

ARK PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge welcome back to everyone for the Spring Term. We have MANY more fun events planned for this term, with plenty of Bake Sales and an Easter Fair.

Do make a note of the dates for your diaries . . .

As ever, if you'd like to get involved in any way with APPAA, be it with a specific event or lending your skills for an event or ongoing fundraising, then please do get in touch or chat to your class rep.

A REMINDER OF WHAT APPAA'S ALL ABOUT:

APPAA needs you! APPAA is ARK Priory's Parent Association, run by the school's parents and carers to raise funds, hold events and bring our academy community together. As a parent of a child at Ark Priory (including the nursery classes), you are automatically a member of the association, and we look forward to getting to know you over the coming years.

Ideally each class will have two or three parents/carers as designated APPAA representatives, to communicate with other parents in their class, in person and via email and Whats app, to organize social events, share notices and liaise with class teachers (to maximize communication) where necessary.



Upcoming Events for your Diary

Nursery Bake Sale
Friday 2nd February
3 p.m.

Year 4 Bake Sale
Friday 9th March
3 p.m.

Priory Easter Fair
23rd March
3 p.m.

NEXT APPAA MEETING:

FRIDAY 19TH
JANUARY
1 P.M.
LAVELLI'S
(downstairs)
CHURCHFIELD ROAD

NURSERY PM is the only class that does not have its own 'class reps'!

If you are interested in taking on the role, or part of it in any capacity, please do contact appaacommittee@gmail.com for further information.

WHATS APP and EMAIL:

If you would like to receive APPAA news (for example, key dates for the diary, relevant reminders within year groups, etc), and receive Parents' Noticeboard emails, please email:

appaacommittee@gmail.com with your name, child's name and class and email address and mobile number (for Whats App)



Have you signed up to 'The Giving Machine' yet

Ark Priory is registered with 'The Giving Machine', which enables you to raise money for free for the school every time you shop on line at hundreds of retailers.

To date we have earned **£930.97** since 2014, which includes £84.46 so far this academic year.

Imagine what we could earn if all parents, carers and friends signed up!

What are you waiting for?

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

Follow on Twitter @GivingMachineUK



APPAA 'Whats App' Usage Guidelines

APPAA maintains a 'What's App' Group for the parents/carers in each year group. This is intended as a forum to ask questions about immediate issues, such as when homework is due, and for class representatives to remind parents of events and activities.

Inspired by the successful Reception 2015-2016 'What's App' group, which shared ideas, aided communication amongst parents and fostered a sense of community, as well as deflecting unnecessary questions away from the teachers, APPAA decided to emulate this group format across the year groups. To keep everyone safe and happy on the group, the committee has compiled some polite rules and etiquette that will be common across the school groups.

Points to note:

- The group is run by parents for parents. It should not replace or substitute communication by or with school for relevant matters.
- The posts in the group chat are opinions of the individuals, not the group as a whole and not that of the school.
- The group is intended for the parents and carers of children in the specific year group only.

Please DO use the chat for:

- Immediate questions about school business, e.g. what date homework is due in.
- Reminders about school and APPAA events - e.g. meeting times, bake sale dates, donations for school fair
- Lost property notices
- Sharing and swapping relevant stuff - e.g. spare uniform, costumes for dressing up days etc.
- Relevant community notices -e.g. family events in the local area that may be of interest
- Sharing information about school that may be useful to others e.g. if you join for school lunch one Friday you may want to share the experience with others, or your child's' experience at after school clubs to help others decide if it is right for them

Please DO NOT use the chat for:

- General casual chats - we are really pleased that there is a lively, friendly parent community at school, but there are in excess of 60 people in some of our groups, so a little banter can soon escalate to a huge amount of messages. Then important messages get lost, which makes the group ineffective and daunting to the more infrequent users. We ask you to consider carefully what you post and how it

comes across to others.

- School notices on behalf of school (unless specifically requested to help in the case of emergency or urgency e.g. school closed due to plumbing failure). Whilst the forum can be used to remind people of school events and business it should not be used as a replacement for school communication, on behalf of the teachers or the office for example. If a teacher wishes to communicate something to all parents in a class or year group, school should communicate that via the formal channels. As a significant number of parents and carers are not represented on this group, information will not be distributed as intended.
- Posting private information about your child e.g. Medical records, school report, or comments on other peoples' children.
- Posting photos/videos of the children at class events, outings etc. In order to safeguard children, and on request of the school senior management, please do not publish these sorts of photos/videos to the What's Apps groups, however well intentioned, as some parents do not consent to images of their children being published on social media.

Etiquette

On behalf of APPAA Committee, there will be a moderator reviewing the posts for each year group (usually one or more of the Class Reps). Rude or inappropriate posts will not be tolerated. The APPAA moderator will be PM'ing anyone who uses the forum inappropriately and offenders may be removed from the group.

- Don't ask unnecessary questions that may be answered on the newsletter or school website or in the school handbook, please do check these sources first.
- Don't answer a question unless you really do know the answer, guesses just confuse, and no-one needs to know if you also don't know the answer!
- If you need to privately message anyone in the group, remember that you can view the group members by tapping the group name and scrolling down. It would be helpful if all members had a meaningful name and photo on their What's App profile to aid identification.
- Don't post adverts, religious or motivational 'meme's', political statements or anything that may be deemed offensive or is irrelevant to the school year group community.
- Please remember that any other 'unofficial' Priory parent What's App groups are not the responsibility of APPAA
- Please remember that any messages or images etc that are added to this group chat, like any social media, are in the public domain, so we request you are mindful of what you post.

We hope that all parents and carers who are not yet part of it will decide to join their child's year group What's App group – for it to be truly successful it should span entire parent community! Contact your Class Reps to be added to the group. Give it a try if you are not sure, you are always free to change your mind!

ARK PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY

Labeling Uniform Information

It is the school's policy that ALL items of uniform MUST be named. To help with this, APPAA (the parents) have put together a list of tried and tested companies, which cater for all price ranges and labeling preferences! Even better, the school gets cash back from some of these companies when you order – at no extra cost to you. So you can support your child's school before they have even started!

1. **“Stamptastic”**: Name stamps, ink pads and labeling pens.

www.stamptastic.co.uk

Tel: 02083329781

Ark Priory receives 25% cash back if you use the NEW code W38NR at checkout.

2. **“Label Planet”**: Stick on (STIKINS) name labels for clothes and other items.

www.name-labels.com

Tel: 01270-668076

Ark Priory receives 25% cash back if you use the Reference Number: 35676 at checkout.

3. **“Woven Labels UK”**: Name Tapes, stick on labels and tags.

www.wovenlabelsuk.com

sales@wovenlabelsuk.com

Tel: 03332226619