



# Ark Ayrton Primary Academy

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## Newsletter

### November/ December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

What a great few weeks we have had this half term!



It was so lovely to see so many of you at our first ever Christmas Fair last Friday. We all felt it was a great success and everyone seemed to be having a lovely time. **We raised an amazing £1100!** So thank you for all your donations, support and spending on the day. I would also like to say a huge thank you to some of our parents who

helped organise the event, sourced raffle prizes and helped on the day. The monies raised will go towards providing more opportunities and additional resources for the children in school. We are now already thinking about a Summer Fair and next year's Christmas Fair and will be sure to make them annual events!

Also on this day, our Christmas jumper wearing raised £142 which we have sent to support an Alzheimer Charity. Again, thank you!

I would also like to say a massive thank you for your generous donations for the Poppy Appeal – we raised £400 for the Royal British Legion which is a wonderful charity to support. The children showed real empathy, respect and thoughtfulness in their work during Remembrance Week.



### Christmas CD



We were all super excited to receive the box of our first ever Christmas CDs! I know many of you have bought the CD, some of you, multiple copies for gifts at Christmas. The children (and staff) sound amazing and it is certainly being played around the school and getting us in the festive mood! We still have copies left if you would like to buy one. It is a really special thing to have done and have – as one parent said 'something to cherish forever!' Well done to Archie Stanley in Y4 whose design was chosen as our CD cover.

### School Closed

Please may I remind you that school is closed to children tomorrow Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December for staff training and on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December in memory of Mrs Fairbairn and to allow staff to attend her funeral. We look forward to seeing the children back at school after these days on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.



### OFSTED/HMI Inspection



Please see a very important letter your child has brought home today with details of a one day Monitoring Inspection visit we recently received. The Monitoring Inspection letter is also available on our school website.

## Attendance

We continue to track and monitor attendance daily. Currently we have an attendance to date of 95.29% for all children and 95.83% for Years 1-6 against the national expectation of 96%. This is a slight drop since I reported to you last and now takes years 1-6 below national (they were above!) Whilst it is still an improvement on this time last year, it is still not good enough.



We have launched our new attendance initiative – The Attendance Hamper which the children love. So far different classes have enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and marshmallows, bubbles and balloons, Lego building, Top Trumps and popcorn.

We are working very hard and making improvements in all aspects of the academy to ensure this is a consistently good school and recognised as a 'Good' school by OFSTED when they visit us next. However, if our attendance is below national ie 96% we cannot be awarded a 'Good' rating. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child is in school, on time every day unless they are unwell when you must contact the school with the reason for each day of absence and provide medical evidence where necessary. We will do home visits if we do not hear from you. No term time holidays will be authorised. We still have too many children not attending school regularly enough. Whilst we will continue to work with and support families, we will and do take strong, decisive action such as pursuing Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) and court proceedings where needed for those children who are persistently absent from school.

## Christmas Productions

We have a theatre company coming to school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December to perform Aladdin for the children.

You will also shortly be receiving an invitation and a ticket for the Christmas productions that are taking place in the last week of term for each of the phases – Nursery/Reception, Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. These will all begin at 9.15am on the allocated day. Coffee and tea will be served in the hall from 8.45am once you have dropped your child off. To start with there will be one ticket per child allocated due to high numbers of children in classes and availability of space and chairs in the hall. We will let you know if we have any more seats available and these will then be on a first come first served basis. If you are unable to attend the concert please send your ticket back to school so it can be used for someone else. The concerts will be followed by an end of term Showcase where you will have the opportunity to visit your child in class and view their work and progress this half term.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Christmas concerts and Showcases.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Have a lovely weekend.

***Mrs Chapman (Head Teacher)***