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Principals' Message

This week we have been focusing on our core value of resilience. We have been working as a school community on not giving up, particularly when faced with challenges, but instead focusing on the areas we are less secure on. This helps us to grow, to learn from our mistakes and secure deeper and more lasting understanding. This is especially true for our pupils in Y6 and in Y11 who are facing their external tests and examinations after the Easter break. It is essential that we keep focused now and keep working hard so that we can secure great achievements.

Earlier in this academic year, a great athlete, Eliud Kipchoge, broke the two hour barrier for a marathon, stating 'anything is possible'. He spoke after the race, "I'm sending a message to every individual in this world, that when you work hard, when you actually concentrate, when you set your priorities high, when you actually set your goals, and put them in your heart and in your mind and in your mind, you will accomplish, without any question."

That is the message I want to share with every member of our school community: we can improve, we can succeed, we will move forwards towards success together. Being resilient means we are not put off by failure or dismayed by the lack of immediate impact; we remain optimistic and hopeful and keep trying.

We try hard to behave well, to learn from our mistakes, to strive to become better human beings, as well as working hard in our academic lessons. Being resilient means with each new challenge we become a little stronger and hopefully a little more equipped to deal with tomorrow's challenges.

Ark Victoria Academy community: being ambitious, **resilient** and kind – together.

Primary Update

I hope you all enjoyed a restful half term. It is going to be a busy and exciting half term! We have some interesting speakers coming in to talk to the children about Fair Trade and the Metro bank. Year 2 have also got a trip to Birmingham airport to look forward to. We have worked very hard to plan opportunities to enhance the curriculum for the pupils and we know they will enjoy these throughout the year.

We are looking forward to seeing primary parents at Parents' Evening which are coming up soon. These are a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher, discuss their progress and look at the fantastic work in their books. Year 6 will be having a slightly earlier parents meeting in preparation for their SATs tests.

Parents' Evening dates

Tuesday 10th March - Year 6

Tuesday 31st March – Year 3, 4, 5

Thursday 2nd April – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

I wanted to say a big well done to our Year 6 pupils who have just completed their mock SATs tests. They have made some great progress since the start of the year. Some of our children will also be attending Saturday and Easter school. Keep up the hard work Year 6!

I can't wait to see all the children, and staff, in their World Book Day costumes on 5th March. It will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our love of reading and talk about our favourite books. At the moment I am reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes with my son (who is 6) and he absolutely loves it – I can definitely recommend this story! For the month of February, we challenge you to read and review as many books as you can. Your reviews can be presented in any format you like (a poster, a book, a folder). At the end of the month we will be choosing winners for the most creative and thoughtful reviews! The winners will receive an exciting prize.

Entries are due in on the 28th February.

As well as books of your choice, we challenge you to read:

- A book published this year
- A book you have been meaning to read
- A book recommended by a teacher
- A book recommended by a family member
- A book published before you were born
- A non-fiction book
- A book that has won an award
- A book based on your current topic

On World Book Day pupils have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character.

There will be prizes for the most creative and thoughtful costumes.

Please bring in £1 to enter the competition. This will be spent on amazing new books.

Primary STEM Assemblies



Coffee Morning

Ms McSorley and Mrs Twort would like to invite parents and carers to join them for a coffee morning on Tuesday 24th March 2020.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know each other. The coffee morning will be held in the main hall of the Oldknow building.

We look forward to meeting you.



GCSE Mock Exams

Congratulations to all our Y11 students who worked very hard and collectively made real progress and moved the overall attainment grade to 4.5 from 3.8 – meaning the average grade is now a strong 4.

English and Maths attainment rose from 40% 9-4 to 56% 9-4 and from 19% 9-5 to 38% 9-5.

If students continue to make progress in this way they will meet and even exceed their targets.

Keep focused, keep working hard and use all the available support: P6 interventions, subject breakfast club, online resources like Hegarty Maths, Seneca and Kerboodle and look out for information about the Easter Revision Classes coming up!

Secondary Update

We are excited that Y11s will be continuing their onward journey to a destination of their choice. Every child has received career guidance from a qualified Careers Advisor. Whether they will be going to a sixth form, college or an apprenticeship, it is an exciting time for them. If your child has not secured a place or is still unsure of what they want to do, then please let Mr Nandi (Assistant Head Teacher) or Mr Martin (Head of Y11) know.

Our next Drop Down Day will be held on Thursday 12th March. We have some great workshops lined up for the day with Umbrella, National Express, West Midlands Police, Speakers Trust and the NHS coming into school and working with our pupils. All Y8s will be off to the Big Bang show at the NEC, looking at Science and the world of technology. All Y9s will be involved in an enterprise challenge, looking at the world of business. Some Y10s will be off to Warwick University to get a taster of what university life is like. All Y11s will be involved in a motivation workshop, led by an organisation called Positively Mad. We will post some pictures from the day on our socials, so please have a look out for them.



We will be celebrating National Careers week by hosting a series of special assemblies on the Careers. Please visit: <https://bbc.in/3a7bN8h>. This website will take you to the BBC Bitesize Careers to explore 'where could your favourite subject take you?', 'explore careers by job sectors' and 'careers A-Z: find your perfect job' – as well as advice on applying for jobs and next steps (apprenticeships, college and university).

Uniform reminder

We are proud of our smart school uniform which demonstrates our commitment to the school community. We encourage adults and children to be aware and proud of their appearance and presentation in school. Our school uniform provider is Clive Mark School wear, 2282 Coventry Road, Birmingham B26 3JR. Telephone 0121 722 2286. They provide all of our branded uniform items.

FSM reminder

If parents believe that their children may qualify for entitlement to Free School Meals please contact the office for more details. This allowance is a statutory right and it is important that you use it if you qualify. We will help you all we can with your application.

Behaviour reminder

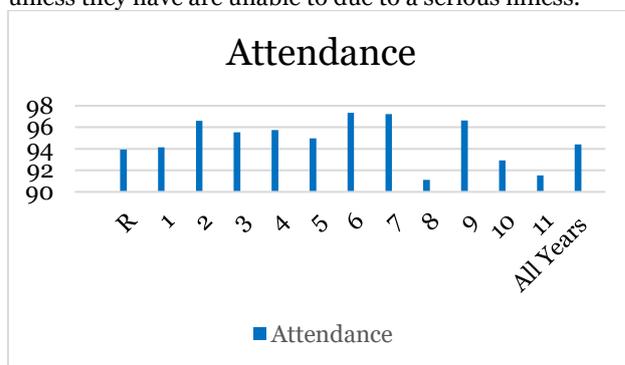
I will strive to ensure that Ark Victoria is a great academy for everyone by:

- Wear my full school uniform with pride
- Following staff instructions, remembering that the adult is in charge
- Going quickly, safely and directly from one lesson to the next, not running and keeping to the left hand side of the corridor
- Ensuring that the academy remains calm and friendly by using the normal conversation tone around the building
- Enthusiastically celebrating the success of others and accepting rewards confidently and with pride
- Taking pride in the environment by helping to keep the academy clean and tidy
- Create a safe environment; ensuring that I do not bring prohibited items to school and immediately reporting any prohibited items that I am aware of
- Switching my mobile phone off whilst I am in school and ensuring that it is put safely away
- Being a great ambassador for Ark Victoria both in and out of the academy
- Being punctual: arriving on time to school and to my lessons in the right frame of mind to work hard and make progress
- Being organised: ensuring that I am equipped for learning
- Being calm: speaking clearly and listening to others carefully
- Being respectful: being supportive and considerate to other pupils and adults at all times
- Being resilient: showing tenacity by trying my hardest, even when I find things difficult
- Contributing- making contributions to class discussions that can be heard by everyone else "No Excuses"
- Being independent: completing my work on time and to the best of my ability

Good behaviour leads to pupils enjoying school and not missing any learning. Pupils who behave are rewarded with house points. Poor behaviour will not be tolerated and has an impact on your child's learning and other children. This has a direct impact on your child's grades.

Latest Attendance Stats

The national average for attendance is 96% so it is important that your child attends school at all times. There is evidence that shows that lack of attendance will affect your child's grades. The long term impact is that your child will have gaps in their knowledge which will impact at the end of each year. Punctuality also has a big impact on your grades. If your child is late every day by 5 minutes, this is the same as missing 3.5 days of school a year (13 lessons). Being late 10 minutes every day is the same as missing 7 days of school a year (35 lessons). Being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing 10 days of school a year (50 lessons). Being 30 minutes late a day is the same as missing 22 days of school (110 lessons). It is important that if your child is ill, you phone in and leave a message explaining why. Appointments should be made out of school hours to ensure your child does not miss their education. Our expectation is that every child is on time and always in unless they have are unable to due to a serious illness.



Menus

To view our wide range of meals and snacks please head over to the website and have a look.
<https://arkvictoria.org/secondary/secondary-lunch-menu>
<https://arkvictoria.org/primary/primary-lunch-menu>

Dates for the diary

- Primary Fair trade speaker visit – Monday 2nd March
- Year 9 Envision trip – Monday 9th March
- Secondary Drop Down day – Thursday 12th March
- Year 8 Big Bang Trip – Thursday 12th March
- Year 3 Cadbury world trip – Monday 16th March
- Year 3 Cadbury world trip – Tuesday 17th March

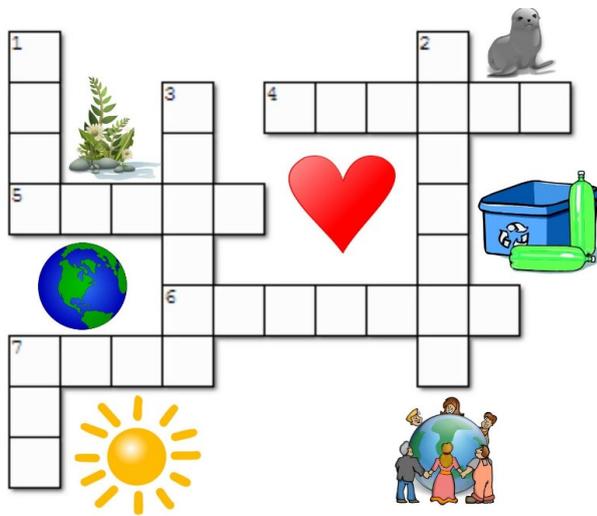
Term Dates

- List of term dates for remainder of year
- Spring Term: Wednesday 8th January 2020 – Friday 3rd April 2020
 - Half term: Monday 17th February 2020 – Friday 21st February 2020
 - Summer term: Monday 20th April 2020 – Friday 17th July 2020
 - Half term: Monday 25th May 2020 – Friday 29th May 2020

Recommended Read

One of my favourite books is 'The Bear and the Piano'. A bear is in a forest and he found a strange object. He realises that it makes a beautiful noise and enjoys hearing the lovely sound. A father and his son are in the woods enjoying their food. They invite the bear to travel with them to New York. The bear has a brilliant time and becomes famous. He becomes rich and lives the life of a superstar. However the bear realises that as much as he is having a brilliant time using his talents he misses his family and friends in the woods... This book examines the importance of areas such as family, friendship and fame.

Primary Puzzle



Across

- 4. We have flowers, fruits, vegetables and other _____ in our garden.
- 5. We live on planet _____.
- 6. Reduce, Reuse, _____.
- 7. Together we can _____ the Earth.

Down

- 1. We need to _____ and take care of the Earth.
- 2. Dogs and cats are types of _____.
- 3. Plants, trees and birds are a part of _____.
- 7. The _____ is so bright I have to wear dark glasses.