



Welcome back

We hope you had a fantastic holiday and are looking forward to 2015. 2014 was a really successful year at Ark Brunel and very well done to everyone. We are settled in to our fantastic new building and the children are achieving great things. Results in the school are the best they've ever been and the progress made by Year 6 last year was in the top 5% of schools nationally. Onwards and upwards into 2015!

Christmas Performances

A big well done to children and staff for this year's performances: A Christmas Carol and Beauty & the Beast. As usual, children and staff rose to the challenge and put on memorable performances. A huge well done to all involved.

Parent Conferences next week

We look forward to seeing all parents/caregivers at our Spring Term Parent Conferences next week. You should have received a timetable and made an appointment by now. If not, please see your child's class teacher to do so. It's a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far and to discuss next steps in order to help him/her to make the maximum possible progress in the term ahead.

Trip to Thames Explorer Trust

Warwick and Oxford classes are visiting the Thames Explorer Trust next Monday as part of their project on rivers. We look forward to hearing all about what they learned. We hope to see pictures soon on our....

Facebook

We are pleased to announce that our Facebook page is now up and running. We'll be using this as a way to keep parents up-to-date with all of the great things that are going on at Brunel. Since we launched recently, we've already had lots of engagement from parents and we're thrilled that so many of you are enjoying the page. We'll include news, pictures and anything else that we think you'd like to know about. Please keep checking in to see what's going on. Thanks for all of your comments, likes and reviews.

Assembly theme for Spring 1

This term, we will be talking to the children about the British values of tolerance, democracy, rule of law,

individual liberty and mutual respect. These are values that we hold as a school and we will be discussing with the children why these things are important for us a school and for society as a whole. We'll also be talking about how we already show these values and how we could develop them even further in the future.

Names in uniforms

Please ensure your child's name is clearly marked in their school uniforms. Children are not always the most careful when it comes to looking after their uniforms and items do get lost. If names have been written in pen, please redo them from time to time as these do fade into an illegible blur, and we can only return items if we can see who they belong to.

Parent Workshops

We've been really pleased that so many of you have been taking advantage of the increased opportunities to get involved in school life this year. Lots of parents have been attending the programme of parent workshops that we have been running on Friday mornings. Our next one is on Friday 23rd January at 9:10 in the small hall and will be focussing on Phonics. This will really help you to support your children at home with reading so please come along and get advice from the teachers.

Attendance

There was good and bad in last term's attendance. On the plus side we had a record number of children with 100% attendance during autumn term; however, the attendance overall and throughout the school is not good enough. The Early Years classes had the lowest attendance, but we would ask all parents to make an extra effort to ensure the children attend regularly over the coming terms. Punctuality also continues to be of concern. We see the same children arriving late on an almost daily basis. These are primary aged children, and even if they are old enough to come to school on their own, as their parents it is your responsibility to make sure they arrive on time. The children are expected to be in the playground for 8:55am so they are there waiting to start school at 9am. Children who regularly miss the first part of their lesson do fall behind their classmates, and have to work even harder to try and keep up. If *you* are not getting your child to school on time, this *will* have an effect their learning.