

ARK Ayrton Primary Academy



News Letter – 17th November 2014

I have been particularly impressed this week with some of the writing around the school. Seeing the displays really does show the effort and creativity that the children have been putting into their writing.

Twitter

Follow us on twitter @ARKAyrton and keep up to date with what is happening across the school. Also www.arkayrtonprimary.org the school website has lots of useful information.

This half term we say au-reviou to Mrs Asiri while she starts her maternity leave. Both Mrs Payne and Mrs Truscott have had gorgeous baby boys and all are doing well.



Christmas at ARK Ayrton 2014

The dates for Christmas events are as follows:

Monday 1st December - Come dressed in your Christmas jumper for a 50p donation. Proceeds to children's Charity ' Mad Hatters'.

Monday 15th December - 'Santa is coming to Portsmouth' for **KS1** parents (time to be confirmed)

Tuesday 16th December - 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' for **KS2** parents (time to be confirmed)

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 17th December - Carols in the Secret Garden 4.45 pm

Thursday 18th December - Nursery & Reception to be confirmed

School Dates

Friday 28 th November	Year 4 - Visit to The Victorian Festival of Christmas
Friday 19 th December	Christmas holidays - school closes at 3.20 pm
Monday 5 th January 2015	School Closed: Inset Day
Tuesday 6 th January 2015	School re-opens at 8.45 am (nursery) 8.55 am (school) for Spring Term

This year's Year 6 have had their first taste of a residential experience with their visit to the Margaret McMillan Centre in Kent. It is such a great experience and one that the children really enjoy. I know that, with the weather last week, washing machines will have been very busy. I'm sure the children see it as a challenge to get as much mud as possible on them in some of those activities! As I'm sure you know, a huge amount of work goes in to making the trip the success that it is. Special thanks need to go to Mrs Nickerson, Miss Woods, Miss Webb, Miss Jenkins, Mr Dunning, Miss Siddique Miss Davies and Mandy for guiding your children through the experience. I am sure, like me, you would like to thank the staff for all of their hard work and dedication.



Class Assemblies

We encourage parents/carers to join us for their child's assembly these take place on alternate Fridays at 2.50pm. There is a crèche available for younger siblings if you would like to take advantage of this facility.

21.11.14 - Year 2 (Universities of Leicester & St Andrews)

05.12.14 - Year 1 (Universities of Loughborough & Exeter)

09.01.15 - Reception (King's College University & Oxford University)

We do hope you will come along to support your child. We are so proud of our class assemblies and hope you enjoy coming to see your child just as much as they love to see you there.

Essential Information

Please contact the office with any change to contact numbers or addresses as a matter of urgency. It is vital that you keep us up-to-date with emergency phone numbers etc. We regularly have situations when we are unable to contact parents/carers and these may be emergencies.

Attendance

We want every child to achieve at least 95% or higher attendance in order for them to make the best progress possible. Every day missed or arriving late causes your child to lose valuable learning time. It is then very hard for children to catch up. By increasing attendance by just 1%, schools can improve attainment by over 5%. Please help us and your child by ensuring their attendance remains above 95% allowing them to achieve their full potential.

Children should be in school by 08:55—**5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.**

15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

We aim to work closely and support parents/carers to improve attendance and punctuality where there are difficulties. This can include meetings, home visits, linking parents and carers up with the school nurse, if appropriate, and setting up plans and rewards etc.

We do also follow the Authority's guidance and will issue fixed penalty notices, eg, where no improvement has been made.

Please do not hesitate to come into school if you need any support at all with improving your child's attendance. We are always happy to talk to you and would much rather sort out little problems before they become bigger ones.

- **Attendance**— It is important that children attend school every day in order to raise attainment, engage in education and to support their social and emotional wellbeing. Good attendance is crucial if pupils are to gain the most benefit out of their education.
- **Lateness**— Arriving late in school can be embarrassing for your child, can upset him/her for the whole day, disrupts their learning and may mean that you child is missing out on a vital part of the lesson.

Each week the class with the highest attendance is awarded the attendance trophy and certificate. We also have an attendance shop where children are able to earn up to 1 point a day. They can then use these points to exchange for prizes, the more points they win the better the prize.



Week Ending	Class with High Attendance	Whole School Attendance
24.10.14	University of Birmingham - 98.4%	93.50%
7.10.14	University of York - 100%	92.5%

Whole school attendance for both weeks is very low, we really want to achieve over 95% each week. If your child is unwell please ring the school each day as early as possible and leave a message on our answering machine. It would also be very helpful if you could let us know if your child will be late. The school number is 023 9282 4828. Thank you to parents/carers who do inform us every day.

Well done to all the parents/carers who continue to get their children to school on time.

**School Uniform and SHOES Please
(NOT TRAINERS OR BOOTS)**

Presentation in school plays a vital part in our school procedures. Can I remind parents that children need to wear appropriate shoes to school. Trainers and boots are not part of the school's Uniform Policy. Also, please remember to write your child's name on all uniform so that items can easily be located if lost



Collecting children at home time.

We are finding that we have a regular trend of families who are always collecting their children well after the bell has gone. A gentle reminder that school finishes at 3.20 pm, 3.30 pm (nursery) If you need to see a teacher please wait for the children to be released first.

Nail Varnish

If your child comes to school wearing nail varnish, it will be removed by a member of our Pastoral Team

Thank you for your continued support we look forward to seeing you at some of our forthcoming events

Yours sincerely

J A Fleming

Mrs J Fleming
Headteacher

