



Ark Priory Primary Academy

Explore

Endeavour

Excel

Courage to fly!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe how quickly this term has gone- and what a fantastic first half term it has been! I hope you all have a relaxing half term break and we will see you back to school on Tuesday 29th October 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the 'Open Letter' sent by APPAA (attached in the notices). I would like to highlight that the work our parent committee do in terms of fund raising is the best in the Ark School network. I am so thankful of all the hard work that they do to fund raise for our school. This money allows us to provide additional opportunities for our pupils that we would not be able to do otherwise, such as the planned theatre trips for each year group this year. Please support APPAA by taking an active role when we do hold school events or by being part of the committee and remember that every little helps! Thank you.

Have a wonderful half term!

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	FILIP M	EINSTEIN	FRANCESKA TESSA
5	MOZART	LUKAS	MONET	JULIA OLIWIA
4	CURIE	IHSSAN POLLY	FLEMING	MERYEM
3	ARCHIMEDES	KATELEEN	BRUNEL	MARKUS SOPHIE
2	SHARMAN	ETHAN ALBERT	ARMSTRONG	ISAAC
1	PANKHURST	CHARLENE	SEACOLE	WOLFIE MOHAMED L

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!



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Homework links

Year 1	https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/teddy-numbers
Year 2	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrssgk7
Year 3	https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-3/comparing-numbers-up-to-1000
Year 4	https://www.timestables.co.uk/
Year 5	https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/materials
Year 6	https://uk.ixl.com/ela/



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.

Speak like a Native

Speak Like A Native, experts in Modern Foreign Languages for primary schools, are conducting a survey for Ark Priory about language learning in our school. Please answer the questions at <https://forms.gle/MjvMrTuNVnGSsoch9> - it will only take a couple of minutes and helps us to know what you think. The closing date is Friday 25 October and if you want to come along to the next Parents' Forum on Wednesday 06 November, one of the Speak Like A Native team will be there to talk about the importance of language learning.



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Key Dates for Autumn 2:

<u>W/c 21 Oct</u>	<u>Half term</u>
<u>Tue 29 Oct</u>	<u>First day back to school</u>
W/C 28 Oct	Parent Consultation Evenings
Tue 5 Nov	Flu Vaccine
Wed 6 Nov	Parent Forum @3pm
Fri 7 Nov	Y3 Bake Sale
11-15 Nov	Citizenship Week (Anti-bulling)
Fri 15 Nov	Children in Need Day (non-uniform)
Mon 18 Nov	Phonics workshop for parents
Thu 5 Dec	Y2 Show (PM)
Fri 6 Dec	Y2 Show (AM)
Mon 9 Dec	Reception Nativity Play (PM)
Tue 10 Dec	Reception Nativity Play (AM)
Wed 11 Dec	Nursery Nativity Play
Thu 12 Dec	Carols Around the Tree @4:30pm
Fri 13 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch
<u>Thu 19 Dec</u>	<u>Last day of term finish at 1:30pm</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

Parent's Corner

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Congratulations to Lea! She won 2 silver medals on Sunday's Karate Championship and due to all her efforts, she has been promoted to the SKC SQUAD. What an achievement! She will need to work very hard this coming year to be ready to European / World Championship 2020.



If you would like your child's achievements to be featured in the newsletter, please send them to Miss Grasso d.grasso@arkprioryprimary.org

A colorful flyer for 'Bamboola Braidz' with a purple and blue background. At the top right is a cartoon unicorn illustration. The text reads: 'Bamboola Braidz', 'Unicorn Braiding and glitter tattoos this half term !!', 'Saturday OCT 19th', '11am - 2pm', '@Laveli Acton', '5 churchfield road', 'W3 6BH'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Contact: 07583726670' and 'Email: z.tesfamichael@gmail.com'. Two small photos show children with colorful braided hair.

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Mayor of Ealing's
Charity Of The Year 2019

Rebop
dance 4 health 4 education 4 cr@tivity



Rhythmic Dance Triangle Week Of Dance



OCTOBER HALF TERM

Monday 21st-Friday 25th

Acton Gardens
Community Centre,
Unit A,
Munster Court

Bollo Bridge Road
W3 8UU

10am - 3pm

£25 (For the whole week)

£7 (per day rate)

Please contact admin
for more information

admin@descendants.org.uk
07745889521

**Don't forget
a packed
lunch
and water
bottle!**



Registered Charity Number: 1109057

Notices from APPAA*

Follow us on Twitter @APPAA_ArkPriory Contact us at 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.

'Strictly' Social! - Wednesday 6 November

Block out the 6th of November in your diaries for the famous annual APPAA winter parent's social. All parents (new and old) are invited to join us at 7:30pm for dinner, drinks & dance, kicked off with Latin and Ballroom dancing lessons taught by our very own Miss Grasso (bad dancers welcome, right Miss Grasso?)

The evening is hosted by APPAA and all proceeds will go to the Wishing Tree. The more funds we can raise for the Wishing Tree at this point in the year the closer we will be to buying everything on the list before the Christmas break which will make APPAA, our lovely teachers and the children very happy.

Some things that previous attendees to APPAA social events (may) have said:

"Who knew it was possible to have so much fun on a weeknight in a school hall"

"Turns out you CAN teach an old dog new tricks, I was Ballroom Dancing all the way home"

"It was great fun, they'd laid on the works: super food, fantastic company and they even put out some adult sized chairs for us to sit on, a top class event"

Tickets are £15 and include a welcome drink, dinner, and (optional!) dance classes from our very own Miss Grasso! To book your tickets either use this PayPal link <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8j8ceBn337> (leave your name as reference) or email appaacommittee@gmail.com and pay by bank transfer.

The Wishing Tree 2019/20

Thanks to those who have already donated to The Wishing Tree. So far we have raised £214 with over £3,000 left to raise to fulfil the lists. Lucky children in Year 2 have had the most items bought for them so far out of all the year groups! If you would like to see more items in your child's classroom then have a look at the updated list attached, and then either:

Contact Charlotte Newlands, (mum to kids in year 1 and year 3), your class rep, or drop APPAA an email at appaacommittee@gmail.com.

You can donate via cash, cheque or transfer directly to APPAA (sort code 230580 account 13386072 - 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!

'Carols round the Tree' Christmas Event - KFH Sponsorship Boards

APPAA has been fortunate enough to secure sponsorship from KFH Estate Agents for the school once again, in the form of estate agent boards advertising the Ark Priory 'Carols round the Tree' Christmas Event. If we can secure 37 boards, we can earn £750 for Ark Priory, for very little effort! We are looking for families / friends of Ark Priory in the Acton, W3 area who would be willing to have a KFH estate agent board in their front garden for approx 4-5 weeks in November/December 2019, (exact dates TBC). We have emailed all parents directly from appaacommittee@gmail.com, with full details, please check your mail boxes. Thanks to those who have signed up already, we have 25 addresses already confirmed! Please sign up ASAP if you can, as we need to finalise the lists by the end of October.

The 'Carols round the Tree' event will take place on Thursday 12 December at 4.30pm. We will start planning this after the half term so do contact APPAA if you wish to get involved. **

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Christmas / Greeting Card project

You should have received information in your child's book bag about this popular initiative. Get your child to design a lovely Christmas/Greeting card, and you can have the chance to buy personalised cards and accessories, made with your child's design, to send to all your friends, raising money for the school at the same time! Remember that the artwork submission date is Wednesday 30 October 2019 - just after half term!

Year 4 Bake sale and uniform sale totals

Year 4 Bake Sale and Second Hand Uniform sale - The rain held off and Y4 bake sale was a total sell out yielding £292.50! Alongside, our Second Hand Uniform sale raised a whopping £339! Thank you to everyone who baked, donated goods, time and/or supported the event - all proceeds will go towards enrichment and activities for all our children

Next Bake Sale - It will be the turn of Year 3 to host the next bake sale on Friday 8 November at 3pm

Open Letter

** 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:

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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