



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all so very much for the positive contribution you have made to another good week at Ark Dickens, finishing with our Blue Day today, which was just great!

We have had some really great stories this week of children making good progress, planning ideas for the summer, learning more about treating each other well alongside trips to the beach and visits to the Museum in Chichester; it's been a good week. Next week will be different again because the focus, quite rightly has to be on the Year 6 children and their National Tests. It is an important week for the children, mainly because through it we will be able to celebrate their successes together but also because the outcomes of next week will begin to shape the next stage of our young people's lives as learners. We wish them every success and thank them for all of the hard work they have put in so far this year.

Staffing update:

I just want to take this opportunity to update you all on some news about our staff as the summer term unfolds:

I am delighted to say that both Mrs Grosvenor and Mrs Price will be returning from maternity leave during this part of the summer term. We are very much looking forward to having them back with us.

Just another note to say that Mrs Smith (previously Miss Westmoreland) will be leaving us at Half Term in order to await the arrival of her new baby soon after the holiday. We will let you know the plans to replace Mrs Smith as soon as they are finalised.

Finally this note is to let you know that both Miss Carr (Curie class) and Miss Davies (Dahl class) will be leaving us at the end of this summer term. Miss Carr has secured a sought

after post at another school and Miss Davies will be returning to Wales. We will be very sorry to see them leave us and wish them very well in the future.

Nursery

In Nursery next week we will be acting out the story of Goldilocks in our role play area. We will be writing to Goldilocks to tell her how sad we are that she went into the 3 bears cottage without asking. We will be starting to teach phonics to our children who are ready & will be going to Reception in September. We will start practising for sports day during our PE lessons.

Reception

In maths next week we'll be starting to learn about halving. Please help your child start to understand the concept by pointing it out in day to day activities. For example, talking about when you are halfway through your journey or when you're halfway up the stairs, half a chocolate bar, half a bottle of something, or even sharing food between two people. This can be really useful for understanding what's fair but also what a 'half' is.

Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful week this week and thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Southsea beach. There are now photographs of this on the school website.

Next week in literacy, we will be writing our own message in a bottle and also learning a story all about a pirate called Tom and his search for treasure. In maths, we are learning about addition and subtraction of 2 digit numbers and in science, we will be continuing our learning about forces. We will be investigating the friction caused by different

surfaces and how they affect the speed of a toy car.

Year 2

Year 2 will be continuing their animal topic by reading lots of animal poems and then writing our own descriptive poems. We are also working hard on learning animal songs and dances - details will be coming soon on when you will be invited in to watch us perform! We will continue to prepare for SATs by revisiting multiplication and division. Thank you to all of you who are working so hard at home on the SATs practice booklets - this extra work is really paying off. Remember - you are welcome to bring in any questions you are working on into school for checking/advice.

We will soon be starting our science unit on forces - push and pull toys. In preparation for this, we would love lots of clean plastic bottles - any size up to 1 litre with the caps (especially sports caps) left on - brought in to school so every child can use one. We still need toilet rolls, too. If you have either item, please kindly drop them into class.

Finally, please may we remind you that we try to make a start to our school day at 8.40 am. The children do early morning maths jobs first thing and our many later arrivals miss these.

Thank you so much for your support with this.

Year 3

Next week Year 3 will continue with their new unit in maths, which is looking at Angles. The children have been working very hard on this already this week and have enjoyed experimenting with measuring angles. They will complete their narrative writing in Literacy, where they will have written a story relating to the Stone Age and comparing it to today's living. In topic they will continue to learn about the Stone Age and eventually create their own Stone Age stories through cave paintings. We are all looking forward to this!

Year 4

Sadly, we have come to the end of our Oliver Twist learning journey in literacy. We say sadly because your children have showed unbelievable passion and enthusiasm for this particular topic. They have thoroughly enjoyed it and produced some outstanding work. We are hoping that this enthusiasm continues into our new poetry topic next week.

We have started to look more into our whole year group topic on what makes Britain great and we have had some lovely work produced so far.

With this in mind, we ask you that you begin to think about your child project, which will be sent home with them today (Friday 5th May). This project is giving the children a chance to show their own independence in learning by researching some inspirational British people. They can choose from famous scientists, artists, sportsmen. The list is endless and we hope that your child, and you, really enjoy working on this together at home. We look forward to seeing the final results. Thank you again for your continued support.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant week this week, focussing on Erik the Red in literacy, and conquering angles in maths! Our trip to the Tim Peake exhibition opened our eyes to life as an astronaut, and proved to be an exciting session! The children got to dress-up as astronauts-in-training, and take part in a number of investigations.

Next week will see the start of 3D shapes in maths, and we will be looking at Viking historical fiction in literacy. We will continue our science focus on Evolution and Ecology, and will find out more about Vikings and Anglo-Saxons during topic.

We have noticed that telling the time is still proving difficult across the year group, so at home could you please ask your children to tell you the time occasionally.

In maths lesson, we will be covering to the nearest five minutes, before moving on to reading to the exact minute. For pupils that can tell the time accurately, you could ask them what time it will be in _____ minutes. Perhaps you could find some time to practice this at home too.

Year 6

Thank you for working so hard this week and for doing your best. Next week we will be taking our SATs.

They will be as follows:

Monday am: Reading paper

Tuesday am: SPaG paper

Wednesday am: Arithmetic paper and reasoning paper

Thursday am: Reasoning paper

This weekend should be all about relaxing, enjoying time with friends and family and getting plenty of sleep! You have worked incredibly hard this year so please do not worry, you are more than ready to show off what you know.

See you next week - have a lovely weekend!

Attendance

Winners

Well done to all our winners this week : Peake Class, Dahl Class & Luther-king.

Also well done to Rowling Class, Curie Class, Dahl Class & Travers Class for the least amount of lates this week.