

Ark Priory Headteacher Weekly Newsletter

Date: 11.2.21



Dear parents/carers,

Thank you to everyone who responded to our remote learning questionnaire. I will be providing a more detailed report of the outcomes in our next Zoom Parent's Meeting. We are awaiting guidance from the government about school reopening before we confirm the date for our next Zoom meeting for parents/carers as I think it will be useful to hold the meeting before reopening.

As it is possible that we may only have a few weeks of remote learning after the half term, I wanted to action some of the general outcomes from the questionnaire immediately. From after the half term, we will be doing the following:

- *Wellbeing Wednesdays – this will be on Wednesday afternoon and screen free activities will be set by the class teacher in the morning during the 'touch-point'.*
- *Smaller group meetings with the class teacher – during the 'Wellbeing Wednesday' time, teachers will meet with pupils in groups of five via Teams, to discuss any issues or concerns for ten minutes as pastoral support. We are unable to provide this on a one to one basis due to the current pressures on teacher workload.*
- *Star of the Week- all classes will hold a 'Star of the Week' celebration on one morning of the week during their 'touch-point' and invite myself and other members of SLT to this if possible. The 'Star of the Week' from each class will have their work published in the newsletter on Fridays.*
- *Celebration Days such as 'World Book Day' will continue virtually.*

We are also making sure that we learn and develop our skills in teaching via teams online and will be continuing our weekly professional development sessions to support teachers with teaching online. We will also be looking about the amount of work set for each year group daily.

I want to take a moment to say thank you for all your support – you are doing an amazing job in supporting your children with their learning. I understand it is very challenging and difficult to juggle everything – please remember you are not alone, and we are trying our best to support in any way we can.

I hope you all have a relaxing half term break.

Miss Grasso

World Book Day – Thursday 4th March

Miss Cox and Miss Georgaki, our English leads are currently busy planning a full filled virtual celebration of 'World Book Day' on March 4th. We will be asking pupils to dress up as their favourite book character whether they are at home or in our community classrooms. It will be a great day to look forward to!

Thank a teacher!

I am sure you will agree with me that our staff have worked incredibly hard during this pandemic- you might want to send a virtual thank you. Please click on the link below.

https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Anyone can send a card; children, students, parents, grandparents and colleagues can all say thank you. The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises ALL staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners.



Role Models Primary life skills lessons

Ark Schools have been lucky enough to be approached by the [Role Models organisation](#) with an offer to take part in their highly rated online life skills sessions. Role Models focus on life skills that promote social and emotional wellbeing and dynamic thinking, helping young people to thrive in life. As part of their 2021 impact project, they would like to offer Ark school pupils in years 1-6 access to these sessions for free.

You can find a flyer with more information attached about how your child/ren can join in this program for free.

Feel Good Singing – free workshops

I am delighted to inform you London Youth Choirs are offering three free **FEELGOOD SINGING** workshops over Half Term, suitable for all ages:

- Monday 15th Feb, 4.00-5.00pm – Vocal Workout with Naveen Arles (ages 11-18)
- Wednesday 17th Feb, 11.00am-12.00pm – Teddy Bears' Picnic with Hannah King and Owain Park (ages 4-7)
- Thursday 18th Feb, 9.30am-10.30am – Singing Voyage with Rachel Staunton (ages 7-11)



No membership or previous experience is required to take part, and all the workshops are free to attend.

For more information and to sign up visit: <https://www.londonyouthchoirs.com/feelgood-halfterm/>

Little Good Deed campaign

Ark Schools are one of the partners supporting the [Little Good Deed campaign](#), which aims to encourage people to reach out and help parents of babies and young children who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many families are finding things hard - financially, socially, and emotionally and may face barriers to getting the help they need. The initiative aims to raise awareness of some of the struggles parents are experiencing and reduce the stigma they might feel around asking for and accepting help.

Little Good Deed has a simple ask - if a parent or carer you know might be struggling, reach out and do them a [#LittleGoodDeed](#).



Here is a link to the news [story](#) for you to find out more.

CBBC YouTube Channel

A message from the [CBBC YouTube Channel](#).

They are uploading videos to it daily that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. They have all the top CBBC brands on here, with a wide range of genres from factual shows, news, dramas, comedy to entertainment. Programmes like Horrible Histories, Blue Peter, Newsround, The Next Step, Saturday Mash-Up, Operation Ouch, the Playlist, the Dumping Ground, Heirs of the Night and Jamie Johnson. You can subscribe for free to www.youtube.com/cbbc

