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Principals Message

Modern times provide challenges for us all. Mobile phones keep us connected and up-to-date but can also cause stress and anxiety. Mobile phones can distract us and also prevent us from giving attention to the person we are with or from focusing on the subject we are learning about. There are so many benefits to the technology mobile phones provide us with; they are great for research, for connecting and for keeping people safe. But they are also best in moderation. Mobile phone usage can be addictive and can lead to excessive use of social media. We all know the benefits of the internet, but also the very real dangers. Children conduct themselves and have relationships in different arenas: at home with family, at school, with friends and online. Regular uncensored access to online social media platforms comes at a cost; there are things said and posted which would not ordinarily be said face to face and there are hidden dangers which often the user is not aware of. There has been much research into and publications about the negative impact of excessive screen time, not least in disturbing sleep patterns, interfering with relationships and causing problems with concentration and learning. There are places where mobile phones are never allowed: examination halls are one of those places. The guidance is clear (please see the JCQ guidance on our website) and the consequences severe.

It is for all these reasons that we have taken the decision to ban mobile phones from our school.

From February 24th 2020 no pupil will be allowed mobile phones in school. If you wish your pupil to have a mobile phone for use to and from school, we would ask that they hand in the phone at the start of the day to be locked away and given back in tutor time, at the end of the day. Failure to hand in a phone or to be found with a mobile phone will result in serious consequences.

Please support us to help your children to focus on their studies, on their development and on their face to face interactions with staff and peers, so that they make the most of their schooling, without the distractions mobile phones present.

For more information on online safety and safe mobile phone usage, please see the sites below:

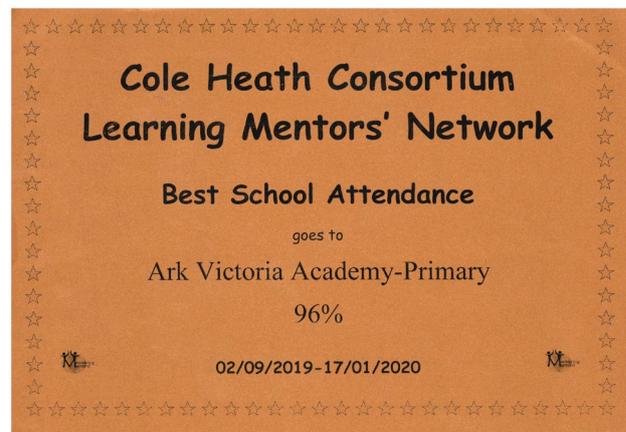
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/mobile-phones-for-children/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/guides/mobile-e-phone-safety/>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Primary Update

It has been a busy few weeks in primary. Reading continues to be at the heart of everything we do and it was great to see that our Year 1 parent reading workshops were so well attended. Thank you to all parents who were able to come along and work with their children. There will be further workshops to follow over the coming weeks and dates will be shared with you very soon. We are also very pleased that our library is now fully up and running - it is an amazing resource that we hope will inspire a love of reading in all our pupils. Please do support us by reading with your children every day - it really does make a difference.

We have had some fantastic trips to Lapworth Museum where the children developed their geology skills and investigated different kinds of rocks. They were very excited when they returned and couldn't wait to tell us all about it! We have trips to Birmingham airport and visits from the author M G Leonard and staff from Birmingham Children's hospital to look forward to this term.

I would like to say a huge well done to our dedicated Year 6 pupils (and staff) who are staying until 4pm twice a week to fully prepare themselves for their SATs test in May. We promise the hard work will all be worth it...keep it up!



A big

THANK YOU



To ARK Victoria for donating 684.3 kg of food in 2019, equivalent to 1,488 meals

to support Sparkhill foodbank.
Your donations make a BIG difference to local people in crisis.



Sparkhill foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank

Year 3 Lapworth Museum



Secondary Update

Ark Victoria Academy qualified as winners of the Level 2 School Games for the Central Sports Partnership. The Level 3 School Games is an event where all the best schools in Birmingham compete to see who will represent Birmingham at the Regional Finals. The event was held at the Play Football Arena Birmingham and eight Schools competed to see who would be victorious.

Ark Victoria Academy played well but lost all three games unfortunately, the competition was tough. The fact that the two finalists were in our group shows the level of opposition our boys competed against. It was a good learning curve for all the students and a great day out.

Fingers crossed we make it to another final at some point in the year. Massive congratulations to all those who took part.

On Wednesday 29th January, we had 6 business volunteers from Capsticks Solicitors who came into school to deliver a Q and A session on their career to Y9s and Y10s. The volunteers included a qualified solicitor, trainee solicitor, HR, governance and admin. The pupils were really eager to find out more about their profession and we look forward to welcoming Capsticks back to our school.



Secondary Messages to Parents

- Secondary end of day routines - From Monday 3rd February we would like to change the end of day routine: all secondary students will leave through the Talbot Gates at the end of the school day. As primary pupils are gearing up for the SATs, it is important that their learning remains uninterrupted. If any secondary student has a sibling they wish to collect from primary, they will need to leave from Talbot Way and walk around to the Oldknow gates. This is to ensure learning is uninterrupted as primary classes finish 15 minutes after secondary classes and to stop the congestion by primary which has caused issues. We appreciate your support in this manner.
- Thursday 6th February is Year 9 Guided choices evening 4:00 – 7:00pm

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

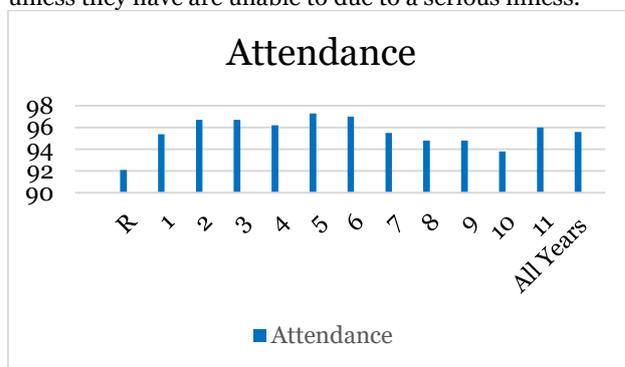
I will strive to ensure that Ark Victoria is a great academy for everyone by:

- 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

- Monday 3rd February – Year 9 Envision Trip.
- Tuesday 4th February – 5 Tolkien have a visit from Mary Bennet BCU.
- Thursday 6th February – Year 9 parents & guided choices evening.
- Friday 7th February – Year 9 & 10 Princes Trust.
- Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet day.

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: Tuesday 21st April 2020 – Monday 20th July 2020
- Half term: Monday 25th May 2020 – Friday 29th May 2020

Recommended Read

Matilda – I would recommend this book to everyone as it is a story on how courage can make a difference. Roald Dahl is an excellent author and has produced many great stories but this is my most enjoyed one. – Mr Williams

Science Puzzle

Scientific Method

S O C I L L T I C D S H S D A S O R N
 C E E P O P U L A T I O N E A V C C S
 I A T T B M E T P A S A P P A R P O C
 E L B A I R A V T N E D N E P E D N I
 N A I D E M Y A T M H O M N O U E T T
 C C S I R R E P O R T H B D S A E R S
 E C N N U L L H Y P O T H E S I S O I
 M O D N A R I B N H P E C N O L O L T
 D N R S E S N I P R Y M R T B E I E A
 R C U T I X A E V O H C A V S T C B T
 T L O L R N P F B T N I E A E E Y M S
 B U B U L N G E E A I F S R R R T R A
 H S O S A R C L R T A I E I V A I N U
 B I S E I A E A E I Y T R A A D T F H
 D O U R L E S S S B M N N B T E T N Y
 A N R P O N D O U B L E B L I N D T A
 Y R O T A R O B A L N I N E O Y R C R
 V D H L S C R R D A T C N T N S D B N
 N T E O S Y R E V O C S I D E S I G N

conclusion
 dependent variable
 double blind
 hypothesis
 mean
 null results
 population
 research
 science
 statistics

control
 design
 error
 independent variable
 median
 observation
 random
 results
 scientific method
 test

data
 discovery
 experiment
 laboratory
 null hypothesis
 placebo
 report
 safety
 single blind
 verify

Primary Puzzle

COLOR WORD SEARCH

y	b	r	b	p	g
e	l	e	r	i	g
l	u	d	o	n	r
l	e	s	w	k	e
o	r	a	n	g	e
w	h	i	t	e	n

HINT: The first letter of the word begins with it's color!

red green brown
 blue pink white
 yellow orange

Fun Fact

"E" is the most common letter and appears in 11 percent of all English words.