



Ark Priory Primary Academy

Explore

Endeavour

Excel

Courage to fly!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Open Mornings this week. Please make sure you sign up for a slot for the Parent Teacher Consultations which will be held the first week back after half term. Please note that Mr Mlotshwa will be away for the final week of the term due to arrival of his baby girl. We have sent our best wishes to him and his wife for their new arrival. In other news, Miss Steele has not been at Ark Priory as often as usual as she has been away on jury service. We hope that she will be back with us very soon.

Last week on the INSET day, teaching staff attended the Ark Teacher Summit at Central Hall Westminster where we listened to a guest speaker, Julie Jackson from Uncommon Schools in the USA. One of the things that she said about her experience as a teacher has led my thinking this week; 'If not me, then who. If not now, then when.' Your children's teachers and our team at Ark Priory work so hard every single day to provide our pupils with the best education possible, both academically and socially. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff team for all that they do for our pupils and hope you will join me in this gratitude.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Grasso

Stars and Authors of the Week

Well done to this week's Stars! Our Authors of the Week are in green!

	Class	Child's Name	Class	Child's Name
6	SOMMERVILLE	SALMA PHILIP A	EINSTEIN	ISABEL
5	MOZART	RIKKI FRANCISCA	MONET	DYLAN
4	CURIE	EDAN	FLEMING	ISAIAH MIA W
3	ARCHIMEDES	EMERIC DRUMMOND	BRUNEL	ENID
2	SHARMAN	JACK	ARMSTRONG	BEATRICE MOLLY
1	PANKHURST	LARA A	SEACOLE	IMOGEN SHUKRIA

Attendance

Excellent attendance is very important to us at Ark Priory. We are usually the school with the best attendance across the Ark Schools network. Currently, our attendance is slightly lower than usual. We need your support to get back to the top again! Please make sure you send your child/ren to school each day and on time. All holidays must be taken in school holiday time. Thank you for your support.

Our whole school attendance for the week is:

96.8%

Class Attendance:

1. **Sharman 98.4%**
2. Mozart 97.7%
3. Columbus 97.6%



Well done to Sharman class! Let's see which class is the first to gain 100 attendance!

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Homework links

Year 1	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrqqtfr
Year 2	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/zcm3qhv
Year 3	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9bbkqt/articles/z2ym2p3
Year 4	http://flash.topmarks.co.uk/3439
Year 5	https://uk.ixl.com/ela/writing-and-composition
Year 6	https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-6/compound-subjects-and-objects-with-i-and-me

Headteacher's Forum: Wednesday 6th November 2019 at 3pm

Our first Parent Forum of the new school year will be held on Wednesday 6th November at 3pm in the school hall. As per usual, please send any suggestions for discussions to Miss Grasso at d.grasso@arkprioryprimary.org. The deadline is Friday 1st November 2019. I will be updating parents on various items as well as discussing topics raised by the parent community. We will also have a guest speaker, Stuart Rubenstein who is the founder of 'Speak Like a Native' who will be showcasing the new languages club we will have on offer after the Christmas holidays. We look forward to seeing you there.

For new parents, the Headteacher Forum is an opportunity to come and hear Miss Grasso speak about school related items such as new initiatives. It is also your opportunity to send in advance items for discussion.



Miss Grasso
Head of School

Open Mornings

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to our Open Mornings this week. It was wonderful to see parents actively engaged in their children's learning in their classrooms. There was a real buzz around school. If you missed it this time, we will be holding these again in the Spring term.



Question time with Principal Jo Facer

As requested by parents of Ark Priory, Jo Facer will be holding a Priory parent event on **5th November at 8:45am** for all parents and Year 6s who have applied to Ark Soane Academy. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the curriculum and extra-curricular events at Soane and ask any further questions you may have.



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Key Dates for Autumn 1:

Fri 11 Oct	Y4 Bake Sale
<u>W/c 21 Oct</u>	<u>Half term</u>
<u>Tue 29 Oct</u>	<u>First day back to school</u>

For parents:

Mr Lawrence & Mr Crawford will be running a sports camp at Ark Priory on Monday 21st & 22nd October. The day will consist of various sports i.e Archery, Table tennis, Boxing, Football, Spring Board, climbing and multi-sports. To register your child please email athletickltd@gmail.com



20% OFF

Special discount for Ark Priory Primary families and teachers.

when you spend £10 or more after 6pm until the end of November.

Includes all food, icecream and drinks, including alcohol.

Fragola Cafe and Bar, High Street 54, W3 6LE +44 20 3723 2170
www.fragolalondon.co.uk

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Notices from APPAA*

Follow us on Twitter @APPAA_ArkPriory Contact us at appacommittee@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.

Year 4 Bake Sale and Second Hand Uniform sale

Thanks to everyone who baked, helped and supported the Year 4 Bake Sale and to everyone who donated, helped and bought at the Second Hand Uniform sale. Did you know last year APPAA raised more than £3600 just from bake sales and second hand uniform sales!! That is a lot of cakes, and a lot of pre-loved uniform finding a new home!! All proceeds go towards enrichment and activities for all our children.

APPAA has launched The Wishing Tree 2019/20!

Thanks to those of you who have already donated to The Wishing Tree. So far we have raised £174 with over £3,000 left to raise to fulfil the lists. Please see the updated list attached. If you would like to donate and get items into the classroom ASAP then please either find Charlotte Newlands, (mum to kids in year 1 and year 3), your class rep, or drop APPAA an email at appacommittee@gmail.com.

You can either donate via cash, cheque or transfer directly to APPAA at sort code 230580 account 13386072 and quote your name as a reference with Wishing Tree. You can either donate to the fund in general or purchase a specific item. Thanks everyone!

Parent Social Evening - Wednesday 6 November - We need you to make it happen!

APPAA, alongside the school staff, are organising a Parent's Social Fundraiser evening on Wednesday 6 November to raise money for The Wishing Tree. We have a venue, a caterer, and a loose theme involving music and dancing but we require people to organise it and help on the night! Please contact appacommittee@gmail.com if you can get involved.

All Lit Up!! Floodlights update!

We are absolutely delighted that after what has been an incredibly complex and time consuming process, we have now acquired the planning permission to fit the floodlights to the MUGA. This work will take place during the October half term holiday, just in time for the shorter days, so that outdoor clubs can continue even throughout winter. Thank you for your patience and to everyone who contributed to make it happen!

Other APPAA Events Autumn 2019

Christmas / Greeting Card project - APPAA will be running this popular initiative again this year. Get your child to design a lovely Christmas/Greeting card, and you can have the chance to buy personalised cards and accessories with that design to send to all your friends, raising money for the school at the same time! Please start thinking about your designs as artwork submission date is Wednesday 30 October 2019 - just after half term. Please look out for details about this fun fundraising initiative in your child's bag in the next few days.

Year 3 Bake Sale - Friday 8 November 3pm

'Carols around the Tree' Christmas Event - Thursday 12 December 4.30pm**

** It is with disappointment that APPAA have decided not to hold a Christmas Fair this year, previously earmarked for Saturday 7 December 2019. Instead APPAA will be involved in the school led 'Carols around the Tree', which will be a smaller scale Christmas event after school. The reasons for this are captured very well by some of our Committee Members who have written an open letter to all parents. Please see below:

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Cont.

Open Letter

Dear Parents,

Every year since Ark Priory opened back in 2013, APPAA has held a Christmas Fair in early December.

In its very first year, the fair was somehow pulled together by a small group of keen new parents, with two intentions: 1. create a warm, welcoming and positive school community and 2. make some much needed money for the school!! It achieved both these things and best of all the kids had a blast!

Being a new school, that burst of fresh parental energy was incredible - families invested their time and energy and we had 3 fairs and 2 social events in the first year alone. We raised far more money than we thought possible in the first year, which was snapped up by the school with huge gratitude.

6 years on, however, and the down side of being a new school is clearer - many of those energetic new parents are now less energetic older parents!!! And whilst many incredibly dedicated new parents have joined the school and offered up countless hours over the years, we have the same issue we had in 2013 - a really small group of parents repeatedly do all the planning and executing of the events. There is now a full school and yet the amount of help offered at the summer fair was so small, we couldn't run all the stalls we had planned; many parents worked all day - once again - without a break.

The energetic parents who want so much to raise those funds for ALL our children and create community are broken. They have had enough of not seeing their own children sing in the choir or take them to buy something from a stall, or get their faces painted, because no one is there to take over their stall from them. Sadly their energy and enthusiasm was stifled by the sheer volume of work at the last summer fair. Yes, we raised lots of money and yes, our community had a great time but at the end of that day, came a resolve that something needed to change and the time had come to ask our school community to step up, step out and join in.

Last year APPAA raised £20,842 from all fundraising events. The money raised by the events each year works out at around £50 being raised for each child in the school - an incredible and significant amount of money. Far too much money for APPAA simply to stop and not bother anymore. Far too much to ask our parents to contribute instead to make up this shortfall. If you had 3 children, for example, that would be £150!!

So what is the solution???

If even half of the parents did just ONE hour towards APPAA fundraising each term - a shift on a stall at an event, creating something to sell, volunteering to set up a bake sale, using The Giving Machine to do their shopping - ANYTHING! - there would more than enough support to run big events, fund raise but also keep the energy and enthusiasm bursting.

This year, the first with a FULL school, there won't be a Christmas Fair. We will be co hosting a smaller event with school to reflect the small group of helpers we have. But we hope this is a ONE off. We hope that our incredible community of which we are all so proud to be part of, will be ready to step up again and get stuck in. Everyone is welcome, always. Your help isn't for the other parents - its for our children and the experiences they otherwise wouldn't have without us all doing our bit.

Sincerely,

Long committed, ever hopeful, but really really tired parents

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