



Ark Ayrton Primary Academy

Newsletter
Autumn 1
2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the end of the first half term. The children have settled back brilliantly – they are happy and clearly enjoy being back and feel safe which is so important. They are working hard and already catching back up.

We have all appreciated your patience and understanding, adapting to the new procedures and organisation, to ensure we are able to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for all your support in helping us re-open the whole school so successfully.

Despite the ongoing challenges around Covid, our attendance is really strong – well done to everyone!

Reading

As a school we are having a big focus on reading as this will have the biggest impact on learning and help children to catch up – all the children have reading books to bring home and we ask that you really encourage your child to read a little and often every day over half term, that you read to them every day if possible and they also share books and stories with their brother and sisters too. There will be more about reading next half term and some exciting new initiatives to come!

Parents Evening

You will have all received a letter about this and will receive a time for your parents evening appointment call. These are all taking place during the first week after half term. Please make sure you have an appointment and are available for the call. The staff are really looking forward to being able to talk with you.

Covid

Whilst we have had a number of children with some symptoms, we have had no positive test cases to date, which is great. The number of positive cases in our city is rising, as they are all over the country, so continued vigilance is needed from us all.

From next half term we are asking all parents and carers to wear face masks at drop off and collection on our site to provide some added safety. The biggest risks remain between adult to adult so the children do not need to wear masks. And, we must all remember to keep 2m distance from each other at all times as adults.

If your child or anyone in your household becomes symptomatic over the weekend or half term please make sure you follow the guidance which is for the whole household to self isolate for 14 days (as this is how long it can take for someone to become symptomatic after contact with a positive person) and the symptomatic person must get a test. If your child were to become symptomatic and test positive over the weekend, please contact school on Monday to let us know as we may need to contact others in school to let them know they need to self-isolate. There will be someone in the school office to answer calls on Monday – Thursday next week. Please keep us posted of any symptomatic children, tests and outcomes of tests so we are ready for after half term. This may mean some children cannot return to school straight after half term, If you are unsure, please contact us on the Monday (INSET) and we will advise you.

PE Kits

We are continuing with children wearing their kits on PE days which is working well. As the weather is getting colder please ensure your child has a warm tracksuit – they should have grey or black jogging/tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt and a grey or black top and trainers or plimsolls. Children should **not be wearing** football strips and kits or brightly coloured patterned tops, their PE kits should still reflect our uniform colours and be plain and simple.

Scooters

We have an increasing number of children riding scooters to school, including electric scooters. These **must not** be ridden once on site for health and safety. It would be preferable for parents to take the scooters back home once the children have got to school as we are also running out of safe storage. We may be able to look at storage at a later date, but not at this time.

INSET

A reminder that the first day back after half term is an INSET day for the school and nursery – both are closed.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday at their gates and start times which are not changing.

Support

Below is a link where you will find information regarding Food Banks and other services that are available over half term via the council.

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/advice-for-residents-coronavirus-information/work-and-money-coronavirus-information/#money>

Finally I would like to wish you all a safe and happy half term. Please follow the guidance, stay safe and keep an eye on our Facebook page as we will update this over half term with information if needed

With thanks for your ongoing support,

Mrs A H-Chapman

Headteacher
