



Welcome back

A very warm welcome back to all our pupils for our second half term of this academic year. I am glad to report that it is literally a warm welcome back as we have managed to repair the damage from the flood and get our heating working once again due to the hard work of our site staff throughout the half term period.

As a result of the unplanned closure of the academy just before half term, we have decided to delay our parents evening. This is because we were not able to get the letters about this out to you before the holiday. **We are therefore rescheduling the parents evening to take place from 16:00 until 19:00 on Thursday 19th November.** Letters with a specific appointment time will go out to you before the end of the week. Please let us know if you are unable to attend at this time, or at all, and this will enable us to reallocate your appt slot.

Finally, I wanted to let you know about an important campaign that we are starting this month within the academy. Whilst we generally have very good attendance from our pupils, we have noticed that a high number of pupils are regularly a few minutes late into the academy in the morning. This can lead our children to feeling rushed and unsettled at the start of the day. We therefore implore you to think **'just 5 minutes earlier'**. In other words, if children get up 5 minutes earlier, if you leave the house 5 mins earlier then our pupils are more likely to be on time.



Wendy Baxter
Principal

Upcoming Academy Events

The next two months are a very busy time in the academy, with a number of events taking place as follows:

We will be selling poppies within the academy to support our forces veterans. We will also be observing a 2 minutes silence on 11th November in common with many British citizens.

Wednesday 11th November – Diwali theme day in the dining halls with a theme-based lunch.

Friday 13th November - Children in Need day when we will allow children to come in sensible clothing (ie not academy uniform) for a suggested donation of £1. Children are also encouraged to wear masks in the design of their favourite superhero.

Tuesday 1st December – All Year 6 pupils will be visiting the ballet at The Hippodrome. This is an amazing opportunity for our pupils and we have obtained tickets at a heavily discounted price. Why the ballet? – because there is a direct link between success at university and exposure to different forms of culture. So, by giving our pupils this opportunity it may just help them to be successful in their future degree.



Attendance Update

We are pleased to report that our combined attendance rate for the last half term was 97.5%. Thank you to all our parents who have ensured that their children have attended regularly. As you know, this is the most important thing that can help advance their education.

Get Ahead Partnership



Committed to continually increasing the aspirations and employability skills of pupils from a young age, Ark Chamberlain Primary Academy have signed up to take part in the 'Make the Grade' initiative with Ahead Partnership over the next three years.

Make the Grade is aimed at building long-term partnerships between schools and local businesses from a range of market sectors. It mirrors our core objective of raising attainment amongst our students, helping them achieve their potential and lead successful lives whilst preparing them to make positive contributions to the local economy.

As part of the programme, Ark Chamberlain have partnered with the likes of Royal Bank of Scotland and Birmingham Airport. Students will be presented with the opportunity to develop their understanding of the specific challenges of working within the world of work, as well as developing general work-related skills such as teamwork and communication.

There are a number of events taking place throughout the 2015/16 academic year and the activities reach all year groups at the Academy. Activities include Guest Speakers, Careers Events and Workplace visits. The events kick off on the 9th December for year 5's World of Work day.

Ahead Partnership is a leading social enterprise that works with the public and private sectors in the city to foster social and economic regeneration.

Senior Teacher Corrections

Senior Teacher Corrections (STCs) are given to pupils who have not been able to comply with our academy rules. They are generally only given after three opportunities to make the correct behavior decisions. STCs take place at lunchtime and are a chance to talk about how to get behavior right. From Monday we will be texting parents to let them know if their child has had an STC. You might wish to discuss this with your child, should it occur.

Safeguarding – “Everybody’s business”

This half term we have changed our safeguarding lead teacher within the academy. This is to ensure that all safeguarding issues are now within the remit of the Assistant Vice Principal (Pastoral). Please therefore note that our Designated Safeguarding Lead within the academy is Miss Michaela Bowles and her deputy is Mrs Kausar Hussain

The start of a new half term is also a good time to remind everyone that we take our safeguarding duties very seriously. The most important part of this is ensuring that the academy is an open and safe place to talk about anything that might be worrying a child. We will always follow up any concerns that arise to ensure that our children are happy, safe and ready to learn.

Parent Workshops (Maths Whizz)

Parents should already have received a letter about our forthcoming maths workshops which are a chance for you to find out all about our Maths Whizz online tutorial for pupils. Dates are as follows (starts at 9am for 30 mins):

Tues 10th or Wed 11th – Year 4 parents

Thu 12th or Tues 17th – Year 5 parents

Wed 18th or Thu 24th – Year 6 parents

LGB Diary Dates

Our local governing body meets on a half-termly basis. Whilst these meetings are not public events, parents are always welcome to raise concerns with governors. We will keep you updated.

The dates are as follows:

Wednesday 25th November 2015

Wednesday 27th January 2016

Wednesday 9th March 2016

Wednesday 11th May 2016

Wednesday 22nd June 2016