

Newsletter



ARK Dickens
Primary Academy

26th September 2014

Welcome to ARK Dickens

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to ARK Dickens Primary Academy.



So many parents and visitors have commented on how absolutely splendid the children look in their new school uniform and we are also really pleased that many of you have noticed how fantastic the school buildings and grounds look.

I am sure the additional two weeks closure at the start of term will have placed greater demands on you but the closure did mean that all the staff received intensive training each day on our new teaching programmes for reading writing, maths, science and ICT. These programmes are highly effective and are part of meeting one of ARK School's Six Pillars – Excellent Teaching.

I would like to thank those parents who came to the 'Welcome Meetings'. It is always good to hear positive feedback and in future we are proposing to arrange further meetings as this is a way of working together with our parents and the community to achieve even greater success for our school and its pupils.

I am aware that some parents have expressed concern that the school name will be changing again and that you will have to buy a new school uniform. Please let me assure

you that this is not the case and the free uniform you have been given for your child(ren) is our Ark Dickens uniform and will last as long as your child fits into it! There was a mistake in the uniform section of the Parents Handbook that was given out with the new uniform and to clarify this it is only children in Nursery who should be wearing white polo shirts. All other children in the school (Year R – Year 6) should all be wearing a white collared shirt with their clip-on tie. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement to ensure your child is wearing the right items.

It has been a great opening fortnight for the school and we look forward to continuing this through the rest of this academic year. Please look out for our fortnightly school newsletter to keep you up to date with information.

Mr C Duncan (Headteacher)

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AN **ark** SCHOOL



Change, change, change...

Lots of you have noticed the school grounds have changed and we are delighted that so many of you have said how much the children like it. There have also been some other important changes too.

In the morning at lining up time on the Upper School Playground, I'm sure you have noticed that the children are calmer and more orderly. This is connected to our new expectation that they are silent when moving around the school building. To help support us, please could I ask that, once the bell rings, you move away from where the children line up so that they are not distracted. It is then clear for all the children that the school day has started, and with it, our high expectations.

At lunchtimes, the children now have a set amount of time on the playground and a set amount of time in the school hall eating their lunch. The hall tables are organised in small 'pods' so that the children can have quality 'talk time' with friends. It also means we are able to help them develop key social skills around food and eating. I am really pleased to say we are all getting used to the changes and lunchtimes are becoming a calm social experience for everyone. Again, this is all connected with one of ARK School's Six Pillars – Exemplary Behaviour.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARDS				
WEEK BEGINNING (Fri to Thurs)	ATTENDANCE CUP (Upper School)	%	ATTENDANCE TED (Lower School)	%
				
15 th September 2014	Copperfield/Marley	99%	Pickwick	99.1%
22 nd September 2014	Scrooge	100%	Micawber	99.6%
Well done to the winning classes!				

HEADTEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

Each week two pupils from each year group will be selected to receive the Headteacher's Certificate. Week one certificates are in recognition of an exemplary display of our 'CHALLENGE' value. The certificates were awarded to:

Year 1	Max Twine and Gracie Angus	Year 2	Brooke Fitzjohn and Charlie Beech
Year 3	Aleesha Sweetman and Michael Hallman	Year 4	Tommy Becque and Alfie Rose
Year 5	Alex Hellyer and Tamjid Hussain	Year 6	Brandon Street and Lisa Zabarova

Week two certificates are in recognition of an exemplary display of our 'EFFORT' value. The certificates were awarded to:

Year 1	Dylan Mitchell and Tianna Dunn	Year 2	Millie Leeming and Marley Frazer
Year 3	William Colwell and Connor Jewell	Year 4	Trent Groizard and Jamar Johnson
Year 5	Angel Jestins and Opal Andrews	Year 6	Liam Devlin and Serena Delia



Census Day Special Menu 2nd October 2014

From NOW all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to a FREE school meal EVERY day! To celebrate, our school meals providers – ISS Education – will be providing a special menu of some of their most popular meal choices on the **2nd October** to give pupils a flavour of what's on offer.

Free school meals offer several benefits, including a saving of around £400 per child per year! If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and you would like your child to come along and enjoy the healthy nutritious meals please ask your child to put down for a hot dinner on their class dinner register on **2nd October**.

The Special menu will be available for the whole school so if your child is in another year group and is entitled to Free school meals they can try this special menu or you can pay £2 if you pay for hot dinners. We hope your child will enjoy their hot dinner on this celebration day and that they will then continue to join us every day for a hot meal!

Spare Uniform For Nursery Children

If anyone has any smaller size spare grey trousers, skirts, white polo tops, or even pants and socks that are no longer needed, we would be very grateful if you would be willing to donate them to our Nursery just to help any children who may have little "accidents!" Please hand your donations in to the school office. Thank you in advance for your help.

Dates for your diary:

Tues 30th September – Parents Forum

Wed 1st & Thurs 2nd October - Parents' Evenings

Tues 21st October – School Nurse Drop In (9am)

**Tues 21st October –
 Year 6 to Royal Marines Museum 9.15am – 2.30pm**

**Tues 11th November –
 Year 6 to Fort Nelson 9.15am – 2.45pm**

**Tues 18th November –
 Year 2 Winter Music Workshop**