



Ark Greenwiche Free School

Weekly Parent Bulletin

Friday 23rd October 2020

*“There is sufficient evidence that this school could now be judged **OUTSTANDING**”*

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term of the academic year has certainly brought some new challenges, but I am extremely proud of the way our school community has continued with business as usual. In fact, it would be accurate to say that standards have never been higher.

We have explored a range of strategies to bring parents into the conversation. These have included phone calls home, the home school commitment and great AGFS parent documents, positive postcards, the weekly parent bulletin and efforts to ensure the loop is closed on all parental communications. Parents promote our firm but fair approach to discipline which helps to create a highly effective learning environment for our scholars.

I would like to pay tribute to our amazing teachers who have worked tirelessly this half term to ensure all our scholars continue to receive a high quality education no matter what the world throws at us. Their flexibility around remote learning and willingness to adapt and find solutions is unparalleled.

I would also like to thank you, our parents and carers, for collectively upholding and promoting the schools values and approach to education. Working together, we are well placed to ensure each and every one of our young people exceed all expectations.

I wish you a safe and restful half term and look forward to seeing scholars again on **Monday 2nd November, arrival between 7:45-8:20.**

Mr Spiers, Headteacher

Key Upcoming Dates

Monday 26th– Friday 30th October, Half Term Break , please check with your child what independent learning they need to complete over half-term break.

Details for our return to school will be sent on October 27th at 6:00pm

Black History Month Concert– Online!

Black History Month usually includes a wonderful in-person concert from our scholars, we couldn't let Covid stop us from celebrating such a rich and diverse culture. Please join us in watching the incredible work of our scholars, singing, dancing and performing. Watch our concert online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljdme8r8r78>.

Drop Down Days 1 & 2

During the final two days of term this week (Thursday and Friday the 22nd and 23rd October), our scholars went off time table and participated in workshops and activities where the focus was on equality and diversity.

Scholars looked at these topics from a range of perspectives. We encourage you to speak with your child about these events, and how diversity and equality plays a role in their everyday lives.



On Thursday the 22nd, scholars rotating through various activities including Art, where they were inspired by the work of multimedia artist and photographer, Lorna Simpson. Ms Simpson is known for her art that celebrates the beauty of black women's hair.



In performing arts, our scholars learned about body percussion and created dance routines set to the music of Bob Marley, probably the world's most famous reggae musician.



In English, scholars reflected on powerful works written by Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, Michelle Obama and others who helped inspire their own powerful poetry. Funmi Ogundokun, y10, read her own work to the whole of her year group during DDD 2.





Our year 10s learned about Hooke's law in Science, and practiced their interviewing, public speaking and writing skills with the help of professionals from recruitment, technology and finance. Scholars also met with two Ivy League alumnae who gave tips on writing personal statements and how to focus on your GCSE and future A-levels. Ki'Annah Ekinu, 10H, was our mock interview winner, and she came away with a Kindle as a prize.



Our year 7s had a day of team building activities, and our year 8s had a day of investigation with STEAM.



Our year 9s were busy solving a crime today, studying forensics with the Science Department.



Parking Enforcement

The issue of parents and carers parking, dropping off, and picking up children from the entrance/exit of the Royal Herbert Pavilion building parallel with the school has been raised again from the Pavilion's management and a Greenwich MP. We kindly ask that you respect our neighbours and do not drop off or pick up in these areas, as they are private property. Please find an alternative location to do so. Thank you for your cooperation. Further guidance on visiting AGFS is here: <https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/sites/default/files/Advanced%20Visitor%20information%20-%20Getting%20to%20AGFS%20o.pdf>



Weekly Assembly Reminder

Each week scholars have two assemblies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Please note scholars may return 5-10 mins later on assembly days, especially during rewards assembly, as we are celebrating your child's success! Please see the schedule of assemblies below:

Assembly	AM	PM
Monday	Y7	Y11
Tuesday	Y8	Y10
Wednesday	Y9	Y7
Thursday	Y10	Y8
Friday	Y11	Y9

Dismissal is from 4:00-4:30pm Monday -Wednesday and 3:00-3:30pm

Congratulations to the 'Students of the Week' for showing their commitment to our school values!



1	Tilly Hart-Battersby, 7
2	Charlie Stevens, 7
1	Henry Phipps, 8
2	Lucy Snow, 8
1	Isabelle Jones, 9
2	Papa Ameyaw, 9
1	Funmi Ogundokun, 10
2	Taofikq Bello, 10
1	Immanuel Jombla, 11
2	Asher Clarke, 11



School Work During Absence

There may be occasions this term when a child is well enough to complete school work but, due to restrictions and advice linked to Covid-19, it is not advisable for them to attend school. In these cases, scholars must work independently so that they do not fall behind. Thanks to significant improvements nationally in the quality of remote provision, scholars can be supported with the topics they are studying in school through the *Oak National Academy*, *Greenshaw Learning Trust Online Curriculum*, *Seneca Learning* and *BBC Bitesize*.

If scholars can work at home, they should go to <https://arkgreenwichfreeschool.org/news/education-during-isolation> and download a 'work from home diary'. They should then follow their timetable, using the online platforms and the topic list to guide their learning. Scholars should list the work they have done for each subject on the diary and then parents should countersign this to check it has been completed. When scholars are well enough to return to school, they should present the work from home diary to their form tutor, who will sign it and store it. Golden tickets will be issued to scholars who show tenacity and endeavour while working from home.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please contact Mr MacPherson (dmacpherson@arkgreenwich.org) in the first instance.

What to Do With Covid-19 Scenarios

We want our families to know what to do if they come into a scenario where they confront Covid-19. Please read below for such scenarios. To get a corona virus test visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. To inform the school always call reception or email info@arkgreenwich.org.

What to do if...	Action needed...	Return to School When...
...my child has COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a COVID-19 test - Inform school immediately about the test result 	...the test comes back negative.
...my child tests positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Agree an earliest date for possible return. (Min 14 Days) - Self-isolate the whole household 	...they complete 14 days (min) isolation and feel well enough to attend.
...my child tests negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact school to inform us - Discuss when your child can come back (same/next day) 	...the test comes back negative or your child is well enough to return.
... my child is ill with symptoms not linked to COVID-19 (runny nose and/or sore throat).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Check temperature and for symptoms of COVID-19 - If no COVID-19 symptoms, agree an earliest date for possible return 	...they feel better and have no signs of illness for 48 hours
...someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Household member to get a COVID-19 test - Inform school immediately about the test result 	...the child has completed 14 days quarantine.
..NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of someone with symptoms or confirmed COVID19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us -The student and household member must self - Isolate for 14 days 	...the child has completed 14 days quarantine.

COVID-19 Symptoms

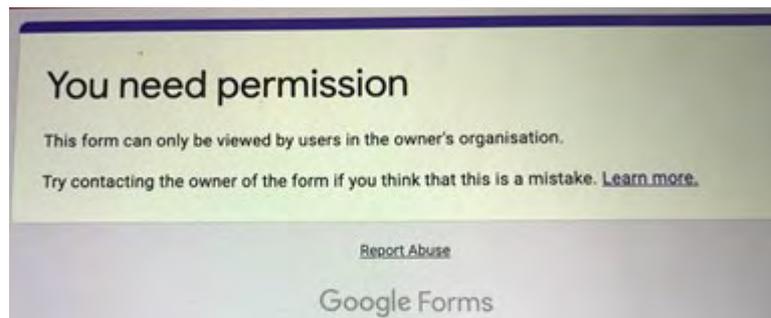
The symptoms of Covid-19 include a high temperature, persistent new dry cough and loss of smell or taste. Scholars should isolate if they have any or only these symptoms. Seek assistance from 111 if needed. Other symptoms reported are not classed to require isolating or quarantining. If a member of your household has been asked to isolate due to coming into contact with a positive case—unless your child is showing symptoms themselves they must still come to school. [The most recent Government Guidance for parents is available via this link.](#)

Scholar Independent Learning

Scholars each have stickers in their planners which details all their user and log in details for our Homework platforms.

Google Forms

Scholars are using Google forms to complete important prerequisite tests as part of their independent learning. Some scholars have received the below error message when they click on the link to the tests:



This is being caused by someone else being logged into Google Chrome.

Scholars and parents should always use Chrome when accessing SMHW, and to press this link if they come across this issue: <https://accounts.google.com/logout>

This will sign whoever is logged into Chrome out.

Students will then need to log into Chrome, by pressing this link:

<https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=chromiumsync>

Scholars should log into Chrome using their school email address and password. This info is on the sticker in their planner.

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FREE Virtual Post 16 Careers Fair— Y11 Students

Just because you can't attend a Careers Fair in person this autumn doesn't mean you have to miss out on exploring all your post-18 options!

Join on Wednesday 4th November from 12pm - 6pm for the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair.

The event will feature over 80 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers for an incredible event designed to support you from the safety of school or home. Universities will include Russell Group, Red Brick, Modern and Specialist institutions.

For more information about the event, [click here to open it in your browser](#). Students will need to register themselves for the event, to visit here <https://ukunisearch-london.vfairs.com/>

School Communications

Don't miss out on communications coming from AGFS! All school emails are saved [here](#). To make sure you never miss a notification, sign up to our free Xpressions App. More details are attached to this bulletin. Please note, text replies to school messages go unmonitored. Please communication with the school via the normal channels at 02083193692 or at info@arkgreenwich.org. Also follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter at:



@ArkGreenwich



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