



What a wonderful treat it has been to welcome everyone back into school properly this week! We are so proud of how well the children coped during lockdown, both those attending Community Classroom and those working at home and it is a testament to your support that they have returned happy and eager to learn! Although necessary restrictions mean that we must still ensure we are being extra careful, we look forward to enjoying the rest of the term together in school, where we know children learn best.

Nursery revamp

We are delighted to announce that we have taken the opportunity during lockdown to add some exciting new areas to our Nursery classroom, which now includes an amazing indoor play loft for exploration and role play and a fully functioning kitchen, with access at child height, to enable the children to take part in preparing their lunchtime meals. These developments, added to the fantastic indoor and outdoor areas already in place, have really brought a whole new dimension to our youngest pupils' learning and they are really enjoying exploring and developing their skills.

Amazing artwork

We cannot wait to reach a time when all of our parents and carers can come into school and see the fantastic new displays we have added to our corridors, including an amazing timeline outside the bottom corridor, our quote bubbles on the back staircase and a beautiful, bright welcome wall in the Office waiting area. We are looking forward to having more displays installed around school over the next few months.

Have your say!

Ark Schools would like to hear your views about how our online learning during lockdown. Although we sincerely hope that we do not have another lockdown, your input into what has worked and what didn't work so well is extremely valuable, so if you have a few spare minutes, please visit <https://edurio.com/teacher/poll/PhDJxk> or call the Office to go through the survey questions with a member of staff.



New local food and clothing bank

A food and new clothing bank, organised by the Qadria Trust UK in partnership with the Sufi Trust, has been set up at Jamia Masjid Qadria Trust Community Mosque, 25 Alfred Road in Sparkbrook. Hot meals are currently being given out on Sundays, but they hope to increase and expand the project over time. If you would like any further information, please call them on 0121 6880821 / 07940 709106 / 07838 665209 or email info@qadriatrust.com.



COVID-19 lateral flow tests available for families

You may have seen that whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, are now able to test themselves for coronavirus twice every week from home. If you are interested in having lateral flow tests, which involve swabbing the throat and nose and give you a result in just 30 minutes, please visit https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50231/coronavirus_covid-19/2308/covid-19_lateral_flow_device_lfd_testing_information for more information.

School Crossing Patrol update

Unfortunately at the moment both of our local School Crossing Patrol Wardens are unable to be with us, so please take extra care when crossing the roads near school and keep your children close to you at all times when walking. Sadly Yvonne, who is normally sited at the corner of Cromer Road and Tindal Street will be retiring soon and the 1st April will be her last day with us. If you are interested in becoming a School Crossing Patrol Warden, Birmingham City Council are taking applications which can be completed online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/jobs. For further information, speak to the School Crossings Office on 0121 303 6262 or email schoolcrossings@birmingham.gov.uk.



Easter holidays

Just to remind you, the last day of term will be Thursday 1st April and the children will be in school all day. The Summer Term will begin on Tuesday 20th April. The term dates for this and next year are on the school website.



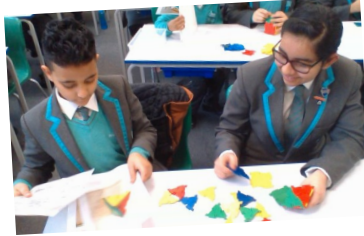
Our week in pictures

For news and updates, make sure you regularly visit the Academy website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages and be sure to share the amazing work your children are doing at home too!



The new play loft in Nursery has been a real hit with our children, helping them to use their imaginations for role play.

Miss Burns and the Nursery staff have had a wonderful time exploring the facilities in the new kitchen and the children have really impressed us with the cooking and food preparation skills they are developing.



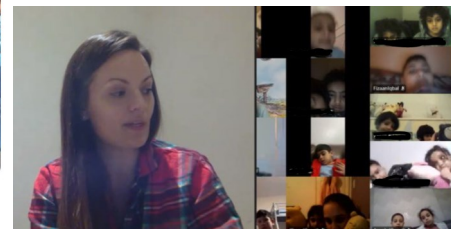
Our Maths focus day saw year groups using different hands-on approaches to solving problems which even our guest, the great mathematician Albert Einstein was impressed with!



The beautiful new graphics around school have added a fresh dimension to our environment and the timeline is fun and informative.



We love reading, so World Book Day last week gave us the perfect excuse to build reading dens, share our favourite stories, dress as our favourite book characters and even share a bedtime story each night, with staff reading books online!



Safeguarding Information

Our Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils. We believe that everyone has an important part to play in child protection. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing or safety of any child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Miss Francis, Mrs Mockbil, Mrs Vigers or Miss Saboor. For your information, our Safeguarding Governor is Daniel Richards and the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) are Nora Malik, Salma Shabir and Tracey Johnson. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the Academy website.