



# Ark Primary Academy

Explore

Endeavour

Excel

Courage to fly!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy week in school. The school council is now up and running and our year 6 Prefect team have also been appointed. We are continuing our usual 'Star of the Week' assembly virtually which the pupils enjoy every Friday morning- please ask your child/ren about this as I am sure it is something that they look forward to and enjoy each week, as it brings us all together as one school community.

As reminder, we will be holding a meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.30am – 10.30am via Zoom (link to be shared closer to the time). This is an opportunity for questions and concerns to be answered and addressed. As we hope that a large number of parents join us, I would appreciate it if you are able to email me in advance with your questions or points to raise using [d.grasso@arkpRIORITYprimary.org](mailto:d.grasso@arkpRIORITYprimary.org) by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October as it might be challenging to hear from everyone during the meeting.

We also sent out an anonymous parent questionnaire which will close on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm so we encourage you to complete it by then. Your opinion matters and is very important to us. Please keep in mind that the school has had to make certain adjustments due to the global pandemic that were mandated to us by the government.

School will be closed on next Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October for a network training day. Please also be reminded that school finishes on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October for half term. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October is a school holiday. Have a lovely 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	Maia	EINSTEIN	Tomasz Sophia
5	MOZART	Noa Ruby	MONET	Sophie
4	CURIE	Noa AOW: Ruby	FLEMING	Khushie
3	ARCHIMEDES	Atarah	BRUNEL	Molly Adnan
2	SHARMAN	Sana Ayoub	ARMSTRONG	Miles
1	PANKHURST	Gustavo Georgia	SEACOLE	Mya P



## Website Cyber Attack

WisePay have let us know that they had experienced a cyber attack between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020. They have let us know that there will be more information coming out to us regarding affected parents but in the meantime they have asked us to pass on the following information:

**Payment Concerns:** If you used a credit/debit card between Friday and Monday on the WisePay website then you are potentially at risk, we recommend contacting your bank and cancelling the card that was used and check for unusual transactions

**Logging in issues:** If you are having trouble logging in, please clear your cache. On a desktop computer this can be done by navigating to the WisePay log-in page and pressing Ctrl+F5

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# Year 6 Prefect Team 2020/21



We would like to introduce our amazing Year 6 prefect team for this academic year. They had to endure a lengthy application process which involved a presentation on *'How can the school be more inclusive?'* in front of the School Council, Year 6 teachers and Miss Grasso. It was wonderful to hear about such fantastic ideas from our prefect team which will be put into practice over the coming school year. We can announce that **Uma and Lukas will be our Head girl and boy with Sophia and Sebastian as their Deputies.** The other pupils, Dilys, Emilia, Naima, Callum, Sam and Angelos will all be prefects. Over the coming weeks, they will be sharing their plans for the school year with the school community. Congratulations to them all!



Uma: Head Girl    Lukas: Head Boy

## Ark Soane Meeting for Year 6 parents

We are holding a meeting with the Executive Principal of Ark Soane Secondary School, Mr Peter Haylock on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 3.15pm until 3.45pm** in the school hall. Mr Haylock will be able to answer any questions that parents might have about Ark Soane.

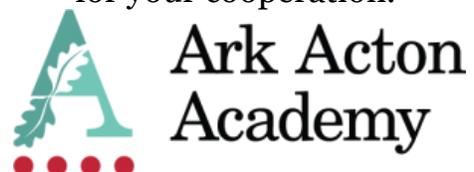
Safety measures will be in place such as social distancing and we ask that **all** parents who would like to attend wear a mask. Many thanks for your cooperation.



## Ark Acton Meeting for Year 6 parents

We are holding a meeting with the Principal of Ark Acton Secondary School, Mr Oli Knight on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm until 3.45pm** in the school hall. Mr Knight will be able to answer any questions that parents might have about Ark Acton.

Safety measures will be in place such as social distancing and we ask that **all** parents who would like to attend wear a mask. Many thanks for your cooperation.



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## Notices from APPAA\*

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

### **New Parents Welcome Meeting and AGM - THANKS FOR JOINING GREAT TO SEE NEW FACES! SEE PRESENTATIONS IF YOU DID NOT MAKE IT!**

Thanks to those who joined the Zoom meeting to hear about APPAA. We were delighted to see you and tell you about our Parent's Association and how you can get involved. If you could not make it, the two presentations that were shared on the night will be circulated with the newsletter this week. Please do read them, they include the financial review of the year, the APPAA achievements, as well as the new Committee and reps list.

### **Christmas/Greeting Card Project -**

#### **LOOK OUT FOR INFO AND CODES IN CHILDREN'S BAGS!**

#### **CREATE LOVELY PERSONALISED CARDS AND FUNDRAISE FOR ARK PRIORY AT THE SAME TIME!**

Your children will come home with information in their bags about this project, and further communication will be sent. Do look out for instructions on how to take part.

Order deadline this year is Fri 30 October and Artwork Deadline (to bring back to school) is Wednesday 4 November.

### **The Giving Machine -**

#### **HAVE YOU JOINED YET TO SUPPORT ARK PRIORY?**

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/ark-priory-primary>

Do you ever shop online at big retailers like EBay, Argos, Amazon, Sainsbury's or Boots? The Giving Machine is a way to donate a percentage of everything you spend (at no cost to you) to the school. Simply download the app, create an account and make 'Ark Priory' your cause, and shop in the way you normally do using the app as your entry point. There are thousands of stores listed, in all sorts of sectors (retail, DIY, travel, insurance, etc) This is one of the easiest ways to donate to the school. If you need help downloading the app drop APPAA a mail at [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com).

### **Parents Support Parents SEND WhatsApp Group -**

#### **FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN ON THE SEN REGISTER**

If anyone would like to be added to the (parent run) Ark Priory WhatsApp group for parents of children on the SEN register, please get in touch with [vicrobinson@me.com](mailto:vicrobinson@me.com) or [appaacommitee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommitee@gmail.com) with your name and mobile number.

This is a very informal, parent led group set up by Priory parents for Priory parents as a safe space to share ideas, concerns and wisdom around SEND and support for those going through a diagnosis (of ASD or ADHD in particular) or preparing an EHCP. This is not an official school or Ealing support group. Whilst we do circulate official notices or advice on here, the views shared are of those on the group and the tone is light and casual.

### **The Wishing Tree -**

**£1878 OF £3100 RAISED SO FAR - JUST OVER £1200 TO GO!**

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## **OUR VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER FOR CLASSROOM RESOURCES CONTINUES!**

Thanks to everyone who has donated so far towards the Wishing Tree 2020. This is a list of classroom resources compiled by all the teachers, that they would love to have but are not part of the school budget.

The approximate total cost of these items this year is £3100, and each and every donation is appreciated, particularly in a year when APPAA is unable to carry out our other events aimed to fundraise for the enrichment of our children's learning and experience.

To make it easier to donate we have set up a separate Paypal link below.

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=DNYRLEBCRSLTE>

OR you can continue to pay by bank transfer (Sort Code 230580 and Account Number 13386072) or cash donation - please contact [appaacommittee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommittee@gmail.com)

As always if you want to help out or have any notices for the newsletter please contact [appaacommittee@gmail.com](mailto:appaacommittee@gmail.com) for further information.

### **Minutes from Meeting with Miss Grasso and APPAA Admin Team**

#### **Attendees:**

Miss Grasso (DG), Vic Robinson, Fiona McQuillan, Eva Henault, Luciana Chamberlain, Antonella Scimemi

In lieu of the AGM, which would normally take place in the Autumn term, where the Accounts of the Association are presented to the Committee, APPAA have had a virtual meeting with DG, open to APPAA Committee, and then holding a separate virtual 'New Parents meeting' to show the accounts to a wider audience as well as give an introduction to the Association.

#### **1. Community and engagement**

DG discussed that the school does feel very different this year, and the lack of community involvement is felt on all sides. Even teachers are not mixing with each other in the school as they have to stay in their bubbles. They are struggling to get people engaged, as they are unable to invite parents into school, have had to cancel Open Mornings, they are not allowing Parent helpers in school, they are struggling to figure out how to hold events like the Nativity safely this year.

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DG open to ideas of how they can engage safely and within restrictions.

Some upcoming events/suggestions:

- DG will be holding a Parent forum / information evening in the next couple of weeks.
- They are going to re-start the "Next week my child is doing..." bulletins for each of the year group
- Parent Teacher meeting are planned to be done virtually via Teams
- Suggestion that Class Open Mornings could be held outside - eg Open PE Lesson

## **2. Enrichment and activities**

DG is sorry that the theatre visits (which APPAA fundraised for in 2019) have not been able to go ahead and the money for these is ring fenced to be used at a later date, as soon as they are able. They are conscious however that future trips may require transport as people may be wary of the children using public transport.

Also other enrichment activities that happen in school have unfortunately been put on hold eg QPR Sports coaching, swimming lessons, tennis lessons.

Priority has been keeping staff safe and comfortable, and the school safe for all children. After half term there is hope to restart some external teaching e.g. the external Spanish teacher will return for KS2

## **3. Fundraising and spending:**

Trips and enrichment remains a priority. The school only wants quality experiences for the children, so are prepared to wait until attractions are opened again and teachers are able to book quality workshops etc that will benefit the class - they don't want to book poorer quality visitors / experiences for the sake of it.

Plans are underway to revamp some of the back playground into a climbing area specifically aimed at older children. Funds for this already obtained by Governors last year.

The school still has the Sports Grant money remaining from last year - as school was closed so money was not spent on swimming lessons, money can be spent on sports equipment instead. Vic asked if a part time sports teacher is an option. DG confirmed that there is still intention to use

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QPR coaches, (coaching contact sports as well as sports health and nutrition), this was already in the pipeline pre Covid.

New microphones and sound systems have been installed in the hall, paid for by APPAA fundraising from 2019. Unfortunately, not had much use yet as they are unable to gather (even assemblies are held virtually with each class dialing in from their classroom). The teachers had their first (socially distanced) team meeting in the hall this week - they are not permitted to mix with each other outside of their bubbles, so do not share a staffroom etc - the feeling of isolation and lack of community is also very real amongst the teachers.

Ark Priory have also obtained separate funds from Ark Central to deal with Covid related expenditure - the 'Talk Time' therapist is part of this funding.

There is no real demand for any particular fundraising this year as the school has monies remaining from the last financial year.

DG agreed to request to be able to use outstanding APPAA money to pay for the Wishing Tree remaining items.

### **Conclusion**

DG stressed that they really want to engage with people and the community and are looking for ways, within the current restrictions, to return a more community feel to the school, and are happy to hear suggestions.

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