



Ark John Keats Academy

Newsletter

5th January 2018

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Happy New Year!



We hope you had a fabulous holiday and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

This is the term we really start to see the pupils making rapid progress in their learning; they have now settled into school life and their new year groups; they have got to know their new teachers and friends and they are getting to grips with their new curriculum and routines.

The senior leadership team, Ms Baird, Mr Collins and myself all had meetings regarding the pupils' progress and attainment this week. Although we were delighted to see the progress that most pupils have already made, the importance of excellent attendance at school was again highlighted - pupils with attendance of above 95% had made better progress than the rest. The impact of poor attendance on pupils' attainment was strikingly obvious to us all.

Pupil attendance at AJK is generally very good - we have the best attendance in Enfield and nearly the best in the Ark network - for Primary and Secondary. We need to also ensure that pupils arrive at school on time at 08:30. Pupils arriving at school from 08:31 will be recorded as late.

Over the next few weeks I will be writing letters to parents of pupils' whose attendance and punctuality is below our expectation and I will be able to share with these parents data that shows how children's poor attendance clearly affects their progress. As children get older and progress through school, this has more and more of an impact - the gaps widen - they get further and further behind their peers. There is only so much we can do, if a child is at school, I can assure you they will learn a lot. If they are not, every day they miss out on learning new things and acquiring new skills.

At this time of year we know that everybody (children and staff!) can become quite unwell and need a day or two in bed to recover. I'm not asking you to send your child to school if they are sick - but please do send them in if they are well enough to be here.

Thank you

AJK Academy Council 2018

I am delighted to present to you our democratically elected AJK Academy Council for 2018:



Shanae Stephenson-Mason
Year 1 Seuss Class



Jazmine Musa
Year 1 Jeffers Class



Emily Jolley
Year 1 Murphy Class



Abigail Babalola
Year 2 Dahl Class



Ayomi Okundalaiye
Year 2 Walliams Class



Joanna Dimitrova
Year 2 Rowling Class



Leo Kastrati
Year 3 Anthony Browne Class



Visard Peja
Year 3 Isaac Newton Class



Elfida Ekice
Year 4 J.R. Tolkien Class



Mariah Oskys
Year 4 Ada Lovelace Class

The academy council will be formally introduced to you all in our celebration assemblies:

KS1 on Friday 12th January

KS2 on Friday 19th January

Important messages:

Clubs: All of our after school clubs start again next week for the pupil groups from 4 - 5pm. Children **must** be collected promptly at 5pm in the front playground:

- **Tuesday** - Phonics; Shakespeare; Drama; Maths; KS1 & KS2 Homework; Computing; Gardening; Cosmic Kids
- **Wednesday** - Fitness; Dance; Cooking; Gymnastics and Tag Rugby

KS2 ties: Please remember that our uniform policy states that Year 3 and Year 4 pupils have to wear a proper tie-up tie (like secondary). If your child has an elasticated one - please do get the proper one when you can.

Coats: Yesterday the temperature outside was -4 and this morning it was -2! 'Brrrrrrrrrr!' However - I was shocked to see some children came to school without a proper winter coat to keep them warm. Please make sure your child wears their coat to school every day at this time of year. Hats, gloves and scarves are also a good idea. PLEASE do ensure everything is clearly named though. I have quite a collection of unidentifiable lost property outside of my office.

ParentPay: Next week Ms Edwards will write to all parents of Reception children and any pupils new to the academy about setting up your ParentPay account. This is so that you can pay for breakfast club and any future expenses like school trips through our cashless system.

Lost property - 18th January 3:45-4pm: We have a growing collection of unnamed and unclaimed hats, scarves, gloves and other miscellaneous items that have been left in school since September. On the 18th January we are going to put it all in the hall for you to come and see if you can identify or know who any of the unclaimed items belong to. After that we will have to either take the items to a charity collection or dispose of them. We simply do not have enough storage space in school.

Important dates:

Swimming lessons:

Wednesday 17th January: Seuss and Anthony Browne

First EYFS and KS1 Celebration assembly of 2017:

Friday 12th at 08:45 (Reception—Year 2) All pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the whole of the Autumn term will be called to stand and later receive their certificate by their class teacher

First KS2 Celebration assembly of 2017:

Friday 19th at 08:45 (Year 3 and Year 4) All pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the whole of the Autumn term will be called to stand and later receive their certificate by their class teacher

Year 1 phonics check workshop:

Monday 15th at 3:00pm. This meeting is for parents whose children are new to Year 1 and parents who need to support their child in passing the phonics screening test.

KS1 Academy Council Assembly:

Friday 12th at 08:45 (Year 1 & Year 2)

KS2 Academy Council Assembly:

Friday 19th at 08:45 (Year 3 & Year 4)

Library Visits:

Monday 15th January— Jeffers Class

Friday 19th January— Suess Class

Year 4 visit to Natural History Museum:

Wednesday 10th January

Tapestry Workshop for Nursery

Parents:

Tuesday 9th January at 08:50-09:30 in the Primary hall