



From Mrs Silke

Update from Governors' meeting

Dear Parents and Carers

We held our first meeting of the Spring term on 25th January. We were thrilled to hold the meeting in the new building which is looking splendid. We very much hope that your children will enjoy using the expanded facilities now available to them.

We had two main topics on our agenda: Mrs Silke's report on progress in the Autumn term, and the financial status of the school, including the budget projections for the rest of the year. It is terrific to hear of your children's many successes and their hard work particularly in core areas such as reading, writing and maths. Attendance continues to be strong but we are still a little below the national average and hope very much that this gap will close before the end of term.

There have been quite a few staff changes recently and we welcome new colleagues to the school. They bring lots of fresh ideas and it is also good to benefit from those, as well as building on the tried and tested Ark Oval ways. We wish you and your children a happy and successful term.

Ann Ewing
Chair, on behalf of the Governing Body.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another successful week at Ark Oval with your children working and playing hard. I am thrilled to announce that following a rigorous selection process, we have made some internal promotions as follows:

Andrea Lourenco Westminster Class teacher, has been appointed as Instructional Leader and will take responsibility for mentoring and coaching class teachers and Additional Educators across the school.

Gemma McDonald Winchester Class teacher has been appointed as Key Stage 1 leader and will now lead the year 1 and 2 teaching teams.

Georgina Butac Oxford Class teacher has been appointed as Lower KS 2 leader and will now lead the year 3 and 4 teams.

Jen Goodhall Cambridge Class teacher has been appointed as Upper Key stage 2 and will now take responsibility for leading the Year 5 and 6 teaching teams

Spanish Teaching at Ark Oval

We are interviewing a number of candidates next week for our Spanish teaching post, because Lorena Roman, our Spanish teacher, has been appointed to lead on English, as an additional language (EAL) across the whole school, so she will no longer have the capacity to teach Spanish as well. We have had to make this decision due the fact that 61% (340 children) are EAL learners at Ark Oval. This will mean that EAL children will learn to speak English more quickly and make it easier for class teachers to meet the needs of all

children in their class, so that every child reaches their full potential.

All candidates are available for an immediate start so Spanish lessons should recommence after half term at the latest. Thank you for your patience in this matter. Ms Roman will be involved in the lesson observation for the selection process and will also induct the new teacher in terms of how we teach Spanish at Ark Oval.

Parental Concerns

If you have a parental concern about your child's progress or well-being, please do speak to your child's class teacher. You can arrange to do this by emailing: info@arkovalprimary.org and the teacher will contact you to arrange this. If you have already spoken to the class teacher but the concern persists, then please email to ask to speak to the phase leader for your child's year group. I understand, as a parent myself, that you may be upset or cross about something, but we would ask that any concerns are always discussed in a calm and respectful manner. If you have a complaint about a member of staff, please do not approach the member of staff directly but email as above marked confidential and you will be contacted by the appropriate Senior Leader.

School Uniform Policy

I have been made aware that we need to clarify the Ark Oval school uniform policy, as the usual parent handbook was not sent out at the beginning of the academic year. The expectations are attached to this newsletter to give clarity. Staff have been instructed not to speak to children about incorrect uniform, as it is parents that are responsible for equipping them with this. If a child is wearing incorrect uniform the office will send a letter home to you to inform you of the problem. If there is any reason why you are unable to provide the correct uniform please explain, in confidence to a member of the office team and we will do what we can to help. We will only speak to children on your request, if they are refusing to wear what they are supposed to, and you need our support.

Morning Drop Off Routines

Thank you so much for your patience and flexibility, as we have had to make changes to routines following the opening of the new building. It is much appreciated.

I am also very grateful to all parents and carers, who are clearly making an extra effort to get children to school on time. It makes such a difference to the start of the school day for every child, which will have such a positive impact on your child's progress.

Following a safeguarding inspection of the school site and premises, we are going to have to amend access to the school site and old building with effect from Monday morning next week. The Oval road access will now only be through the gates with the ramp and steps, and the door opposite open as usual to allow children to get upstairs as quickly as possible. As there are now fewer children, needing to access the front of the old building, all children will now access through the main entrance opposite the old office area. Staff will be on hand to let children through the internal security doors. Thank you in advance for your patience as we transition to these new arrangements. As communicated in last week's newsletter the school gates from Oval Road and Cherry Orchard Road will now be locked at 8.45, so if you arrive after this time you will need to ring the buzzer on the gate to the main front entrance.

I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but I hope you understand that it is in the interest of safety and well-being of your children. Finally, I would like to wish you all a great weekend with your families.

Best wishes

Ali Silke

Principal

Our SPIRIT value of the week last week was:

Respect

The following children demonstrated this value this week and each received a certificate in assembly.

Swansea	Sanushka Sirplana
Warwick	Cristian Kyorov
Bath	Neetal Thadakamalla
Manchester	Anthonia Eyimofe-Edonmi
York	T'ziah Phillips
Roehampton	Taneece Rowe
Exeter	Umaiza Athar
Liverpool	Rameen Ismail
Winchester	Hadi Qureshi
Canterbury	Natalia Chotza
Brighton	Aayush Jadhav
Dundee	Mohammad Issa
Durham	Claudia Porcel
Aberdeen	Olivia Chadwick
Glasgow	Louie Hamilton
Westminster	Samir Ghezally
Oxford	Shanum Ghose
Cambridge	Nithika Vinoth

This week's attendance awards



From Monday 23rd to Friday 27th January 2017

The highest attending class in KS1

(including EYFS) is: **Warwick**

The highest attending class in KS2 is:

Westminster

These classes get to display the attendance cups proudly in their classrooms for all to see until Friday 3rd January 2017