



Ark Brunel Primary Academy Newsletter



11th November 2022

Dear Ark Brunel Community,

Our
Heart
Values



Honesty



Enthusiasm



Ambition



Resilience



Thought

I like winning. I always have. Until very recently, I played competitive football and had done for nearly twenty years. Both team and individual accolades: I won a lot of them. (A lot!) I carried this winning mentality into teaching too. I always wanted my class to have the best outcomes, make the most progress and win at all sports day events too. I can't help it. I like winning.

Now that you know that about me, I want you to imagine how I felt when I was presented with the Ark network's attendance data and found that my school – correction, *our* school – was in last place. Last! Bottom of the pile. Firmly, sat in the relegation zone.

There are lots of things that are already wonderful about our school and there are lots more things that we are working hard to improve. For example, even this week, we have made alterations to make lunch time play safer for all pupils. This is an example of something that we can control in school and actively and immediately improve. Attendance is not one of those things. Improved attendance requires all parties to share the same beliefs and values.

On 16th December 1991, the UK ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 28 of the UNCRC states '*every child has the right to an education*'. UK government, and MATs like Ark, provide children with schools, and teachers work in those schools, preparing outstanding learning for children. So, what's missing? Well, that would be the children.

We closed this week by celebrating our first 'Ark Moment' of the academic year. This time, assembling and pausing to reflect on Remembrance Day and the importance of the poppy. We begin next week (anti-bullying week) by inviting all our community to wear odd socks for the day - the more elaborate, the better! Events such as these are special and provide lasting memories for the children. You can help them to create these lasting memories by being in school every day. And let's be honest, no one likes missing out.

Considering all the above, I cannot emphasise enough how much it would please me to take our school to the top of all leader boards, including attendance. Help me to help Brunel become a winner by arriving at school, every day, on time. If we do this, our progress and attainment data will soar too. I can promise you that. With all that said, the only thing left to say is that I'll see you out there on Monday morning!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mr Scott

Remembrance Day



These wreaths were made by children in EYFS, Y1, Y2 and Y3

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

In The Spotlight



Hello! We are Rebecca, Michelle and Melanie and we are Play Activity Workers. You can find us on the playground every day, organising and leading positive play through fun, competitive games.

In our free time, Rebecca likes going out into town to enjoy music and a good Chinese meal. Visiting museums and new exhibitions are Michelle's favourite pastime. Melanie owns 4 horses and spends her weekends horse riding her favourite horse 'William'.

If you have any suggestions of fun games we could play. please give us a shout!

Overall attendance for last week was 91.83%. Please help us to improve this low level by making sure that your child comes to school EVERY day – we are aiming to reach 96% attendance and can only achieve this if you support us.

Buss	88.1%
Carpenter	92.5%
Darwin	93.3%
Faraday	85%
Fry	90.9%
Jenner	98%
Johnson	93.9%
Newton	90.5%
Pankhurst	92.3%
Seacole	90%
Shackleton	80.9%
Wilberforce	95.1%
Wollstonecraft	95.5%



Monday 14th Nov:

- Odd Socks Day
- Y6 Wilberforce – Into Uni

Tuesday 15th Nov:

- Y6 Wilberforce – Into Uni

Wednesday 16th Nov:

- S&L Parent Workshop – DLD
- Y6 Wilberforce – Into Uni

Thursday 17th Nov:

- Y4 Pankhurst – Class Assembly
- Y6 Wilberforce – Into Uni
- Children in Need/Wellbeing Day (to be confirmed)

Friday 18th Nov:

- **INSET day – school closed for staff training**

Monday 21st Nov:

- Y6 Wollstonecraft – Into Uni

Tuesday 22nd Nov:

- Y6 Wollstonecraft – Into Uni

Wednesday 23rd Nov:

- All Parent Workshop – Supporting Parents
- Y4 Newton & Pankhurst – Science Museum trip
- Y6 Wollstonecraft – Into Uni

Thursday 24th Nov:

- Y3 Jenner – Class Assembly
- Y6 Wollstonecraft – Into Uni

Friday 25th Nov:

- Y6 Wilberforce & Wollstonecraft – Into Uni Graduation

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING



Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, lumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 226 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent "fighting their battles for them". In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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