

Newsletter

4th March 2016



ARK Dickens
Primary Academy

Dear Parents and Carers

Those who know me well, will tell you that I am often heard to say that I believe I have the best job in the world! This week, and particularly yesterday, serve to illustrate the fact that I am right; I do have the best job in the world. The reason I say that is that for me, it is difficult to imagine anything better than seeing children grow as people, develop as learners and begin to have a really good time at the school which you have been asked to lead. Of course this is something which would not be possible without the real support of you as parents; World Book Day yesterday was a wonderful example of that. So, thank you to you as parents for the effort and energy you too are putting into making Ark Dickens one of best local schools in the City.

Thank you to those of you who attended Parent Consultation Evenings this week, it was good to see so many of you there. For those of you who were unable to attend or who didn't make appointments to see your children's teacher, please do so. There are so many changes in education which are happening almost on a weekly basis at the moment, that it is really important that you take the opportunity to find out how well your child is doing and what you can do to help at a time of such challenge for our youngsters.

During this coming week we are inviting parents of children in Year 6 to join us for an important meeting where we will be able to tell you about the important changes which are taking place in the important Year 6 Tests this year and what you are able to do to support your children in preparing for this. You should receive a separate letter about this today so please do look out for that too. Parents of children in Year 2 will also be asked to attend a similar meeting during the following week, details to follow next Friday. Thank you for taking the time to attend these really important meetings.

As I indicated last week, there are a number of quite significant changes which we are going to be making after the Easter Break and beyond. I had hoped that today I would be able to send you some details about this, outlining the plans to you. Unfortunately, this will need to wait until next week as I have not been able to complete all the meetings needed this week to finalise the plans. So, please do look out for quite a detailed separate letter from me next Friday. Thank You.

Miss J Waelend (Interim Headteacher)

Illegal Parking: We have been alerted that some parents are parking illegally on double yellow lines in Wingfield Street when they come to drop their children off to school. Portsmouth City Council and the police are aware of this problem which causes an obstruction and is an unsafe place to stop. Can we ask all parents who drive their children to school to ensure you park responsibly in future. Thank you for your co-operation.

School Ties: We have arranged to be able to sell school ties at a reduced rate of £3.00 from the school office from Wednesday next week (9th March). This is a limited offer so please come in and make your purchase if your child does not have a school tie.

Parent Consultation Meetings: Thank you to all those parents who came in to school this week for parent consultation meetings with the teachers. We hope you found this interesting and informative and were able to discuss with your child's class teacher their progress and plans for the future.

Check out our school website for more information, stories and pictures: www.arkdickensprimary.org

ARK DICKENS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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AN **ark** SCHOOL

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March: The children looked amazing in their outfits yesterday celebrating their favourite book characters. Thank you parents for your input and skills in putting the outfits together. It was a really positive learning experience for the children who were able to bring their favourite stories to life.



Family Quiz Night – 23rd March: Arrangements for the Family Quiz Night in school on Wednesday 23rd March from 6 – 7.30 pm are under way. A separate letter was sent home last week for families to complete and return to book their team in to this event. We still have places available so please get your forms in to us by the end of next week (Friday 11th March) and come and join us for a fun filled family evening.

After School Clubs: All our clubs are up and running for this term but we would like to remind parents that if your child does not attend on a regular basis their place will be lost as most of the clubs have a waiting list. If you have any issues around after school clubs please contact Mr Hutchings in school.



School Photographer: A reminder the school photographer will be visiting us on the 18th march to take whole class school photographs. A separate letter went out this week giving more details.

A Message from Pastoral Team: Can we please remind all parents that films and computer games are certificated for age appropriate use. It has come to our attention that children are watching age inappropriate films and in some cases playing inappropriate computer games. Please can you ensure you are monitoring what your children are watching and the computer games they are playing.

HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Week beginning: 29th February. Congratulations to the following pupils who received a Headteacher's Award.

Nursery	Jack Waters	Reception	Tommy Hilliar, Bethany Peters, Freya Cordara & Oscar Deadman
Year 1	Kiya McClenaghan, Konrad Janusz, Lily-Mae Field & Meadow Ball	Year 2	Jayden Hilliar, Iva Gabrovska, Tia-Marie Latimer & Mason Reid
Year 3	Patryk Syzmanski, Tamanna Miah, Jade Lale-Harrison & Daisy-Marie Moore	Year 4	Taylor Colwell, Alfie Arnold, Albie Burton & Paul Hill
Year 5	Nathan Chase, Nana Biney, Alfie Rose & Cleo Mundy	Year 6	Alfie Blagden, Opal Andrews & Jagers Class

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARDS				
WEEK ENDING (Mon to Fri)	ATTENDANCE CUP (Upper School)	%	ATTENDANCE TED (Lower School)	%
				
12 th February	Bumble	100%	Twist	98.8%
26 th February	Jagers	100%	Twist	98.7%
Well done to the winning classes!				

Dates for your diary	
Longdown Dairy Farm Visits (Reception Classes)	Tuesday 8 th March
Whole School Class Photographs	Friday 18 th March
Weald & Downland Museum Trip (Year 1)	Tuesday 22 nd March
Parents Voice Meeting	Tuesday 22 nd March (2.00 – 3.00pm)
Family Quiz Night	Wednesday 23 rd March (6.00 – 7.30pm)
School finishes for Easter Holidays	Thursday 24 th March
INSET Day – school closed to children	Monday 11 th April
Start of Summer Term – school open	Tuesday 12 th April