



# Ark Priory Primary Academy

Explore

Endeavour

Excel

Courage to  
fly!

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the final newsletter of this academic year. I am delighted that we will have transition days next week with Year 2/3/4 and look forward to welcoming back pupils and families even though it is for a very short time.

I want to thank you all for the support that you have shown the staff and I throughout this very unprecedented period. This has been the most challenging time in my career so far but the staff and the school community have truly shown how we all can 'explore, endeavour and excel' and that we all truly have had the 'courage to fly'. We hope that we will be able to welcome all pupils back to school in September as it currently stands. Lessons will be learnt from this time to make our school even better for your children as we constantly strive to reflect on our practice as educators and improve.

Have a lovely summer holiday and we will see you in September!

Miss Grasso



## Goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils

I am so sad to be saying goodbye to our very first Year 6 pupils to leave Ark Priory but I am extremely proud of the dedication and hard work they have shown this year. Although they were not able to do their SATS in May due to the lockdown, all pupils were on track to achieve their full potential due to their efforts and the support that they received from our amazing year 6 team. Thank you, Miss Broodie, Miss Nowack and Miss Bertin, for all you have done. It has been difficult for us all that we have not been able to give the pupils the send-off that they deserve as our first year 6 cohort but we look forward to welcoming them back in the Autumn term for a delayed celebration of their success. I know that they will go on to have the 'courage to fly' and will excel in their new secondary schools.

Good luck, Year 6! We wish you well!



## **Soca music melody!**

Ark Priory and other Ark schools from all across the network took part in creating a professional music video celebrating energetic and empowering carnival classics. We had so much fun in our Year 6 pods learning and creating dancing routines, singing the songs and connecting with others! You can watch the video here. Which Priory pupils can you spot?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XT7WgMeEMhM&feature=youtu.be>

## **Temporary School Street coming to Ark Priory Volunteers needed please!**

Our school has been selected to have a temporary School Street to help us help you to stay safe as you and your children travel to school each day. This will be a short closure of the area around our school to through traffic at the start and end of the school day, making the road less congested, safer, quieter, more pleasant place for you all. Residents will still have access, as will blue badge holders, but no other parents or carers will be allowed to drive into the street during the hours of operation. There will be a barrier placed at the closure to stop vehicles from entering the school street.

This is planned to begin in autumn term. Further information is available in the FAQs which was sent to families this week.

### **Volunteers needed**

To help us deliver this wonderful scheme we are asking for volunteers. We are looking for parents, carers, residents or community members to manage the barrier on a rota basis, each morning and afternoon. All you need to do is to put the barrier in place on the road, stay with it during the closure period so you can move the barrier as needed for permit holders to enter or leave the closure and put the barrier away at the end of the timed closure. You will be provided with guidance, a hi vis jacket and support from us here at the school. If you have time to support us, for one or more sessions, every week, please get in touch with Miss Chisnall on [l.chisnall@arkprioryprimary.org](mailto:l.chisnall@arkprioryprimary.org) by 21<sup>st</sup> July with the following details:

- Name
- Child's name and class
- Phone number

Please include the days you are available, am or pm and how often you would like to volunteer e.g. mornings or afternoons, every day, every week. Thank you in advance!



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### *Change of class name- Henson class (Reception)*

We have decided to change 'Columbus' class for the next academic year to be named after a person who truly reflects our school values. After many conversations with the staff community, we agreed that the reception class would be renamed 'Henson' class after Matthew Henson, who many have been the first person to reach the North Pole. He reached the Pole as a member of an expedition to the Arctic led by the explorer Robert E. Peary in 1909. You can learn more about him here: <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000162-9c2b-d53b-ade2-dcef807e0000>



### *Well done Margo!*

Margot has been awarded the Music Blue Peter badge!

She completed a very well written application form, where she had to write about playing the violin; her favourite music; and interview a family member or friend about their love of music. We are delighted that she has received such a prestigious award- a well-deserved recognition for her hard work.

## Notices from APPAA\*

Follow us on Twitter @APPAA\_ArkPriory Contact us at [appaacommittee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommittee@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 out 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.**

### The Wishing Tree 2020/2021 - THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH

#### **The Wishing Tree 2020/2021 is here!**

The Wishing Tree is a hands-on parent initiative to fulfil teachers' 'Wish Lists' of additional resources they would love to see inside the classrooms for which the school budget does not allow. This year we aim to raise approximately £3,250 (and initial donations are already in!), which would enable us to buy everything on the teachers' lists. Please see the attachments to the newsletter for full details of how it works, and all the items we are hoping to buy for each year group and department.

#### **What has changed:**

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1. Earlier launch to allow most items to be bought ahead of children going back to school in September.
2. We are going virtual (at least for now) donations via bank transfer preferred or Paypal (alternatively, for donations over £15 due to Paypal fees)

Contact Cristina or Laura via [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com) to pledge, or for any further information. Thank you all in advance for your generosity and support!

### **New starters for Reception and Nursery 2020 - CONTACT DETAILS**

Thanks to those who have already submitted their details to APPAA, we have added you to our email list and What's App groups.

If you would like to be included, please send your details to [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com)

### **Second hand uniform sale - THANK YOU**

Thanks to everyone who donated their pre-loved uniform, and to APPAA reps who organised the sale yesterday. All proceeds will go towards enrichment and activities for all the children. We hope to do the next sale early in the new term.

### **Goodbye to the Year 6 class of 2020 - OUR FIRST LEAVING YEAR!**

APPAA would like to bid a very fond farewell to the first cohort of Y6 children leaving Ark Priory! This is the first year of leavers for Ark Priory, and we have watched you grow up and lead the younger year groups throughout the school. Thank you for being fabulous role models for the younger children. We wish you the best of luck in your new schools, and hope you will look back at your time at Ark Priory with such happy memories! We are just so sad that APPAA could not mark this end of year with our usual festivities - the Summer fair, bake sales, lolly sales etc - and give you all a proper send off. Please do come back and join us at future events - it would be wonderful to see you and your families.

We also must say goodbye and a HUGE thank you to all the leaving families, many of whom were founding members of APPAA, who have organised, helped out or simply just come along to every school event and have been committed helpers over the years - raising much needed funds for the school and helping to foster the school community we know and love.

All best wishes and thanks to all the other leavers and their families from all year groups, who are moving on in this period.

Come back and see us soon.

After this turbulent year, we wish everyone a happy, peaceful and safe summer, and look forward to seeing you all refreshed and renewed for the next chapter at Ark Priory Primary Academy!

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