



Ark Brunel Primary Academy

Newsletter



13th January 2023

Our Heart Values



Honesty



Enthusiasm



Ambition



Resilience



Thought

Dear Ark Brunel Community,

Does anybody else feel as if we were never away? With the winter break very much a memory in the rear-view mirror, we are already motoring away with the Spring term.

Before I go any further this week, I wish to say a happy welcome to some children and families who weren't with us last week and to some brand-new members of our community too!

On Wednesday I met with the Parent View group for a tea and an update on school priorities. I also asked for parent views on next year's inset sessions. Thank you to all parents who came and offered their points of view and support. The term dates for 2023/24 will be published on our website at the end of January. On the subject of term dates, please also note that the DfE have confirmed that King Charles III's coronation, on the 8th May 2023, will be a public holiday and therefore the school will close as directed.

Class assemblies returned this Thursday and are very much like double decker buses... both Turing and Buss class performed to parents. Feedback has been incredibly positive - as you would expect. Congratulations to all the children involved from both classes. Next week... no class assembly (I said they were like buses), however the following week (Thursday 26th) Wilberforce class take to the stage. We look forward to that.

We had some external visitors this week, with a visit for both Phonics and Maths Mastery. We are pleased to welcome our colleagues from these areas as they help us to continue to improve the daily diet for our children. Feedback has been incredibly positive and reassuring for our team to know that all efforts made are paying dividends. Well done, everyone!

As some of you know, our nursery has been closed since the summer term due to a leak. Sadly, we have now had to close one of our Year 6 classrooms for the same reason. We have contacted our builders and have been promised that the leak will be rectified as soon as possible. Therefore, we hope to have Year 6 back in their correct learning space very shortly. As for nursery, we have been told that the new floor will be complete by half term. Consequently, the plan is for all classes to return to their correct learning spaces in Spring 2. We will keep you all informed as these remedial works are carried out.

Remaining with improvements, we also hope to share a start date for when the improvements to our two playgrounds will take place too. In short, plans have been approved and funding received. We are just awaiting a start date. Again, we will keep you informed when we know more.

In other news, we have heard from Terry, from Sacred Heart Church, who thanks you all for your winter food donations. More from him later in the newsletter.

Today, you should receive your curriculum letters from your year group teams. Do engage with these letters and talk to your children about the exciting learning planned over the next few weeks.

Finally, I wish you all a lovely weekend. See you all on Monday.

Mr Scott

In The Spotlight



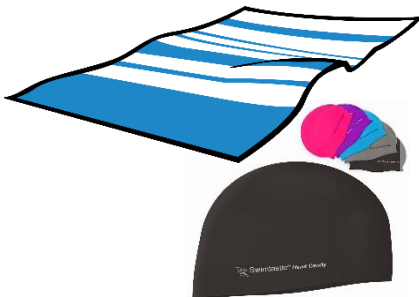
My name is Miss Moses, I am the class teacher in Y5 Shackleton. I joined Ark Brunel in September, and this is my first year as a qualified teacher. I previously worked as a teaching assistant, and enjoyed working with kids so much that I decided to train as a teacher. Getting to know the children in my class (and their parents when we met at the parent/teacher conferences) has been great and I've really enjoyed my first full term as their teacher. Now I'm looking forward to the rest of the year.

As part of their experience, Year 2 created a time capsule, which they will be burying in the school garden. The children wrote about themselves and put their writing, along with some objects that have been important to them, so far, in the capsule.

Hopefully, someone in the future will dig this capsule up and discover more about us!



Reminder



Just a reminder to all Year 3 parents that swimming is a part of the National Curriculum and is compulsory, every week. On a Friday, all Y3 children should bring their swimming costume, a towel and a swimming cap to school. Thank you.

Mid-Year Reports

This year, we are introducing a mid-year report for parents. The report will be brief and will summarise the following:

- Attendance for year so far
- A summary of attainment in reading, writing and maths for end of summer 2022, end of autumn 2022, a target to aim for at the end of the current academic year and a next step in each core subject (see example below). You will see that attainment is graded as working towards, working at, and working above age-related expectations. You may also see a 'plus' symbol, this indicates that the child is attaining at the higher end of that attainment band. This data is based on our end of term assessments.
- A brief summary of the child's general performance in class, including behaviour and demonstration of school values.

Subject	Sum 22	Aut 22	End of year Target	Next Step
Reading	ARE	ARE	ARE+	Use evidence directly from the text when answering questions.
Writing	WTS	ARE	ARE	Proofread your own writing for basic punctuation at end of each written piece and look out for errors. .
Maths	ARE	ARE	ARE	Break down complex problems into smaller chunks <u>in order to solve</u>

CODES

WTS Working below age-related expectations

ARE Working at age-related expectations

GDS Working above age-related expectations

We hope that this report will give parents a fuller picture of how their child is getting on at school. There will be no parent conferences this term but, as always, if you need to talk to us about your child's learning or any other matter, we will always make time to speak to you.



Sacred Heart Church

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Parish Priest: Fr. Terry Murray OMI.
E-mail: kilburn@rcdow.org.uk

***For everyone who donated
to our Christmas foodbank
collection***

Dear James,

I am writing to express my gratitude to all the pupils and parents at Ark Brunel School for their very kind donations to the foodbank here at Sacred Heart Church. It was amazing to see how generous you all were.

Over the Christmas period we were able to assist 270 families from all walks of life and different faiths with the basic necessities of life.

I know I speak for all those who benefited from your kindness when I say thank you so much.

Thanks very much,

Fr Terry Murray



This week's Value Certificates go to:	
CARPENTER	Aysam, Tyler
DARWIN	Sofia, Zayaan
FARADAY	Jannat, Adam
FRY	Jorge, Anita
JENNER	Zyann, Marshall
JOHNSON	Eyad, Louise
NEWTON	Amin, Omar
PANKHURST	Ahmed, Matin
SEACOLE	Nathalia, Ayva
SHACKLETON	Aniya, Nisa
WILBERFORCE	Tala, Zahra I.
WOLLSTONECRAFT	Noah, Eysan

This week's Mathletes are:	
FARADAY	Lincoln
FRY	Tia
JENNER	Hajar
JOHNSON	Sinatra
NEWTON	Mariam
PANKHURST	Mohamed
SEACOLE	Ayva
SHACKLETON	Ibrahim
WILBERFORCE	Isabella
WOLLSTONECRAFT	Bahia



Congratulations to this week's winning Class:

Pankhurst

Total School Points: **13,275**

Which class will win next week?

The attendance shown below covers our 1st week of Spring term (4th–6th Jan). As you can see, several of our classes have done very well, and Jenner class hit the jackpot with a perfect 100%.

Buss	85.96%
Carpenter	93.33%
Darwin	99.43%
Faraday	87.5%
Fry	87.72%
Jenner	100%
Johnson	77.54%
Newton	91.23%
Pankhurst	97.92%
Seacole	98.41%
Shackleton	96.83%
Wilberforce	80.49%
Wollstonecraft	91.50%



Tuesday 17th January

- Stay & Play - Nursery & Reception parents, 8:45 - 9:15am

Wednesday 18th January

- EYFS Parent Workshop – Healthy Eating, 9am

Friday 20th January

- Rec. Carpenter Class begin weekly Forest School sessions (please ensure your child brings wellies in a bag)

Monday 23rd January

- Y5 trip to Science Museum

Tuesday 24th January

- Stay & Play – Nursery & Reception parents, 8:45-9:15am
- Open Classrooms – all parents, 9-10am

Wednesday 25th January

- All Parent Workshop – Housing, 9am

Thursday 26th January

- Wilberforce Class Assembly, 9am

Please see below for this week's 'What Parents Need to Know About' from National Online Safety, and other community notices

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WORLD OF WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation... but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, *Dragonflight*, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

ALWAYS ONLINE

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £50.

IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like its genre contemporary *Final Fantasy XIV*, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

VOICE AND TEXT CHAT

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite "end" – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MANAGE PLAYTIME

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

MAKE IT A REWARD

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them "quests") like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively "pays" for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

REMEMBER THE AGE RATING

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at Technology and entertainment website Dailymail and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his articles have also been published on information sites including *Just and Tech* and *Games*, among others.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2011/aug/23/world-of-warcraft-12-age-rating> | <https://worldofwarcraft.com/en-us/start>



A Special approach to Making it REAL

Raising Early Achievement in Literacy

- Have you got a child under 5 years old?
- Do you think they may have a special need or disability?
- Would you like to receive a special treasure chest of fun activities to support their learning and development?

Come and join our fun Workshop

When? This will be a zoom session

Tuesday 31st January 10.00 am – 11.30 am

OR

Tuesday 7th February 7.00 pm – 8.30pm

To book a place please scan here or
contact: Amy.Fleming@rbkc.gov.uk

