



Message from Mr Upfield

What a half-term this has been! Whilst it remains hard to believe that we found ourselves catapulted back into a national lockdown, I am warmed by the support and positivity of the Ark Swift community. I am a firm believer that we can only come through this by working together and I have seen nothing but collaboration between school and our families. For this I am indebted. Thank you.

I am proud of our staff who have stepped up to the challenges of delivering remote lessons to our children every day and achieving in excess of 90% attendance. The latter is a tribute to you as families for recognising the absolute importance of education in your child's future. And for our school attenders – well, they have adapted swiftly to the return of small bubble settings. They enjoy access to all the remote lessons that their peers have meaning the offer is as equitable as possible for all. Whatever is achieved now, however modest, will pay dividends when life returns to a semblance of normality. Please continue to engage in the home learning that is organised next half-term and encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible.

During the past six weeks there have been:

- 12,067 pieces of work/activities added to Seesaw
- 9,978 comments made on your children's learning
- 8,420 'likes' of children's work

In the current climate, with museums, bookshops, sports facilities and art galleries closed, what better excuse is there than to venture to one of London's many parks or gardens to expend energy? Weather permitting, this half-term, try to engineer a way for your child to exercise, be it linked to imaginative play or a competitive game that necessitates running around. Even going for a long walk will have a positive impact. Stepping away from remote learning and especially from using a computer device should be a priority.

With warmest regards, and deepest gratitude to all,

Daniel Upfield
Principal

Half-Term

Our final day of this half-term is today: Thursday 11th February

Remote learning will be set for Friday 12th February, but teachers will not be online to respond to it as they will be in training sessions all day. In addition, there will be no daily class Teams catch-up meetings tomorrow.

Remote learning and the Community Classroom will start again on Monday 22nd February. I also hope to be able to update you at the beginning of next half-term about plans for re-opening. At this stage, the only information we have is that the government hopes to start reopening English schools from 8th March, depending on factors including the rate of vaccination amongst priority groups.

Ark Sing Into Spring Competition

ARK MUSIC PRESENTS

SING INTO SPRING: STAY AT HOME SING-OFF EDITION!

Calling all hairbrush karaoke stars and shower singers!

This term we want to join together and hear you singing or rapping your favourite tunes - all while in with a chance of winning a prize!

All entries will be submitted to a judging panel of music industry professionals, and the winners will be revealed at the Sing into Spring Awards!

Wednesday 31st March at 1:00pm
YouTube Live



How do I enter?

Ask your parent / guardian or teacher to send us a video or voice clip of you singing or rapping your favourite song to:

E-mail: carys.evans@arkonline.org

WhatsApp: 07535271558

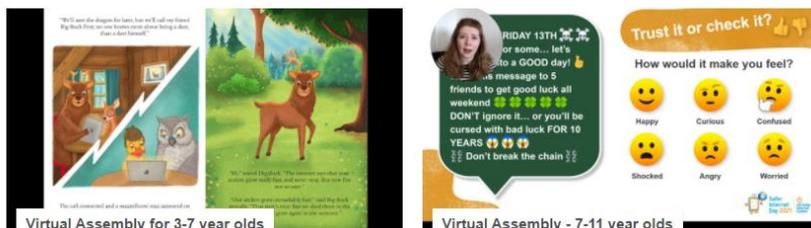
Deadline: Friday 12th March



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day was on the 9th of February 2021 and was celebrated in the UK with the theme: **An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**

With the shift to remote learning, online safety is more important than ever. The UK Safer Internet Centre has some fantastic resources for parents and carers and can be accessed [here](#)



Virtual assemblies for Safer Internet Day were uploaded to Seesaw. Has your child watched these? They are well produced and worth watching. As endorsed by Sonja in Year 6: *Hello, I think it is vital everybody sees this video and pays attention to it. It definitely has some useful information that you CAN trust. I watched it with my parents, and we talk a lot about stuff like this. We are a safe house. :)*

Photos from this Week

Year 5 had great fun erupting volcanoes this week and Year 6 taking part in a WW1 treasure hunt and stretcher races!

