



Ark Ayrton Primary Academy

Newsletter

October 2017

Somers Road Southsea Hampshire PO5 4LS
T +44 (0)2392 824 828 info@arkayrtonprimary.org arkayrtonprimary.org

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a great half term – the children have come back well and are hard at work and excited for this next half term.

It was so lovely to see so many of you at our Autumn 1 Showcase on the Thursday before half term. Over 200 parents/carers and other family members poured through the doors to support and celebrate the progress and achievements of their children. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and these Showcases will now be a regular feature at the end of each half term to give you the opportunity you so clearly value to follow your child's progress over the year.

I would also like to say a massive thank you for your generous Harvest donations – we filled over 25 carrier bags, a boot and all the seats of the large car that the Portsmouth Food Bank sent to collect the food we collected. It is great that this has all gone to a local Portsmouth charity and is supporting people in our community.

Attendance

We continue to have an encouraging start to the year with an attendance to date of 95.76% for all children and 96.13% for Years 1-6 against the national expectation of 96%. This is a big improvement on the same time last year - we are now at national for 1-6 and just below for all children. This is improving all the time and will continue to be a strong focus as we are still not secure. Thank you for your support with attendance. The more the children are in school, the more they will learn, the more progress they will make and this helps set them up for their future.



Last week we launched our new attendance initiative – The Attendance Hamper. Each week on a Friday morning in Achievement Assembly, the class with the highest attendance receives the new big silver cup, and if their attendance is over 96%, they also win the hamper. The hamper is full of a surprise that the class will enjoy together on Friday afternoon. The children have made suggestions for what they might like to see appear in the hamper over the course of the year. The first hamper went to Portland Bill (Y4 Miss Robinson), they all enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows and cookies just before bedtime! Well done to them and their attendance last week of an amazing 99.01%.

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 absence and provide medical evidence where necessary. No term time holidays will be authorised and we will continue to pursue Fixed Penalty Notice fines and other action for those children persistently absent from school.

Christmas CD

We are all super excited to be recording our very own Christmas CD this year. Singing is a very important part of school life – it brings the school community together and we come together regularly to sing.

Each year group will perform a track on the CD as well as a whole school song and a couple of other bonus tracks! We have run a competition in school for the children to design our CD cover – the winning design will be used! We are recording throughout the day on Wednesday November 15th and the CD will be available to purchase on 1st December at our Christmas Fair or shortly thereafter. We are using this as an opportunity to fundraise for future school opportunities for the children so we hope you will support this new venture and purchase the first ever Ark Ayrton CD and enjoy listening to the children over the Christmas period.

Events

This half term is one of the most exciting and busiest in the run up to Christmas. This week the whole school is thinking and learning about Remembrance. You will have the opportunity to view some of the children's art work outside school again and purchase some of their other work to raise money for the Royal British Legion as we did last year.

Attached to this newsletter is a list of all the important dates and events for the rest of this half term. Further details of the events will follow nearer the time but in the meantime please read through this list carefully and make a note of those that relate to your children.

Safety

Please can you ensure your children do not use the tree house or the playtrail before and after school. These are facilities for the children to use during the school day under the supervision of school staff only.

Facebook Page

Finally I would like to let you all know that we are pleased to have launched a new Facebook Page – you will find us as Ark Ayrton Primary Academy (with the lighthouse logo). We will use this page to keep you posted and updated with reminders about upcoming events and we will also use it as a positive platform to share great news and achievements of the children throughout each week. As I know many of you use Facebook, I hope this will be a helpful, valuable and positive page to help ensure good communication and a further opportunity and vehicle to celebrate and say 'well done' to the school community. So, please 'like' our new page and 'follow' us. Please use this page respectfully and positively – we will be seeking your feedback in a few weeks to see what you think about it and how it is working for you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Chapman (Head Teacher)

