

JULY 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

And so the school year 2016-2017 comes to an end!

I am so proud of all the children have achieved this year and what we have achieved as a school. The children have really developed their resilience, independence, confidence, curiosity, respect and motivation and this in turn has helped them make progress and make gains in their achievements – I have summarized some of the key outcome highlights for you –

- The percentage of children leaving reception with a Good Level of Development has increased by nearly 20% against last year and is 79% and above the national average
- The percentage of Y1 children achieving the expected standard in phonics is 86%, broadly in line with last year and above the national average
- The percentage of children achieving the expected standard at the end of Y2 is broadly in line with national average for reading and writing and above in maths
- The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined has increased by 16% and whilst still just below national, we have closed the gap and are now 4% behind national compared to being 12% behind last year

A great school is much more than just results but nevertheless it is an important factor and indicator about how well the school is progressing itself but also within the national context. I am very encouraged by the gains this year - we are well placed to build on these further next year on our journey to being recognised as a 'good' school.

The year has also seen the children learn about their rights, their freedom and their responsibilities. Our Remembrance and poppy work, shoe box appeal at Christmas, fund raising efforts has seen us raise awareness of the children as well as raise over £3000 in contributions and donations – amazing!

The introduction of the SURFing initiative – quiet, independent reading and the Golden Mile – additional running and walking opportunity has really engaged the children and we have seen a great improvement in attitude to wanting to read and improving fitness and exercise levels!

None of this would be possible without the hard work of a whole school community – the children, staff and you the parents and carers. I hope you have valued and enjoyed the many opportunities to visit school over the year and follow your child's progress. I am always keen to seek feedback and act on it where we can and would like to thank you for sharing your views so openly and for such positive support of your children. At our recent Open Afternoon last week I sent round the Parent View questionnaire – these are the questions used by OFSTED during an inspection. It was overwhelmingly positive with all but 7 out of 143 parents/carers strongly agreeing or agreeing with each of the 12 areas. I will send out a more detailed analysis in September.

A H-Chapman – Head Teacher

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**School
begins
again for
children at
8.45am
on
Wednesday
6th
September**



**ARK AYRTON
PRIMARY
ACADEMY
SOMERS ROAD
SOUTHSEA
PORTSMOUTH
HANTS
PO5 4LS**

A few staffing updates for you now –

I am delighted to let you now that Mrs Bennet-Acres had a lovely baby boy ‘George’ last week– all is well and she is enjoying being a new mummy!

We are sad to be saying good bye to a few staff who are all moving on to new ventures or appointments and in the case of Mr Harris, our site manager, retirement – I would like to thank Mrs Forbes, Mrs Lewis, Miss Weeks, Miss Young, Mr Cole, Miss Boatfield, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Tabraham and Mr Harris for their hard work for the children. We all wish them every happiness for the future.

Year 6

We are also sad to be saying goodbye to our wonderful Y6 – the children have been nothing short of amazing this year – I could not be more proud of everything they have achieved, their relationships, their sense of fun, their maturity and their excellent behaviour and attitude to school and their learning. They have lived and breathed all that we stand for and hold dear at Ayrton and they have been great ambassadors for our school. I know each and every one of them is well placed to move on and build on all they have achieved and will go on to do great things! Keep in touch Y6 – we never lose interest and will love to know how you are getting on!

Site developments –

I am very excited to let you know that we are having some big improvements to the site over the summer – this is primarily to improve safety and security and to make a new ‘pedestrian only’ entrance to the school. As we re-launch the new logo and branding in September there is also re-decoration and some exciting improvements inside the building! I’m sure many of you will see some of the external work developing over the next few weeks and I look forward to you and your children being able to see the finished works in September!

Uniform –

As part of the new logo and re-brand, you are being offered a free jumper/cardigan and/or money towards a new blazer or existing blazer re-pocketed. You will receive texts to let you know when these are available for you to come to school and collect over the holiday.

May I also remind you that your child must have a full PE kit in school each week – this should be black shorts and a white t shirt and a change of footwear and a grey tracksuit for the colder weather. We do not have enough spare kit to keep providing it so please ensure your child has a full kit for the start of September as this is something we will be pursuing with parents and carers next year.

And finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of your children, the school and for me in my first year as Head Teacher.

I have loved every day of this year and feel very privileged to be leading this school on its continued journey.

I wish you all a safe and happy Summer – enjoy spending time with your lovely children and I look forward to seeing you in September.

A H-Chapman Head Teacher

