



Welcome back to all of our families! It has been lovely to see everyone back in school and to hear about your adventures over the holidays. We have a busy and exciting term ahead of us - please take a moment to note down the important dates listed on the back.

### Ark Tindal success in The Real Schools Guide

We are delighted to confirm that Ark Tindal has been ranked within the top 10% of primary schools **in the country** by the Real Schools Guide 2020 and awarded a 5 star rating! This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work and effort put in by our pupils and staff, and the invaluable support of our parents and carers. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to the work of the Academy.

### schoolmoney system

Following feedback from parents and carers, we are pleased to say that we will be moving to a cashless money system in school after the February Half Term holiday. Schoolmoney is a secure online payment system which will allow you to pay for your child's school dinners and trips via the online system with your debit or credit card, rather than having to come into school with cash. We will be sending out further information about the system shortly and will be offering workshops where staff can show you how to use the system. We are confident that this will prove to be more convenient for you, but in order for us to make the most of the system, please note that we will not be accepting any cash into school for dinners, trips or school ties after February half term. The one exception to this will be for charity collections (own clothes days etc.) for which you will still be asked to pay in cash.



As login details for the system will be sent out via text, please ensure that we have up to date contact details in the Office and that if you change your mobile phone number you advise us as soon as possible.

### Reception places for September 2020 entry

The deadline for applications for Reception places in September has now past. If you have not yet applied for a school for your child, please see Mrs Mockbil as soon as possible, who will be able to advise you about making a late application. Further information is available at [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1786/apply\\_for\\_reception\\_primary\\_school/4](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school/4)



### Uniform

Just to remind you that boots and trainers are not part of the Academy uniform for girls or boys. If you wish your child to wear either for their journey to school, please ensure that they have proper school shoes to change into when they arrive. On PE days, please remember that pupils must wear their Academy jumper over their PE kit, not a sweatshirt.



### Resilience Week

As you may know, every term we focus on one of our values and take a week to explore what they mean to us. We are looking forward to Resilience Week at the end of January, when we will be taking part in activities and welcoming guests into the Academy. Please take a few moments to talk with your child about resilience and the importance of never giving up - perhaps you could share a story with them of a time when you needed to persevere?



## Holidays in term time

We have recently had an increase in parents asking to take children out of school during term time. We are not able to authorise pupils to be out of school, except in very exceptional circumstances. It is not correct that you can take your child out of school for 10 days during term time for holidays etc.

Should you have an emergency situation that will affect your child being in school, you will need to come to the Office to collect a form to request the absence. This will then be reviewed by the Academy and we will advise you if authorisation can be given. Please note that the Local Authority may issue a fine of up to £1000 per parent and per child for unauthorised absences during term time. Some of our families have received this fine within the last few months.

Also please remember that GP, Dentist and Opticians appointments should not be made during the school day—these should be scheduled for after school. Children should not miss school due to appointments for other members of the family.

## Coming up this half term:

23rd January: Year 2 topic trip and Year 1 Chinese New Year assembly

24th January: Reception vision screening checks

27th - 31st January: Resilience Week

31st January: Nursery and Reception family fun sessions

5th February: E-safety day

14th February: Inset day - school closed to pupils

17th—21st February: Half term holiday



## Term dates

Please note the Academy term dates for this academic year are as follows:

Spring Term: Monday 6th January - Friday 3rd April 2020

Half Term holiday: Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020

INSET days (school closed): Friday 14th February 2020

Easter holiday: Monday 6th - Friday 17th April 2020

Summer Term: Monday 20th April - Monday 20th July 2020

Half Term holiday: Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2020

INSET days (school closed): Monday 20th April 2020, Friday 3rd July 2020, Monday 20th July 2020

**Please note that INSET days are subject to change.**

## 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 or Mrs Ivins. For your information, and the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) are Nora Malik, Salma Shabir and Tracey Johnson. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the Academy website.