



# Ark John Archer Primary Academy

*Newsletter*

Spring 2019

Edition 10 - 11th January 2019

## Happy New Year !

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your good wishes and the many lovely cards with really kind messages that my staff and I have received. I hope that you all had a very enjoyable and fun-filled holiday and wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

I hope that you had the chance to see how our Year 6 results last year had moved our school significantly up the Wandsworth League tables, placing us above many of our local schools. Our results in the individual subjects were consistently high – reading 71%, Writing, 71% and Maths 73%. Our year 6 team and pupils are working hard to exceed these results this year.

We are very excited to be part of the pilot for Ark Curriculum Plus, which is an integrated curriculum designed for Ark schools. This term, Years 3 and 4 are privileged to have the opportunity to be the first children to use the brilliant resources which are cutting edge and inspiring! Their topic is Ancient Greeks which they are learning about across all areas of the curriculum. Ark Curriculum Plus is a unique approach to curriculum delivery using progression maps, curriculum resources and carefully planned assessment. Our teachers are enjoying the teaching and learning as much as the children!

One parent commented that “ My son was so proud of his learning box and showed it to all our family and friends that visited over the holidays. He made a crown and loved having all the resources to make it independently. Every day he is telling us interesting facts”



## Friends of John Archer — going from strength to strength

The PTA would like to thank everyone who volunteered and attended the Winter Festival. It was a great afternoon and the official total raised for our funds is £1,000!. Thank you so much for giving your time, joining the fun and making the event such a great success! The afternoon was filled with festive music, a lovely choice of gifts to purchase, fabulous food, Santa's grotto and wonderful activities for the children. We would like to thank all of the PTA committee and volunteers who were involved in making it such a magical afternoon. Special thanks to our PTA Winter Festival team; Jade, Gaia, Zoe, Abigail, Sabha, Shamin, Adassa, Valeria, Farouk, Valentina, Fartun, Waris, Deka, Elendor, Irene, Samantha, Iman and Admire for making the event happen. You all did an amazing job!

Thank you also to all our brilliant staff who dressed up, smiled and sparkled... as always!

Thank you for all those parents who attended the 'Friends of John Archer' meeting before the end of the term. It was great to see you there. Just to confirm that the Friends of John Archer charity trustees are: Gaia Predassi, Abigail Sixto, Sabha Siddiqui and Shamin Chowdhury.

In the coming weeks we will be holding an election for volunteers for the PTA key roles and responsibilities. Thank you all for your commitment to Ark John Archer. We are looking forward to the great partnership between the trustees, the PTA and the school.



## Principal's Blog

One of the key drivers for a principal of a school is to serve our teachers better and give them the training to thrive, grow, develop and have what they need to succeed. When teachers thrive so do the pupils and this can build a culture of constant improvement.

Great schools are about the decisions people make about teaching, along with the systems that allow for, and support, those decisions. For the past 12 weeks we have been taking part in training as part of the transition from the previous school to an academy and this has been challenging for all of us.

There were many reasons that individuals could have used to justify scepticism: A new structure, new approaches and the usual challenges in a school.

However, the experience of the last term has been overwhelmingly positive.

Monitoring and learning walks have shown us that colleagues have embraced the values and vision of Ark John Archer.

I was impressed with the way that all staff threw themselves into the training. Unprompted, displays have been put up, showing the new school motto and values. Sessions practicing techniques from Teach Like a Champion have been purposeful and filtered into our classrooms

There has been a remarkable lack of resistance, despite some (understandable) anxiety last year about the transition to becoming a new school. So why is it going well? We have undoubtedly been helped by our open staff community that genuinely cares about its pupils.

Values, first and foremost, along with the school motto, Together as one, has resonated with what staff want to see in the pupils and themselves. The 6 values of respect, aspiration, kindness, community, resilience and excellence were the starting point for our own self reflection and underpin all we do at AJA. These values are the foundation to our work and provide a rationale for why and how we expect things to be done. Undoubtedly there will be challenges ahead. There will be resistance from some pupils to the high behaviour expectations. Staff will need to work tirelessly to make sure that the new ethos is embedded and that their teaching leads to the outcomes our pupils deserve. The past term has built as good a foundation as we could wish for, to meet these challenges head on.

Georgina Roberts

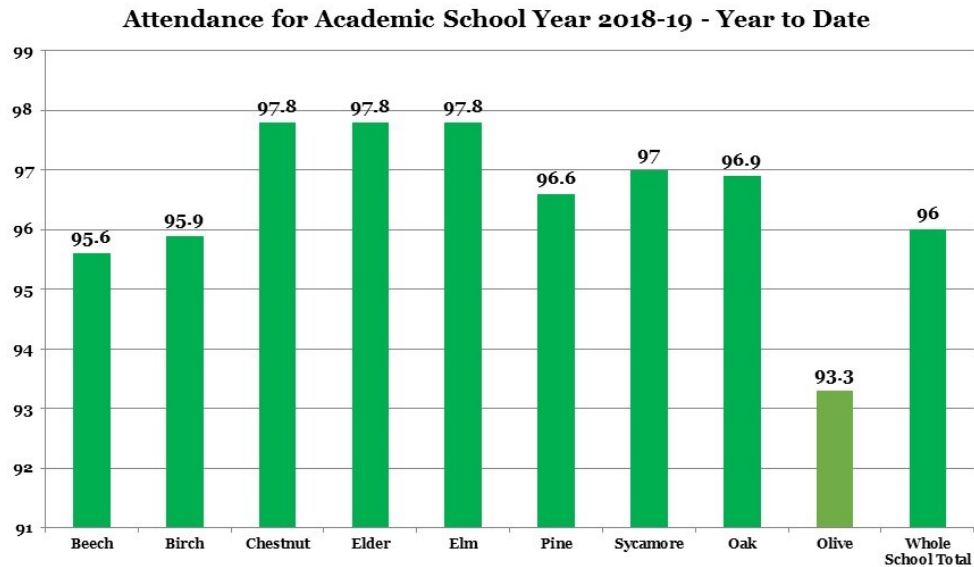


## Spring Term 2019 Class Assembly

11 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole School	New Term Welcome
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Chestnut Class	Class Learning
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Birch Class	Wellbeing Week
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Beech Class	Rights Respecting
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Olive Class	Chinese New Year Celebration
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Oak Class	Class Learning
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Sycamore Class	Rights Respecting
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Chestnut Class	World Book Day
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Birch Class	Class Learning
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Beech Class	STEM Week
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Elm, Elder and Pine Class	Lower KS2 Spring Performance
4 <sup>th</sup> April (Thursday)	Whole School	End of Term Achievement Assembly

Attendance is very important at Ark John Archer. As you are aware, good attendance is essential for all pupils to get the greatest benefit from their education and to play a full part in the school community.

Your child's attendance to school directly impacts on their learning and has an effect on school standards.



We are striving to ensure our attendance is consistently high. Unfortunately this week it has dropped to 92% which in turn has reduced our year to date figure to 96%.

Please help us to help your children achieve their potential and support the school by ensuring your child attends school every day.

Thank you .



School Day  
8.50am to 3.15pm



If you are **5** minutes late every day, that adds up to over **3** days lost each year

If you are **10** minutes late every day, that adds up to over **6** days lost each year

If you are **15** minutes late every day, that adds up to over **10** days lost each year

If you are **20** minutes late every day, that adds up to over **13** days lost each year

If you are **30** minutes late every day, that adds up to over **19** days lost each year

**Being late adds up to lost learning!**

## Spring 2019 After school activity clubs

We emailed the list of after school activity clubs to all our parents and carers last week. Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far. Places are going fast so if you would like your child to attend our fantastic clubs, make sure you sign up now to avoid disappointment.

We have the following spaces available:

### Mondays:

Years 4 to 6: Cooking – 5 spaces

Year 2 to Year 6 : Daisy Roots Dancers – 13 spaces

### Wednesdays:

Reception to Year 2: Mini Football – 13 spaces

### Thursdays:

Reception to Year 6: Culture Club – 12 spaces

Reception to Year 2: Spanish – 9 spaces

Please be aware we no longer accept cash or cheques as payment for clubs. Booking is only possible using our ParentPay online payment system. Your child has a unique payment number which you may have already used to set up online payments for school lunches and after school care. If you have not set up your account, please come to the school office for your child's unique number. Clubs are offered on a first come first serve basis and your child's place will not be confirmed until the online payment has been received.

## **Dates to remember.....**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** – After school activity clubs start

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Curriculum and Topic Open Morning for Parents and Carers – 9.00am

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Parent Workshop: Homework at Ark John Archer 9.00am

**w/c 4<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Storytelling Week

**w/c 4<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Scholastic Book Fair – all week

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** – SEN Parent Workshop: ADHD and Autism 9.00am

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Parents Evening 3.30pm to 7pm

**18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February** - Half Term

## **Spring Term 2019 Dates**

### **First half term:**

Tuesday 8th January 2019 to Friday 15th February 2019

### **Half Term Holiday:**

Monday 18th February 2019 to Friday 22nd February 2019

### **Second half term:**

Monday 25th February 2019 to Thursday 4th April 2019

### **INSET Days:**

Monday 7th January 2019

Monday 11th March 2019

Friday 5th April 2019

### **Parking**

We have received several complaints about inconsiderate parking. Parking across people's driveways is not acceptable whether it is for 5 seconds, one minute or longer as this could endanger a child's life and understandably really upsets our neighbours and our community. Please allow yourself enough time to park safely during drop-off and pick up times.



## **Wandsworth Young Musician of the Year GRAND FINAL**

Adjudicator : Emily Davis

Monday 28th January 2019  
4.30pm  
Burntwood School Drama Hall  
Burntwood Lane, London, SW17 0AQ  
**FREE ENTRY**

A partnership between Wandsworth Schools' Music Service and the Wandsworth Group of Rotary Clubs



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