



Progress Update

It has been very busy in the academy over the Easter holidays. Not only have we run an Easter School for some of our year six pupils, but we have also had extensive upgrades to the academy buildings.

Following the basement flood last year, we have finally got our new boilers in and working. We have also had work done on our roof to make sure that it is watertight. Perhaps most exciting of all is that the Agrawal (new) building is now fully linked up to the rest of the building with a brand new entrance off our main corridor. We have also had a new carpet and paintwork in that area to make good the works that took place. It is only a matter of weeks now until we are fully moved into the Agrawal building, we are now waiting for our furniture to arrive.

Year Six and SATs

We are now in the final few weeks of preparation for the SATs test, which this year take place on the week commencing Monday 9th May. Over these last few weeks we will do some intensive test preparation. Please support your year six child by ensuring that they attend all additional academy sessions and they do all homework set.

I am sure that you will appreciate that this is the first year nationally of the new SATs test which are at a higher level than previously and are also reported in a different way. Instead of reporting a national curriculum level (level 4 used to be the standard required), these will now be reported as below the standard required, at the standard required or exceeding the standard required for reading, writing and maths.

If you have any concerns regarding SATs, please contact Miss Brinkworth, head of year six, in the first instance who will be able to help you.

Wendy Baxter
Principal

Having Your Say

This term we are launching a parental survey to find out what you think about the academy. We will continue to run this same survey on an annual basis so that we can spot any changes easily. The easiest way to access the survey online is via the link on our academy website home page. You can also access it by typing the web address below into your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BB79RJB>

The survey will remain open until half term when we will review all responses.

Having Your Say – registering to vote in local and national elections



This coming Monday (18th April) is the deadline to register to vote in the 5th May elections. So if you or people in your family who are eligible to vote are not already on the Electoral Register, they need to act soon. Those aged 18 years and over on 5th May and registered to vote can have a say in who represents their local ward on Birmingham City Council. They will also be able to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner election on 5th May and in the EU Referendum on 23rd June. It is easy to register online. You will find all the information you need at www.birmingham.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

PLEASE NOTE: The academy will remain open on 5th May and 23rd June as we do not operate as a place to vote.

Meet the staff

One of the most important people in the academy is Mrs Bateman, who is our HR Manager and assists the principal in the day to day administration of the academy. She has worked at Oldknow for the last eight years and says that she really enjoys her job and seeing all the changes since we became Ark Chamberlain. Amazingly, she has worked for 14 different head teachers in her time, partly because she has been in education for a total of 26 years now.



Mrs Bateman says that the most important thing to her is to see that the children are happy, safe and learning.

Safeguarding – “Everybody’s business”

As from Monday we are introducing a new system to alert parents and staff if a child has had a minor accident during the day. Any child that is seen and treated by one of our qualified First Aiders will have a paper wrist band which will give details. This will alert staff to be watchful of that child for the rest of the day and will also ensure that parents are aware. Of course, in the event of a more serious injury we would inform parents immediately.

Dates for your diary

W/C Mon 18th April – Book fair in the academy

Monday 18th April – Jess Phillips MP visiting and leading an assembly for pupils

Tuesday 19th April – Academy choir going to the Symphony Hall for a musical event

W/C Mon 9th May – SATs week for Year Six

Term dates for next academic year are:

Autumn Term 2016

Autumn 1 begins for pupils	07/09/2016
Autumn 1 ends	21/10/2016

Autumn 2 begins	01/11/2016
Autumn 2 ends	16/12/2016

Spring 2017

Spring 1 begins for pupils	05/01/2017
Spring 1 ends	17/02/2017

Spring 2 begins	27/02/2017
Spring 2 ends	07/04/2017

Summer 2017

Summer 1 begins for pupils	25/04/2017
Summer 1 ends	26/05/2017

Summer 2 begins for pupils	05/06/2017
Summer 2 ends	25/07/2017

There will also be staff training on the following dates:-

5/09/16	6/09/16	12/09/16
31/10/16	14/11/16	09/12/16
03/01/17	17/03/17	
26/06/17	07/07/17	

Staff Changes

This term we welcome Mr Taylor, head of year three, Ms Holness in IV Warwick, Ms Clements in III Leeds (Mrs Rai sadly left us at the end of last term) and Mr Gathern in V Leeds.

Parents will be pleased to know that we are actively recruiting more teaching staff for the Autumn term and have already secured two experienced year three teachers.