the very best they can in this final term of the school year.

Many thanks to you all the children have come back looking very smart in their uniform. Allow me please just to take this opportunity to say that our uniform policy will remain very much in place during the summer term and this will continue to include school shoes and ties. The children looking smart is very important to us at Ark Dickens and we would be grateful for your co-operation with this throughout all the days of the term.

Of equal importance is attendance at school and being on-time every day in that regard. I was disappointed to see some children, with their parents arriving 15 / 20 minutes late during a couple of the days of this week. Please may I take this opportunity again to say to you that this is not acceptable. The children need to be in school before 8.40am in the morning, when their learning formally begins. It does not help if they arrive late and many struggle to catch up throughout the day. Our expectations of you as parents are that you will ensure your children come to school every day (unless they are genuinely unwell) and every single day on time. I assure you my staff will be here on time every day ready to teach them.

New Principal for Ark Dickens Primary Academy:

You will all be aware that over the past few weeks we have been seeking to appoint a new principal for our school here which would enable me to be released from the detail of the day to day running of the school in order to fulfil my responsibilities as Executive Principal at both Ark Dickens and Ark Ayrton. I need to

share with you that our expectations of this post holder will be huge and so far we have not been successful in finding the right person to undertake this crucial role. So the hunt continues and until such time as we find that person we will continue to look hard and try to attract the right candidate to take our school into the next phase of its important improvement journey.

Meet the Principal for Coffee:

I have been interested to hear from some parents that there are a number of other parents who feel that they have no opportunity to express their views / concerns / ideas about the school and feel if they do they will not be listened to. If this is genuinely how you feel then please DO come to school on Tuesday 2nd May at drop off time and meet with me and other parents and absolutely have your views expressed and heard. These 'Meet the Principal' sessions are a really positive opportunity to come in and just talk informally with other parents about things that are going well, not going well and ideas for the future. It is completely open, honest dialogue and you will 100% be listened to by me. I do look forward to seeing you there. We hold the meetings in the staff room and all parents and friends of the school are warmly welcome.

It has been brought to our attention that some of our children are bringing Fidget spinners into school; these are becoming a distraction in class. Can I please ask that children do not bring these into school.

If children are found playing with these during the school day they will be confiscated.



So let's look at next week, remembering that we are not at school on Monday 1st May due to Bank Holiday Monday:

Nursery

We will be starting our Talk for Writing book for this term which is 'Each Peach Pear Plum.' We will be turning our role play area into the 3 bears' cottage.

All of our spring flowers have died off so the children have been helping us clear the planters so that next week we can plant some seeds so that in the summer we will have lots of lovely flowers to look at.

Reception Classes

Year R the children have really enjoyed the start to our Space topic. We will be making junk rockets, so if you are able to start saving your bottles and other clean 'junk' that would be very helpful. More details to follow about coming in to join the fun!

Year 1

This term, Year 1 are learning all about Pirates and are very excited about this. On Tuesday (2nd May), we will be going to Southsea Beach as part of our topic. Nightingale class are going in the afternoon and Ennis class are going in the morning. (This will not affect lunchtime). Please make sure that the children are wearing weather-appropriate clothes and sensible shoes.

In science this term, we are learning all about forces. For our experiment next week, we will need 'sports cap' plastic bottles so please bring in any that you have.

Reminder: All children need to have their PE kits back in school, including shoes for outside please.

Thank you.

Year 2

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Easter break and are ready for the busy term ahead. As you know the children are now preparing for their SATS tests taking place during the week beginning 15th May. During

the next few weeks please support your child by helping them complete their revision books, hear them read and practise telling the time and recognising 2D and 3D shapes. If you have any questions about how you can help your child please speak to either Miss Strode, Miss Williams or Mrs Hawkins.

Please could we ask you to collect empty toilet roll and kitchen roll tubes and bring these in to school for our science work.

Our PE days are Tuesday and Friday, please ensure your child has their PE kit in school ready for their lesson on both days.

Our topic this term is 'Animals around the World', help your child prepare for their literacy and geography by researching animals from different continents.

Year 3

Next week Year 3 will begin their new unit in maths- Angles. They will be learning how to correctly identify various sized angles and how to measure these effectively. They will continue with their narrative writing in Literacy, where eventually they will be writing a story relating to the Stone Age. This ties in greatly with their new topic.

The children have come back to school refreshed after their break and have engaged well in their learning.

A homework booklet has gone out this week- please do not panic! This is their homework for the whole of the half term and isn't due in until June 5th.

Could we also remind you that our PE days are Monday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor). The children will be expected to have the appropriate kit for this.

Year 4

What a fantastic start to the summer term in Year 4!

We have really hit the ground running in all aspects of our school day. We are exploring the work of Charles Dickens - Oliver Twist in particular, which the children have really taken to.

This term we are focusing on 'What makes Britain Great?' in our topic lessons. We have so much planned in relation to this, including trips out in and around the city; visits from local artists and much, much more; concluding in you being invited in for our Year 4 Great British Street party.

There will be a project piece of homework coming home with your child soon asking them to research and create a fact file on an inspirational Brit, either past or present. We hope this topic is greeted with as much enthusiasm and support from you as previous projects.

Thank you once again.

The Year 4 team!

Year 5

Year 5 have had a great first week back! Viking day was fab and we are ready for our Viking and Anglo-Saxon topic!

Next week, we will be learning about a very famous Viking in Literacy - Erik the Red. We will be writing our own biographies of his exciting life. In maths, we will be focusing on becoming angle experts.

During the afternoons, we will be continuing to learn about space in preparation for our visit to the Novium Museum in Chichester on Thursday. Please don't forget to hand in your letter and money so that the trip can go ahead.

Year 6

It has been lovely to have you all back this week! Thank you to those of you that gave up your time over the holidays to join us at Easter school.

During next week, we will continue to investigate more about the Titanic and use this to help us in our writing. In maths, we will be revising everything we have learnt this year and revisiting all of our basic skills. In the afternoons, we will be investigating conditions needed for living things to survive and begin to look at how reliable data is from our scientific experiments.

It is really important that you all rest and relax over the bank holiday weekend so that you are ready for our last week before SATs. Just as a reminder, the tests begin on the 8th May but our breakfast club will start from Tuesday next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Year 6 Football

Congratulations to all the Year 6 Football team who, in the last week of the spring term, played against Medina Primary school and came away with an honourable draw at 6-6! It was a thrilling game to watch and there were many standout performances. It was clear we have a very talented group of players. More fixtures and tournaments are planned as a result of the team's performance.

Mr Brotherton and Mr Hughes

Attendance

Winners

Well Done to Peake class
Edison Class and Dahl Class,
on their highest attendance .

Also well done to Ennis Class,
Edison Class and Curie Class
for the least amount of lates.