



Mid-Term Update

It's been a busy few weeks here at Swift and despite the unseasonably mild weather, make no mistake – autumn term is in full swing. It's early October, and by now the rhythm of our days is carving the flow of our weeks. It has been a pleasure meeting the families and staff at Ark Swift; thank you for making me feel so welcome and affording me the time to get to know you and how your school operates. **Overall, it has been a calm and focused start to the new school year and it has been pleasing to receive comments from parents and visitors about the improved sense of calm around the school.**

Congratulations to the newly elected **Year 6 house captains:**

Owls	Hawks	Eagles	Falcons	Kestrels
Yasin	Lilli	Juliana	Jericho	Amalia

All children have now been assigned to houses and are busy collecting house points. Ask your child to tell you which house they're in and you'll be able to keep track of the house point leader board via our regular newsletters. The house cup will be presented in our weekly celebration assemblies. We are waiting for house shields to be designed and look forward to sharing these with you in due course.

I thought it would be helpful to draw your attention to some upcoming dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 10th October

14:45 Nursery Tea Party

All Nursery parents have been invited and are most welcome

Thursday 11th October

14:15 Reception Tea Party

All Reception parents have been invited and are most welcome

Monday 15th October

15:30-18:00 Parents' Evening*

Tuesday 16th October

9:00 Phonics workshop for Year 1 parents in Top Hall

15:30-18:00 Parents' Evening*

** These meetings are an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher, discuss their progress and how they are working towards their targets. You will also be able to ask any questions you may currently have about your child's learning. It is therefore very important that you make every effort to attend an appointment so that we can work in partnership to ensure the best for your child. You will receive an appointment time from Jessica in the school office. Where you have children in more than one year group, appointment times will be arranged to be as convenient as possible.*

Wednesday 17th October

8.45-9.15 Sharing learning session in Nursery, Year R, 1 & 2

If you have a child in these year groups you're welcome to come into class with your child and have a look at some of their learning from the last few weeks

Thursday 18th October

8.45-9.15 Sharing learning session in Years 3-6

If you have a child in these year groups you're welcome to come into class with your child and have a look at some of their learning from the last few weeks

Friday 19th October

We will be taking part in **Wear Red Day**

Wear Red Day is all about spreading the message to **'show racism the red card'**. On this day, children can come to school in **non-uniform and preferably wearing something red**. It would be great to raise some money for the work of this important organization and your child can hand this to their teacher in the morning - £1 is a suggested donation. Education is the key to challenging racism in society. By working with the next generation in schools, we can have a big impact towards creating a better world in the future. If you are interested, you can find full details of **Wear Red Day** and links to their work at www.theredcard.org

15:30 school closes for October half-term

Tuesday 30th October

8:40 school re-opens for Autumn Term 2nd half

Secondary Applications

Year 6 parents please note that the deadline for secondary admissions is **31st October**.

Please visit this page of the Hammersmith and Fulham website for full details:

<http://arkatwoodprimary.org/admissions/secondary-transfer>

The e-admissions website is located here:

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>

If you require any help with secondary applications including making your online application, please speak to the school office who will book you a time to see Shineade or Katie from the Pastoral Support Team.

School Gates

Please can we request that parents keep the pavement outside the school gates as clear as possible for other pedestrians. I appreciate that space is tight, but it will make a big difference to the community if we can do this. In addition, can I remind parents that smoking is not permitted immediately outside the school gates. Thank you for your cooperation.

Homework Help at Shepherds Bush Library

Homework Help (**Maths and English**) is available at Shepherds Bush Library on:

Saturday from 10.00-11.00am (for children aged 7-11)

In addition, there is **Maths** Homework Help on:

Monday from 4:00-6:00pm

And **English** Homework Help on:

Wednesday from 4:00-6:00pm

For further details please contact:

Mandy Charles

Customer Service Manager (Shepherds Bush Library)

020 8753 3958

mandy.charles@lbhf.gov.uk

After School Provision

We are currently looking at options for providing after school childcare from 3:30-5:30pm. This would be run by an outside company that would provide a fun, safe play environment for children that will support each child to learn and develop socially, physically, intellectually, creatively and emotionally. Opportunities would be inclusive and would deliver an array of sports, arts and crafts, dance, games, cooking, and free play opportunities.

A 2-hour session would cost £10 with a discount of 20% for any siblings of the first child. The cost would be inclusive of a light tea and all activities. This compares very favourably with other childcare options.

In order to progress discussions and see if it would be viable (we'd probably need 20 children per day) please let the school office know so they can add you to a list of interest – no commitment needed at this stage!

Packed Lunches

We've noticed an increasing amount of unhealthy food in packed lunches. Useful advice on providing a healthy packed lunch for your child can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

<http://childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/wp/childrens-food-trust/parents/your-childs-food-at-school/packed-lunches/packed-lunch-information/>

