



# Ark Primary Academy

Explore

Endeavour

Excel

Courage to fly!

Dear parents and carers,

Many thanks to everyone that joined us on our first Zoom 'Parent Information' session this morning. I hope you found it informative and interesting. We will continue to run sessions such as this one throughout the academic year. Please find the presentation and minutes attached for your reference.

I also want to take this opportunity to you inform you of my impending absence from school after the half term because of health reasons. Due to the coronavirus, I need to isolate at home before and after treatment, and therefore will only be available virtually during November. Throughout this time, my very capable senior leadership team, Miss Carter, Mrs Rabbani and Miss Charlton will be leading the school with the support of Miss Steele. I will still be working from home in this isolation period and will be continuing to do my usual duties remotely. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need to.

From previous experience, I know that our school community is both extremely supportive and understanding and I feel confident that everyone will work together to provide support, not only for myself but also for the leadership team, and indeed the whole staff throughout this time. All being well, I hope to be back to school and fighting fit by the beginning of December. Many thanks in advance.

I hope everyone has a wonderful half term! School will start again from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

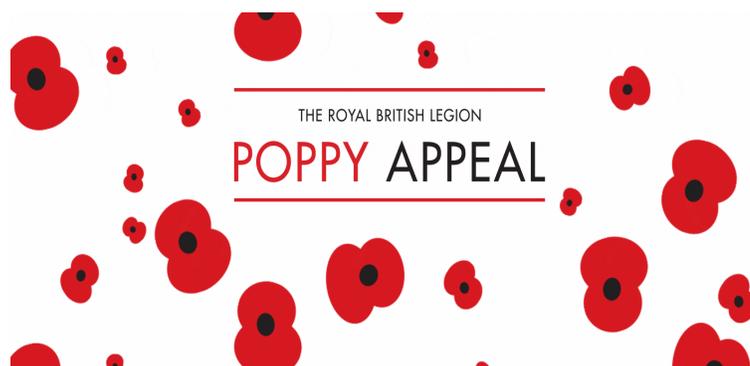
Miss Grasso

## Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal is the Royal British Legion's biggest fundraising campaign held every year in November, during the period of Remembrance

Poppies will be available from your child's class teacher from after half term. If you would like your child/ren to have one please make sure they bring a minimum donation of **50p** into school.

I am pleased to say we have the easy stick-on ones instead of those with pins this year again.



## Online Safety – please read

It has been brought to our attention that children are playing online games that include an option to chat online. We are working as a school to educate children on the effects of cyberbullying and the dangers of chatrooms online. Please click on the links below and read through with your child to learn more about child appropriate games and cyberbullying.

Childnet link to appropriate games for different ages:

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

Advice for parents and very helpful links:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/444865/Advice\\_for\\_parents\\_on\\_cyberbullying.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf)

# Parent Survey Outcomes

Thank you to all those parents and carers who completed our parent survey this term. We have analysed the responses and have put some actions in place. 118 parents responded which is just under 25% of our school community. The two year groups with the highest response rate were Y3 and Y5.

## **Outcomes**

The majority of parents strongly agree that their child feels safe in our school, their child is happy at our school and their child is making good progress at our school.

89% of parents know who to contact if they have a concern and the majority were satisfied with the response time of the school. More than half of those who responded believe that the school communicates well with the community (58%) with 26% of parents as 'neutral'. Less than 14% 'disagree' with less than 1% of parents at 'strongly disagree'. 74% of parents who responded said they would recommend our school to others.

## **Response to the pandemic:**

Over half of parents believed the school has dealt with the Covid situation well with only 16% either 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. This is the same as those being satisfied with the drop off and collection measures in place. 22% are not satisfied with the measures in place. A large number of parents made comments about the community not following the rules in place such as wearing masks or pushing past other parents.

Please note that some parents made comments about the pandemic and how it was impacting school operations and the day to day running of the school. Our plan of action in response to the Covid measures was captured on a risk assessment is in line with government guidance. These changes are a necessary as part of our risk assessment.

## **Three main themes for improvement that were captured within the 'Further Comments' section were:**

1. School Lunches
2. Teacher communication
3. Senior Leadership Team communication

## **Plans moving forward:**

1. *School lunches*

We have an action plan for improving our school lunches. This was discussed in the parent information zoom meeting this morning. Please refer to the PDF attached to see what plans are in place to improve this area in our school.

2. *Teacher Communication with parents*

Unfortunately, the current restrictions in place have prevented parents from having their usual contact with teachers, such as the parents/carers open morning and face to face parent consultation meetings.

There is a general feeling that our curriculum and its intent is not clear to the wider school community and parents/carers would like to know more regularly than just termly via the 'Termly Letter' from year groups. We have taken this on board and will implement the following actions.

1. End of term 'Open Morning' newsletter showcasing each class/year group (please see attached)
2. Parent teacher conferences planned for November 2<sup>nd</sup> via Teams with all class teachers
3. Class teachers to send curriculum letters to parents half termly
4. A section of the newsletter to be dedicated to each year group with 'Next week, we are learning about.....'
5. Newsletter to have a link to our website/curriculum
6. More Twitter photos to showcase what is happening in school
7. Use of Seesaw to be introduced after the half term. This will help parents to understand what is happening in school. (Please see the attached PDF from parent information Zoom meeting for more information).

### *3. SLT communication with the community*

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and the many restrictions in place, our usual events that create a sense of community eg, open mornings, Star of the Week assembly for parents etc, all of which has left the staff and the community feeling somewhat disconnected. Due to the strict restrictions, some of the communication from me was very direct and factual which is not our usual approach. I apologise if this tone has made any parent/carer feel disengaged with our school and myself, as this was not my intention.

We have looked at ways to increase the senior leadership team's communication with our school community. We hope that more regularly Zoom meetings like the one this morning will support parents to feel that they have a clear understanding of what is happening, and able to come forward with any queries or suggestions that they may have. I am always willing to meet with parents and carers and work in partnership to ensure that Ark Priory remains a successful school and continues to improve. My email is [d.grasso@arkprioryprimary.org](mailto:d.grasso@arkprioryprimary.org).

### **Actions:**

1. Regular 'Parent Information Meetings' via Zoom and individual year groups meetings with the Head
2. SLT to work with parents/carers to improve communication, such as streamlining the current amount of communication and fostering parent and carer voice
3. Update website to include photos of staff and their job roles
4. Use social media to update parents eg. Twitter
5. Continue to organise workshops for parents via Zoom or in person, socially distanced like the Y6 Ark Acton Open Evening and KS1 Phonics Workshop
6. Work with the Year 6 prefect team and school council to obtain pupil voice for the newsletter to show the school from the pupil's point of view regularly

*We understand that this has been a very difficult time for everyone and want to thank you for all the support that you have shown our staff throughout this time. We will be sending out another parent survey in the Spring term. Many thanks for your continued support.*

*Ark Priory Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and equality*

@arkpriory

02031100717

[info@arkprioryprimary.org](mailto:info@arkprioryprimary.org)

## Notices from APPAA\*

Follow us on Twitter @APPAA\_ArkPriory Contact us at [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com)

\*APPAA is ARK Priory's Parents' Association, run by the school's parents and carers to raise funds, hold events, and bring our academy community together. All Ark Priory parents and carers are automatically members of the association because you are members of the community.

### First half term of school year 2020/21 over - WELL DONE EVERYONE!

It has been a strange start to the new school year, and one that we would never have predicted even a year ago! We hope that our new starters have settled in well, and all our Priory families are glad the children had a full half term of learning. APPAA, whilst truly sorry to not have been able to host a New Parents Coffee Morning or Drinks Evening, is happy to have been able to meet some of you virtually at the New Parents Virtual Meeting last month, and is delighted at the enthusiasm from the Reception and Nursery parents groups to get involved.

APPAA is also sorry that we haven't been able to hold the monthly fundraising bake sales, but grateful to have been able to hold a very successful second hand uniform sale earlier in the term. We will hold another second hand uniform sale next term (date TBA so watch out for updates!) and we will include CHRISTMAS JUMPERS, in advance of the Christmas Jumper day on 16 December, so do keep any good quality, outgrown festive jumpers aside for us if you have them.

We are also open to any ideas of safe, socially distanced fundraising or community activities and offers of help to organise them, please do get in touch with [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com)

### Christmas / Creative Card Project - FUNDRAISING AND FUN!

ORDER DEADLINE - 30 Oct 2020 (during half term) SUBMIT ARTWORK - 4 Nov 2020

Now is the time for your child to create their Christmas/ Greeting Card artwork. When it is done, visit [apsforders.co.uk](http://apsforders.co.uk) and enter the code that is on the unique label that you were issued. Place your order for cards, wrapping paper, gift tags and other gift items! Ensure the label is fixed on the back of the artwork and return to school after half term. Full instructions are on the PDF document attached to the newsletter (and sent previously).

If you have any queries or require extra labels (one per artwork submitted) please contact your class reps or Fiona McQuillan via [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com)



*Ark Priory Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and equality*

@arkpriory  
02031100717

[info@arkprioryprimary.org](mailto:info@arkprioryprimary.org)

**The Wishing Tree 2020 - WE HAVE REACHED £2.4k IN DONATIONS, FINAL £700  
OUTSTANDING!**

**Still accepting donations until 9 November 2020!**

The Wishing Tree will close after half term on Nov 9th. Miss Grasso has agreed that any remaining items still to be purchased by then can be taken from the "Happiness Project" funds that were raised last year.

However, we would love to keep this amount as small as possible so there is plenty left in that pot for other 'happiness' initiatives once Covid restrictions are over, so if you would still like to donate please do so by using the Paypal link below.

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=DNYRLEBCRSLTE>

OR you can continue to pay by bank transfer (Sort Code 230580 and Account Number 13386072) or cash donation - please contact [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com)

**TEACHERS' FEEDBACK:**

***"They are helpful in providing pupils with extra resources to support their learning (specifically with our history topic).  
Pupils are enjoying learning about the Ancient Egyptians.  
Many thanks!"***

**YEAR 6 TEAM**



*These are some of the latest resources delivered to the classrooms, thanks to all who have donated to The Wishing Tree fundraiser so far.*

*Ark Priory Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and equality*

@arkpriory

02031100717

[info@arkprioryprimary.org](mailto:info@arkprioryprimary.org)

## **Library Books - PLEASE HUNT FOR THOSE ARK PRIORY BOOKS LOST AT HOME!**

### **REISSUING TO START AFTER HALF TERM**

We know that many of you have returned your school library books and reading books (that were issued before the first Covid lockdown) already, but if you haven't, please do have a hunt around for any Ark Priory books that may still be at home, and bring them in to class teachers or the school office as soon as possible. There are plans to restart regular issuing of books to the children again after half term, so let us ensure the library is fully stocked.

N.B. Acton Library has also recently opened for returns only, so if you find any of theirs they can go back too!

As always if you want to help out or have any notices for the newsletter please contact [appacommittee@gmail.com](mailto:appacommittee@gmail.com) for further information

*Ark Priory Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and equality*

@arkpriory

02031100717

[info@arkprioryprimary.org](mailto:info@arkprioryprimary.org)