



Ark Ayrton Primary Academy

Newsletter
July 19th 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

So here we are, the end of term and the end of another school year.

This is a rather bumper edition of the newsletter with lots of information to cover the summer holiday and new term in September so please do read it carefully.

Pupil Oscars

Despite another year of disruptions, we have still achieved so much as a school. There is much to be proud of which is a testament to the ongoing, incredible dedication of the staff, the amazing support from you the parents and, the resilient, hard-working attitude of the children.

Our first Pupil Oscars was such a lovely event and a super way to recognise and celebrate the children and their special talents and achievements. It was a happy day, the children behaved beautifully and enjoyed their well-deserved fuss! Reception are looking forward to theirs tomorrow now they are back from self-isolating. We love to see our children shining brightly and are so very proud of them.

The recent assessments in school showed really pleasing progress generally across the school too. There is of course, still more to be done, to catch up some of the missed learning, but we are pleased with what the children know, have remembered and could show us in their tests.

You will also receive your child's school report for this year today, showing their achievements. Please read this and celebrate with your child and return your feedback to us before the end of term.

Sports Day

The children all enjoyed their individual year group sports afternoons earlier this month where they all had the opportunity to take part in races, activities and team sports. They showed great teamwork and sporting attitudes throughout and did their very best!

Mrs Garside

We would like to say a huge thank you for your support for our fundraiser in memory of Mrs Garside. We raised over £400 and have ordered a new bench for the playground. Her Y5 class have chosen the wording for it and we will do a special assembly in September once the bench has arrived.

Farewells and Congratulations

We are all excited for Miss Miller who gets married this Summer and will return as Mrs Simons. We wish her a wonderful wedding day and a happy future with her new husband.

We have a number of staff that we are sadly saying goodbye to this week. Mrs Donbavand, TA is leaving us and relocating. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her and her family well for the future.

Molly and Mrs Reilly both leave their positions as cleaners this week. Mrs Reilly remains in her TA role. We would like to thank them for all their hard work, particularly during the pandemic with Molly doing a lot of the cleaning throughout the day in school, helping to keep us all safe.

Our lovely Debbie is leaving us after 14 years and moving on to a promoted position within the council. She has been such a champion of our children and families and a support to so many during her time with us. She will be greatly missed and we thank her for everything she has done, wishing her every success and happiness in her new role.

Mrs Gillespie who works in the office is retiring after 11 years with us. She has played a vital role working within finance and the day to day organisation of the school. She has been very much part of the wider life of the school and we will all miss her. We wish her a very long and happy retirement with her husband, family and new puppy!

And, finally we say farewell to Mrs Powell. After 31 years working in Portsmouth schools, 18 of which she has been here at Somers Park and Ayrton, Mrs Powell is retiring. She has been an invaluable support to leaders at the schools during that time in helping to ensure the smooth running and ongoing improvement of the schools. She has worked tirelessly in her roles as Finance Lead and more recently Operations Lead to achieve the very best for the school. Her knowledge of everything and anything to do with the school is amazing! She has not only been a colleague, but a mentor and friend to so many. For all those reasons and more and, as the regular 'go to' person, she will be so greatly missed. We wish her a wonderful retirement with her husband and family and all the projects and adventures she has planned!

I know you will join us in thanking all of them for their service to Ayrton and wish them well for the future.

Welcomes

As staff leave or take time out for new roles and maternity leave, we welcome the following staff from September:

Miss Hart and Ms Signorelli to the office team. Miss Miller will now lead the office team in her new role as Operations Lead.

Mr Swords, Miss Burnham and Miss Dowler join the teaching team.

Judy and Issy join as our new Pastoral Team.

Mrs Fenton joins our leadership team as our new full-time SENCo.

Leadership Structure from September 2021

You may remember I wrote to you back in March to explain some leadership changes from September. These are:

I will become the Executive Headteacher of Ark Ayrton and Ark Dickens.

Mrs Bennet-Acres will become the Head of School overseeing everything and leading on a day to day basis.

Mrs Truscott is the Assistant Headteacher.

Mrs Tuck and Miss Woodward are becoming Assistant Headteachers for the year.

Mrs Scarsbrook continues to lead EYFS and work closely with the nursery.

Mrs Serjent will lead Years 1, 2 and 3.

Miss Woods will lead Years 4, 5 and 6.

Covid Guidance

As everything relaxes today in line with the Prime Minister's road map, please note guidance for schools does not change until August. We have sadly had to close another class bubble today, having only just welcomed back Reception from their week of self-isolating. Cases remain high in Portsmouth so all our rules remain in place right until the end of term for everyone's health and well-being. Thank you for your continued support with this.

We are waiting to see if anything changes again over the Summer with updated guidance for schools and from Ark. It may be we have to keep some procedures in place and should there be an outbreak or local/national guidance changes, we will have an 'Outbreak Plan' which we will implement for a given time. But for now, please just bear with us for the last 2 days and let's see what September brings. We will keep up updated in preparation for September.

Breakfast Club

We are aiming to reintroduce a Breakfast Club in September once term has started. Further details will come through early next term.

End of term arrangements and INSETs

We close to children this week on Wednesday 21st July just after lunch.

Reception, Years 1,3 and 5 will need to be collected at 1.15 from their entrances. Years 2,4 and 6 will need to be collected from their entrances at 1.30pm.

Thursday 22nd July and Friday 23rd July are INSET days – all staff will be involved in training and so there will be limited capacity and availability in the school office. Please phone us if you have a query.

Term Dates and INSET Days next year

A calendar with all term dates and INSET days for next year is available on our website.

Please note that we have 2 INSET days on the first 2 days next term so will be closed on Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September.

We will look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 6th September. If you have a child starting in Reception with us in September, you should have received separate information regarding their start times and arrangements.

Office Opening Hours over the Summer

Please see times when the school office will be open for any queries and selling uniform -

Wednesday 28th July – queries only

Thursday 29th July – queries only

Thursday 19th August – queries + uniform selling

Friday 27th August – queries + uniform selling

Wednesday 1st September - queries + uniform selling

Facebook Page

Please like and follow our Facebook page as we do use this for general messaging and will increase the use of this from September.

We have a number of parents who privately message us with queries as part of our Facebook page. However, due to how busy it is in school, we do not always have time to monitor this as well, nor at the weekends. We cannot guarantee we will pick this up. Please contact the school office if you have a query to ensure we are aware of it and can respond quickly for you. Or you can email us at info@arkayrtonprimary.org

Communication

In an effort to try and reduce the amount of paper we use, we really want to move to paperless as much as possible. We will be using the Expressions App as much as we can and your email addresses. Please ensure you download the app and we have an up to date email address for you.

Finally...

And finally, as I prepare to step away from the day to day leadership of the school and into my new role as Executive Headteacher, I wanted to thank the school community. I am not leaving. Ayrton is still very much my school and I am very much a part of it. We still have a lot to achieve and there is a great deal I want to do for our children and community through school development. I will just be working and leading this slightly differently. I will split my time between the two schools but when I am at Ayrton I will still be very much involved.

I am handing over the day to day reins to Mrs Bennet-Acres as she steps up to be the Head of School. We have been a strong partnership for the last 5 years and will continue to do so. I know she will do a great job and get to know you day to day if she doesn't already.

I have loved being the Headteacher at Ayrton and am so proud of everything, we as a school community have achieved so far. We have been rated an OFSTED Good school for the very first time, have secured some of the highest outcomes for our children and have developed a great curriculum that the children love and learn and gain so much from. The last 18 months have been the most challenging by far, but the strength of the school community and everything we have still been able to achieve through it, is one of the things I am most proud of.

I am so excited for Ayrton's ongoing journey and all we have planned to further enhance the children's learning and opportunities, including a brand new library, Science and DT

classroom and onsite allotments as well as more opportunities for parents and carers to engage with us in school once more to support their children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have shown me and the staff team over the last 5 years. I wish you all a wonderful Summer holiday – enjoy the time with your amazing children and hopefully some ongoing glorious weather.

Stay safe and the team all look forward to welcoming you back in September.

With best wishes

Mrs A H-Chapman and Team Ayrton

