



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear parent / carers,

This week we opened our doors to welcome back to school all our pupils once again. We were delighted to welcome our pupils back and it seems as if the children were just as excited, as this week has been simply wonderful in school. The pupils are already focused, working hard and following our Ark Priory school values which are 'explore, endeavour and excel' with the 'courage to fly'.

We have all needed the 'courage to fly' whilst facing the new challenges that this pandemic has presented for each and every one of us. As you know, we have put a lot of work into ensuring your child can return safely and with confidence. I am pleased to say that these arrangements have worked well, and I am grateful to all pupils and staff for the way they have made them work.

We will, of course, need to remain vigilant and cautious throughout the term, particularly as winter approaches. But I believe that this week has shown how we can ensure that our students get the education they deserve whilst minimising the risks to them and to others during this pandemic.

As I mentioned in my earlier correspondence this week, we will be reviewing the measures in place regularly and changing them as and when it is necessary. We will let you know in advance of any changes to the current measures in place such as the drop off/collection staggered times.

Thank you for your co-operation and support at this unique time and please do get in touch if you have any concerns you wish to raise regarding the arrangements we have put in place.

Kind Regards,

Daniela Grasso
Head of School at Ark Priory Primary Academy



Notices from APPAA*

Follow us on Twitter @APPAA_ArkPriory Contact us at 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.

If you want to know how you can get involved or help in any way then drop us a mail at the email above. We are all busy people, but working together as a team of carers, dads and mums we can make great things happen for our school and our children.

Welcome back all - AND A BIG HELLO TO OUR NEW FAMILIES!

Welcome back to all Ark Priory families, and a warm welcome to the new families joining this year, from APPAA, Ark Priory's Parent Association!

Unfortunately due to social distancing requirements APPAA cannot host our wide variety of social events, including the ever popular bake sales, the Reception New Parents Coffee Morning, and New Parent Drinks this autumn. We sincerely hope we will be able to resume these activities soon, they are much loved by the children and the parent community, as well as being a valuable source of fundraising for us, which all goes towards enrichment and activities for all our children. In the meantime, if anyone is interested in getting involved with the APPAA Committee (from any year) you are welcome to contact us at appaacommitee@gmail.com and we can arrange for you to speak to members of the current team.

Reception and Nursery 2020 - 'WHAT'S APP' PARENT GROUPS

The Reception and Nursery 2020 'What's App' groups are already set up. Please do let us know if you have a child starting in one of these groups and you would like to be added if you are not already. We are happy that many of you have already been in touch and submitted your email contact details to APPAA (form in the Ark Priory Welcome Pack) so we can keep you up to date with any events and fundraising initiatives we have planned. If you have not already, email us at appaacommitee@gmail.com

The Wishing Tree 2020 - MASSIVE THANKS FOR DONATIONS SO FAR

We are delighted to share that our parent community has donated over £1,200 during the Summer break which has allowed us to acquire a considerable number of items from the teachers' wish lists ahead of children's return this week. Attached are pictures of some of the lovely items handed over to school as well as the list of remaining items we hope to sponsor in each year group and topic (approximately £2,000 left to raise in order to fulfil the lists).

If you wish to donate, contact us via appaacommitee@gmail.com to pledge, and make payment to APPAA bank account 13386072 sort code 230580 or via PayPal (for donations over £15 due to PayPal fees).

Thank you again for your generosity and support!



APPAA Second Hand Uniform Sale - NEXT FRIDAY at 3.15PM
FRIDAY 18 SEPT 2020 Social distancing measures will be in place.

We will be set up at the back of the playground to help with social distancing. Gates will be opened 15 minutes earlier than normal pick up time. Clothes will be on tables in size order, please ensure only one family at a time come to the table. We cannot guarantee any particular sizes but generally more smaller sizes available. Pay by cash or bank transfer. If you are unable to make it to the sale in person if you wish to email appaacommittee@gmail.com with your request we can try and put items aside for you and accept bank transfer payment.

We are still collecting donations of any good quality, clean, preloved branded Ark Priory uniform items, please drop in the collection box near the side gate at Drop Off or Pick Up next week, or give to the school office ahead of the sale.

**We can also accept cash donations for the Wishing Tree at the uniform sale.

APPAA AGM - THIS YEAR MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL
DATE TBA EARLY OCTOBER

The AGM is the Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association, and the official end/start of the APPAA Committee year. It is attended by members of the school Leadership team. All parents and carers are welcome to find out about APPAA achievements of the past year, fundraising details, and how you can help going forward. This year the meeting will have to be held via Zoom, please watch this space for dates and joining details.