



Dear Parents and Carers,

It hardly seems possible that we have arrived at the end of the spring term already and today the children break up for the Easter holidays; time passes so quickly! Today not only marks the end of the spring term but also as my time as substantive principal at Ark Dickens Primary Academy and from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April Mrs Fiona Chapman will lead the school into the next, crucial stage of its journey to become an outstanding school.

I recall being asked to come to Ark Dickens and lead the school whilst the Academy Trust looked for a new Principal and how quickly our amazing children 'got to me' and I agreed that I would stay as long as it took to find the best person to lead the school to the next important stage of the journey. It took us four attempts to find the right Principal and I am delighted to be able to hand over the leadership of the school to Mrs Chapman. I know that during the first week back she will introduce herself properly to you and indeed a number of you have met her already, but I am certain she is absolutely the right person to take the school on to a very bright future.

For me, I will remain as Executive Principal of both Ark Dickens and Ark Ayrton. In simple terms this will mean that I will give half of my time to each school to support both Principals in driving all aspects of improvement in the school. I will no longer be responsible for the day to day decision making in the school; this will now be Mrs Chapman's role and should any of you wish to meet with the Principal, it will be her that you will need to make an appointment with. I have very much enjoyed my time as Principal and look forward to the coming term with great anticipation as Mrs Chapman takes over. Thank you for all of the support and challenge you have given to me in my time at the school and I am certain you will continue to do the same as Mrs Chapman takes up her role.

### **Time to say 'Goodbye'**

We first of all need to say farewell to Mrs Jarjat. She has been at Ark Dickens Primary Academy for 12 years and we are so grateful for all she has done both for us and with us! We wish here every possible success as she moves from our school to work for the Local Authority SEN Team.

We also need to say 'goodbye' to Mrs Price who is moving to Tunbridge Wells to be closer to her family. We thank her for all she has done for us and wish her every success in the future!

### **SUMMER TERM NEWS**

#### **Nursery News**

We had an amazing day on Tuesday when many parents came in to listen to the songs we had been learning about growing and then watched us doing our Easter bonnet parade. Thank you for supporting us by helping your child make their beautiful bonnet.

Next term our topic is traditional tales & rhymes. The main book we will be looking at is 'Each Peach Pear Plum' by Janet & Allan Ahlberg.

We will be learning all about the characters in the book before we start to read it.

If you have a chance to visit the library over the holidays this would be a good book to borrow. We will also be reading Cinderella and Goldilocks, then towards the end of the term a selection of other traditional tales.

For Maths we will be learning lots about size this term. We will be turning our role play area into 'The Three bears' cottage' which fits in beautifully with our work on size.

Have a happy and safe Easter holiday and let's hope we all get a few sunny warm days!

### **Reception**

Next term our topic will be all about the farm. In Literacy we will be looking at the story of 'The Little Red Hen.' In the tale, the little red hen finds a grain of wheat and asks for help from the other farmyard animals to plant it, but they all refuse. It would be fantastic if the children could draw their favourite farm animal such as a pig, cow, duck, goose, or goat and bring it to our 'show and tell' when we are back.

For Maths our focus will be about sharing into two equal groups. The children would really benefit from practical problem solving at home. For example, cut an apple in 8 slices, if you shared it between yourself and a friend, how many pieces would you have each?

We hope you have a lovely break. See you soon.

### **Year 1**

Thank you so much for all of your help and support during this very enjoyable term! We are already looking forward to the summer term where our topic will be 'Pirates'. It would be helpful if you talked to your children about some famous Pirates, help them to find out about some Pirates or even try to explain some Pirate vocabulary! In maths we will be looking at length and mass, children will start to use rulers to measure length and scales to measure mass.

### **Year 2**

Year 2 had a brilliant day at Marwell Zoo on Tuesday. The children loved seeing the animals they have been learning about up close and were able to talk about their own knowledge and also learn some new facts about their favourite animals. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to come and help us. After the Easter break our topic will be The Seaside. The children will be bringing home an activity sheet of things to do relating to our new topic. Why not take a trip to the seafront? Weather permitting, of course!

After the break the children will also begin to prepare for their upcoming SATS tests in May. Please ensure you hear your child read at least 3 times per week and that they continue to complete their homework on time.

### **Year 3**

This week Year 3 have worked incredibly hard completing their learning about water. We were very lucky to have a visit from the RNLi where we were told how the charity saves lives at sea and the importance of keeping safe near and in the water. The children had fantastic questions for our guest speaker and then produced wonderful fact files about the charity. Our topic after the Easter break is Africa, which we are very excited about! We will be learning about the wildlife, climate and location of Africa within the world. Overall the children have worked incredibly hard this half term and we are very impressed with their learning outcomes and their attitude. We wish you all a wonderful and restful break and look forward to next term!

### **Year 4**

What a fantastic half term we have had in Year 4!

The children have scored fantastically well in their assessments and have created some outstanding pieces of work in class.

Next half term our topic is going to be based on 'What Makes Britain Great.' Last year, this topic was a huge success and the half term was concluded with a Great British Street Party, which is what we plan on hosting again this year, this time only better!!

With this in mind, this Easter break we ask you and your child to create a fact file about something or someone British. An inspirational Briton could be someone from the music industry, past or present. An artist, a politician or a sportsman. The list is endless, so please, have fun.

On behalf of everyone at Ark Dickens, enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing you soon.

### Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic term, learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. They have really enjoyed this topic and have shown their enjoyment through some amazing pieces of work. We are particularly impressed with the historical fiction stories that they have written and it is clear that they are all working hard towards their targets in writing.

Next half term, our topic is Space! We are really excited about this and we are sure that the children are too. As you know, we have arranged a trip to the Planetarium in Chichester so please make sure that you return the slip and pay the £6 as soon as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Easter and we look forward to seeing you in the new term.

### Year 6

The first week back after the holiday is going to be a very busy one. We have our trip on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April. If you have not yet returned your letter and the £10 contribution please can you do so when we return after the break (or if they are coming to Easter school they can bring it with them then). Without your contributions we are unable to run trips so your payment is greatly appreciated.

In order to prepare the year group for the exams in May, we will be having a SATs 'dress rehearsal' on Tuesday and Wednesday. We will be using the rooms and the staff that will be used in the actual tests and acting as though it is a real SATs exam. This is to give the year group an

opportunity to experience what it will be like beforehand as we use various classrooms and adults in order to do the tests.

We are really looking forward to Easter school and we are very pleased so far with the number

of children who have signed up. If your child has not yet returned the slip and you would like them to go, it is ok for them to come in provided they have the slip with them giving them parental permission to be here.

Finally, we will let your child know which reading and maths pages to do in their homework books; we hope your child makes the most of this opportunity. Remember, BBC Bitesize is full of maths examples if your child finds the maths questions tricky.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday.



**Miss J.Waelend**  
**Executive Principal**