



I can scarcely believe that eight weeks ago we were returning from our summer break. It has been a long half term but we have been so busy that it has, once again, flown by. There has been so much happening in school; we have had Spanish day, RE day, our harvest festival, Diwali assembly, visits from the NSPCC and so much more. It really is an exciting time to be part of Ark Tindal

Parents' Meetings

It has been so wonderful to see so many of you at our recent parents' meetings. It is so important for us to work together as a team so that we can share how your child is progressing and where they may need extra help, to hear your views and be able to assuage any concerns you may have. Some teachers have managed to see each and every parent of the children in their class. If you have not yet seen your child's teacher, please speak to them in the playground or contact the office to make an appointment after half term.

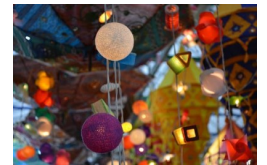
Harvest Festival



Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Harvest Festival. It was wonderful to have so many of you share the occasion with us. Years Two and Three did a wonderful job of presenting the assembly and it was fantastic to be able to work with them and see their confidence grow. Reverend Samy from Edward Road Baptist Church was delighted with the food we collected throughout the school and this has now gone to the local foodbank so it really is helping our own community. Thank you to everyone who donated - every item makes a difference to someone.

Diwali Assembly

Year Five will be presenting a lot of assemblies this academic year and they began this week by telling the school all about Diwali. It was fabulous to see them acting out the story of Sita and Rama and explaining why Diwali is celebrated. Thank you to all parents who attended; it really does make a difference to know that you support us in school.



Curriculum Development

As many of you know, we have been working to develop our curriculum to provide our children with a wide knowledge base and exciting experiences both within and beyond the classroom to develop their learning. We recently had an inspection by our Regional Director and other heads from within the Ark network to look at our history curriculum. I am delighted to tell you that they were impressed with what they saw and everyone commented on how engaged the children were and how much they enjoyed their learning.

Reading



Over the past three years reading has been a priority here at Ark Tindal and it is noticeable that standards have been raised when you look at our Year Six SATs results. In 2019 80% of our Year Six pupils reached the expected standard for their age, this compares to 73% nationally and 69% in Birmingham. Although we are delighted with this, it still is not enough. We believe that reading is the greatest gift we can give a child as once they can read, they can access the world.

As a school we aim to listen to each child read individually on a fortnightly basis, read to them as a whole class on a daily basis, as well as have a reading lesson each day. We need to encourage our pupils to find a love for reading and to do this we need your help. If your child is not changing their book, please let us know promptly. Children need to tell their teacher when they have read a book and as a parent/carer you must have written in their diary that you have read with them and talked to them about the book before it is changed. Many children are coming to school without book-bags and they then do not take a book home. Please make sure that your child has a book-bag in school every day and their reading book and diary are in it. If you do not have a reading diary please speak to your child's teacher, if your child loses their reading book please bring £5 to the office to help to cover the cost of buying a new book. As parents and carers, the best support you can offer your child is to read with them every day. This can be you reading to them or them reading to you. Please log what you are reading in their reading diary. Remember - they can read books you have at home too or visit the local library for additional reading resources.

Have a safe and happy half term holiday! We look forward to seeing everyone back in school at normal time on Tuesday 5th November.

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 on their birthday and this can then be left in the class to swell the ranks of the books on offer.



Uniform

As we head into winter please remember that school shoes must be worn. School shoes are not trainers or boots, so if you buy these for your child we will still expect them to have a pair of shoes to wear throughout the day. If they do not, they will be expected to change into school PE pumps. Please remember that ties are a part of our school uniform. We have had an increase of pupils forgetting them.

After PE, children are coming home in their PE uniform, this saves time getting changed and enables us to provide more time for learning. A number of parents have complained that children are losing their jumpers. If you do not name your child's clothing we have no way of returning it. Please label all of your child's clothing and encourage them to keep their uniform neatly together when they change out of it. In an ideal world pupils would come to school in their PE kit on PE days and this would alleviate the problem of lost kit. Unfortunately too many pupils do not have the correct kit to make this a possibility.

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

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

Autumn Term: Monday 2nd September - Friday 20th December 2019

Half Term holiday: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2019

INSET days (school closed): **Monday 4th November 2019**

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2019 - Friday 3rd January 2020

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

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

INSET days (school closed): Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th January 2020, 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 22nd May 2020, Friday 3rd 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, 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.