



As always the time is flying by and we are as busy as ever. It has been wonderful to see all of the children again and spend time catching up with them and getting to know all of our new children.

Respect Week

Each term we celebrate and focus on one of our three core values: Ambition, Respect and Resilience. Last week saw the launch of our very first Respect week and it was a wonderfully positive week. The children were enraptured by the visits from Animal Aid, West Midlands Police, The Real Junk Food Project, Amnesty International, Birmingham Magistrate David Warner and many others. We celebrated on Friday with a sing off which was judged by Marie and Benjamin from The Education Network and although it was a tough decision, Key Stage 2 were our winners! Marie and Benjamin were so impressed that they have asked us to record the song so that when people call their offices and put on hold it will be Ark Tindal children that they hear singing. What an honour! In the same assembly we celebrated May in Year 4 winning a competition run by The Education Network. Her story has been published in a book of short stories on the theme of road safety and she received a copy of her book, a certificate and £150 in vouchers — what a great prize! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Respect Week and well done to our wonderfully respectful pupils here at Ark Tindal!



Reading Volunteers



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be a reading mentor within our school. We have been overwhelmed by the response and so it has taken slightly longer than expected to get this valuable initiative up and running. Please bear with us—Mrs Ivins will be in touch as soon as possible.

Curriculum and parent support

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our curriculum evenings. It was fabulous to see so many of you there—it really is important to share with you what and how your children will be learning to enable you to support them at home. As a reminder, all children in school should be reading their reading books at home to someone every night and having their reading diary written in. They also need to practise their multiplication tables and in younger year groups practise adding numbers to ten and then to twenty.



Uniform

It has been wonderful to see the children wearing the correct uniform and looking so smart. As a reminder, children should be wearing shirts, not polo t-shirts and shoes not boots. If you want your child to wear boots to school and then change, then they are welcome to, however, please do not buy boots for your child's everyday school wear - they will be expected to change into school pumps if they have no school shoes.

PE kits are unfortunately not looking as smart as the daily uniform. Pupils should wear a plain white t-shirt or the school polo shirt with navy or grey sports trousers/leggings or shorts, a plain back or navy jumper—no hoodies and trainers or pumps. Girls cannot wear shorts and tights for PE, they must wear leggings, trousers or shorts and socks. A sports headscarf must also be provided if you wish your daughter to wear a headscarf during PE.

There has also been an increase in the size of earrings being worn. It is acceptable for one pair of small studs to be worn, no large studs or hoops are permissible and your child will be asked to remove them if they are deemed not to adhere to our uniform policy.

Birthdays

We know that children often like to bring in chocolates or sweets to celebrate their birthdays, however, in school we currently have a number of children with severe allergies and so we need to stop this practise. We are aware that this may disappoint your child, but the safety of all must be our priority. We are suggesting that, if they would like, a child brings in a favourite book to share with their class on their birthday and this can then be left in the class to swell the ranks of the books on offer.



School dinners

At Ark Tindal we are able to offer children school dinners which are freshly cooked on the premises. We offer a varied, four week menu rota, all meat is halal, a vegetarian option, fresh fruit and salad are always available and special themed meals are organised throughout the year. You may choose each day whether your child has a school meal or brings a packed lunch, but all packed lunches should be based around a healthy diet - leaflets with suggestions for items to include are available from the Office. Hot food cannot be brought in for packed lunches and fast food is not acceptable. Please do not send your child into school with nuts as some of our children are severely allergic to these.



School dinners are free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. For children in Years 3-6, school dinners cost £2.30 per meal and dinner money needs to be paid in advance at the beginning of each week, brought in an envelope marked with their name, class and the amount of money enclosed and posted in the money box in the Office. If you receive certain benefits, you may be eligible for Free School Meals - please collect a form from the Office to enable us to check for you.

Late Arrivals



If you arrive late to school, please bring your child to the office. It is inappropriate to drop them at the gate, as if there were an emergency in school e.g. a fire or a fire drill, there would be no one in the building to allow your child access to the building and they would be stranded. This poses a severe safeguarding risk.

Open Days

We will be holding Open Sessions for Reception 2020 pupils and their families on Tuesday 1st October, from 9am – 12 noon and 3pm – 5pm and Thursday 3rd October, from 1:30pm – 3pm. If you know anyone who is currently looking for a place for their child to start school next year, please do let them know.



Harvest Festival



The school will be celebrating Harvest Festival with a special assembly on Thursday 17th October. As part of this, we will be asking pupils to bring in a donation of canned/packeted food or drinks which will be passed along to one of the local foodbanks. We hope that you will consider supporting us in this collection.



Communication

If you have any questions, staff are always available on the playground at the start and end of the day, or you are welcome to contact the Academy Office, who will be able to direct your enquiry to the best person to help you. It is very important that we have up to date contact details for you (2 numbers at least) should there be any problems with your child, so if you change your telephone number or address, please visit the Office to update us. We will also regularly check your information by asking you to review the details we have on record for you. We regularly send information home via text message and letters in your child's book bag, so please keep an eye out for these. Information is also uploaded onto the school website, twitter and Facebook accounts regularly.

Term dates

The calendar of term dates is available on the Academy website and can be found by clicking on the About Us tab. Please note that the Academy's Inset (teacher training) days for this term are on Friday 4th October and Monday 4th November 2019 and we will be closed to pupils on those days.



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, our Nominated Governor is Fiona Parkes, the Chair of Governors is Julie Farr and the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) are Nora Malik, Salma Shabir and Tracey Johnson. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the Academy website.