



Ark Ayrton Primary Academy

Newsletter
January 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I know this is not the start to 2021 that any of us wanted, however it is amazing just how resilient, adaptable, kind and caring our community is. Thank you for your patience while we, like you, waited for Government to decide if they were going to reopen schools – I know it was an anxious time for us all. Our children, as have you, yet again risen to the challenge of this new lockdown period and have engaged brilliantly with us in order to facilitate home learning. Home learning is something that is new to us all and to begin with, it was a lot of trial and error with live learning, but we are getting there! A few updates for you below:

Community Classrooms

On Thursday 7th January, we welcomed back children from our keyworker and vulnerable families. Although the children are in school and now in year group bubbles, they are still accessing our live teaching provision with their class teacher and class. Our Community Classrooms are capped in order to ensure the safety of both staff and children. If you have changed your mind and need a space for your child, please contact the school office and if there is capacity within that year group then we would be delighted to take them.

Home learning offer

As per our statutory requirements, you can find our home learning offer on our website. We are live teaching for every child in Years One to Six every morning from 9-12. This is a great provision for our children as it ensures that the new learning being taught is from their teacher, who can then help with any misconceptions. I know at first it was tricky to navigate the Zoom links, but over the last week, children have become more familiar with the process and it is becoming smoother. A big thank you to you, the children and the staff for enabling this to happen, as it means that we can stop the attainment gap widening and keep children, as best as we can, where they should be academically. Last week in the packs, we sent out our expectations for Zoom learning. Please ensure that your child follows them and mutes when the teacher is trying to teach.

Devices

Last April, we began our 'Digital Strategy' and started to prepare for another lockdown. So far this term, we have handed out over 137 devices to children in Key Stage Two! It is so amazing to be able to provide our school community with the technology they need, so that no child in misses out. In the next couple of weeks when our next order of devices arrive in school, we will start to hand them out to Key Stage One children. If you are struggling with no internet at home, please do let us know as we can help!

Just to share some amazing feedback with you, the table below shows how many children per year group are accessing our live teaching on a daily basis. I'd like to thank all of the staff at Ayrton for making this possible, alongside your children for so proactively engaging in their learning and also to you for facilitating the setup of the devices. I know it is not easy when

you have three children in different classes and you have to log them all on, so we do appreciate it.

	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
w/c 4.1	48%	56%	52%	78%	74%	85%	84%
w/c 11.1	55%	66%	62%	91%	81%	85%	84%

Seesaw and feedback for learning

Lots of you will now be familiar with Seesaw. Please try to upload your child's work to this learning platform. This way, teachers can provide your child with feedback. All phonics/ whole class reading/ maths will be self-assessment during the lesson. All other work submitted on Seesaw will follow our usual feedback policy, whereby 1 in 3 pieces of work are marked.

Free School Meals

I wrote to you yesterday to inform you of the Government's guidance on free school meals. We will continue to pay the £15 per week for all children entitled to the benefits related free school meals, unless your child is accessing the Community Classrooms, in which case you will receive £3 per day when they are not in school. If you have any queries, please contact the school office and they will do their best to help you.

Celebration Assembly

Thank you to everyone who joined our nominations assembly last week! I was amazed that more than 100 children wanted to join, so I apologise for the technical issues if you could not get in. I have upgraded our Zoom account, so this week there will not be an issue. It will be every Wednesday at 1.20. Please keep a look out on your emails and our Facebook page for the link.

Pastoral drop-ins

Debbie will be offering Zoom pastoral drop ins this week on Thursday and Friday between 2-3. If your child would like to speak to Debbie, or you would like a chat with her for some advice or help, please phone the school or message the Ayrton Facebook page, so that we can send you a link and a timeslot.

Zoom Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday 3rd February, Mandy, Debbie and Shannon will be hosting our first virtual coffee afternoon between 2-3. Please feel free to come along and meet other parents. Please keep a look out on your emails and our Facebook page for the link.

Family Quiz

This Friday we are hosting a family quiz for our Ayrton families. It is at 6pm on Zoom. Please make sure that you mute your microphone so that others can hear the questions! The details to access this are here:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707297620?pwd=bWoyb3ZaRm9vdWc5ZURRbopOWTlGUU09>

Meeting ID: 817 0729 7620

Passcode: 828726

Bedtime Stories

As you may remember, during last lockdown in March, staff read bedtime stories to the children. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page in the coming days to see who our first teacher is going to be!

Communication

If you haven't already, please follow our Ark Ayrton Facebook page. We communicate a lot on here, as it is easier than sending emails. We also have year group Facebook pages, so please follow the ones for your children. We are aware that now more than ever, we need to communicate with each other. For this reason, we have set up year group email addresses. If you need to contact anyone in your child's year group, please email the correct address below between the hours of 8.45-3.45. Please be respectful to our teachers, they are working incredibly hard at the moment and a response will not always be immediate.

yearR@arkayrtonprimary.org year1@arkayrtonprimary.org year2@arkayrtonprimary.org
year3@arkayrtonprimary.org year4@arkayrtonprimary.org
year5@arkayrtonprimary.org
year6@arkayrtonprimary.org

Lastly just to say a huge thank you for your continued support. We have been blown away by your kind messages and just how brilliantly you have supported us in our online learning. We couldn't do it without you!

If you have any questions, or need any support, you know where we are.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bennett-Acres

Deputy Headteacher

