



Welcome

It's been a busy half term and everyone, staff and pupils, have been working very hard. The academy is looking great with updated displays celebrating the children's work across the curriculum which look fantastic. This week's 'meet the teacher' meetings were a huge success with over 60 parents on one day! Thank you to all of you who attended, we've listened to your feedback and will be holding these meetings every term.

Have a restful half term break and we'll look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 1st November.

Mrs Twort – Acting Head of School

Marvellous Me



Marvellous Me is a simple app that engages parents by telling them wonderful news about their children's learning and positive behaviours.

You can celebrate your child's progress and get messages and reminders from your child's class teacher. Messages can be acknowledged by sending a Hi5 back.

This app can be downloaded on most tablets and mobile phone devices.

Codes for new children and year 3 will be issued shortly.

Lexia



Lexia is a well-established and proven by research, online tutorial program that helps children with their English skills. The program is essentially designed to support pupils through from Reception to KS3 and comprises 18 levels. Its early levels therefore focus on phonics but move through to a much greater focus on grammar and comprehension.

The program is available online and helps pupils to make better progress if they use it for a total of at least an hour per week (ideally in 3 x 20 minute sessions - tip though, allow longer than this for set up and put away). We certainly encourage all our pupils to engage in the program at home.

Marvellous Me and Lexia will be up and running after half term as we have been reviewing subscriptions.

Music

This term is proving to be a very exciting start to the academic year indeed. Not only have the children at Ark Chamberlain been spoilt with a brand new music room, fitted with lots of resources, but opportunities to learn to play specialist instruments have been put on offer.

The Birmingham Music Service will be working alongside Mrs Ayling to offer instrumental provision to as many children as possible. The instruments on offer at the moment are electric guitar, drums, piano and woodwind including clarinet and flute. Not only do the children have access to these amazing opportunities but there are several extra-curricular music clubs that are available for all years to be a part of at lunch time – these include a keyboard club, ukulele and guitar club and choirs for upper and lower phase. With the Christmas festivities fast approaching the children will have lots of opportunities to get involved within the academy, as the music department plan to put on a Christmas concert which will showcase the children’s hard work and efforts this term.

+ School Nurse

Our School Nurse is offering friendly, confidential advice and support for any parents/carers who have concerns about their child’s health. If you are worried about any condition your child may already have, or any undiagnosed problem or issue then our School Nurse will be happy to meet with you.

He will be in school from 9.00 - 10.30 on the following dates:-

Friday 21st October
Friday 4th November
Friday 18th November

He will continue to be available on every other Friday.



Nick Arnold Visit

Nick Arnold the award winning ‘Horrible Science’ author will be coming to our Academy on the Thursday 3rd November 2016. This visit has been organised to encourage pupils to take an interest in Science and to understand that it can be exciting and fun! This visit will also take place during National Children’s Book Week.

Nick Arnold will be conducting separate assemblies with upper and lower phase. He will also perform lots of exciting experiments and talk to the pupils about his ‘Horrible Science’ series.

Later on in the afternoon pupils will have an opportunity to purchase a signed Nick Arnold book. These books are priced at £7.

Nick Arnold will also be interviewed on Ark Radio and by the Library Monitors.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24th October – Half Term Week
-Friday 28th October

Monday 31st October – Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 2nd November – School Photos – Proofs sent home.

Thursday 3rd November – Nick Arnold Author Visit

Monday 14th November – Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 15th November – Anti-Bullying Workshops

Wednesday 16th November – House of Commons Visit

Friday 18th November – Children in Need

Monday 21st November – Road Safety Week
-Friday 25th November

Thursday 8th December – BSL Christmas Assembly

Friday 9th December – Teacher Training Day

Friday 16th December – Christmas Holidays (Early finish time 13.00)