



The Ark Federation

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 10
January 2024



Happy New Year

Welcome back to a new year at the Ark schools. We hope that you had an enjoyable festive season and that 2024 has started well for you all. Both of our schools start the new year with a continued drive to improve standards across the board. Outcomes at Key Stage 2 have been too low for the last few years, and we are determined that 2024 is the year that this changes.

Peterhouse OFSTED Success

Just before Christmas, Peterhouse was visited by OFSTED for a routine inspection. Previously, the school had been graded as good in 2018.

We are thrilled to be able to announce that the school remains GOOD and that it has received a very positive report .

You can read the full report by clicking [HERE](#)

Highlights include:

'Pupils learn in a calm and purposeful environment. At social times, they play well together. There is mutual respect. Pupils feel safe in school. Unkind language is not something that they hear often. Pupils are confident that if they are worried, they can talk to a trusted adult. They speak highly of the school's pastoral team.'

'There is a rigorous approach to the teaching of early reading in the school. Nursery children learn to listen closely, which helps them to learn the sounds they need to blend later on. They enjoy listening to carefully chosen rhymes and stories. Staff expertly deliver the school's chosen phonics programme. They identify quickly when children and pupils in key stage 1 struggle with reading.'

'The identification of the needs of pupils is precise. Staff know pupils exceptionally well. As a result, there is effective support in place for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).'

The report gave one improvement point -

'In some subjects, the delivery of the curriculum does not always enable all pupils to retain important knowledge in the long term. Consequently, some pupils do not progress well in these subjects. The school should review the curriculum, making sure that pupils have opportunities to revisit key learning, thus enabling pupils to recall more over time.'



Moorlands News

He's Behind You!

On the 8th January, the children at Moorlands were treated to a wonderful pantomime production from M&M productions. The super performance of Snow White was for all year groups, and brought everyone together for a bit of classic panto fun at the start of the new year. Some of the staff were 'lucky' enough to be roped in by the production team and found themselves centre stage!

The Ark pantos are an annual fixture at both schools and are fully funded by the Pupil Premium funding that the school receives.



Attendance

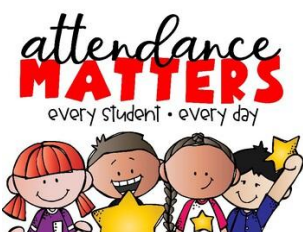
This term we will be focusing on pupil punctuality. Our Academy day starts for children in Reception - Year 6 at 08.40am.

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.

Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent 2 weeks every year.

Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

19 days lost a year through being late = 90% attendance





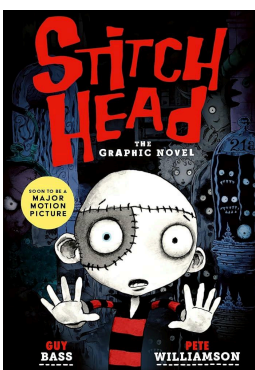
School Dog

Check out the School Dog Blog: <http://theark.dneat.org/school-dog/>

Lily has been away from school for a little while, but she is now back. We're taking a week or two to get her used to being in once again and then she will resume normal duties!

Parent Support

Just One Norfolk is a one stop shop for parents in Norfolk. You can find help and support on a number of issues - pregnancy, early years, childhood illnesses, child development, speech and language, healthy lifestyles and school issues. We encourage all parents to make note of the web address and telephone number.



Mr Biddle Recommends

Graphic novels have exploded in popularity over the past few years and are now one of the most popular types of book for young readers. There are some fantastic ones being published over the next couple of months. Below are just a couple that are guaranteed to be popular with children (and parents).

Stitch Head by Guy Bass and Pete Williamson

Stitch Head was originally published as a story about six years ago, but the fact that it's now coming out as a graphic novel in February is really exciting. Stitch Head, a boy made from spare parts, has a heart of gold and is always willing to help the other monsters who live in the castle with him. Unfortunately, things don't always go to plan. Funny but also extremely emotional. Ideal for Years 3 and 4.



The Secret of the Ravens by Joanna Cacao

Twins Elliott and Liza only have each other. Their parents are gone, they've lost their home and they have to search through an abandoned scrap heap for things to sell so they can survive. When Liza finds herself mysteriously poisoned, Elliott is caught in a desperate race to find the cure and save her life. An absolutely thrilling story, with wonderful lead characters, that will appeal to children in Years 5 and 6.



Norwich Science Festival

Check out the Norwich Science Festival website::

<https://norwichsciencefestival.co.uk/>

'To The Moon and Back' by Ben Langley is a new play presented by the SAW Trust and Norwich Science Festival and supported by the People's Postcode Trust, a grant giving charity funded entirely by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Norwich Science Festival runs in half term 17-24th February, with a jam-packed programme of talks, shows, workshops, performances and much more for everybody to enjoy. With more than 200 events, including a range of free and affordable activities, there is something for everyone – both children and adults.

Visitors to Norwich Science Festival can explore the wonders of the universe, discover cutting edge research, and meet local scientists whose work is changing the world. Tickets are now on sale for all the Festival events, which can be found in the brochure online at norwichsciencefestival.co.uk.



Shout Outs

All of the Peterhouse staff for their successful OFSTED inspection

Mrs James - The parent feedback from both nurseries is always so positive - well done!

Mr Garthwaite - Thank you for working during the Christmas holiday to oversee the installation of Peterhouse's new broadband.

Miss Hall - Thank you for arranging Science workshops for both schools as part of the Norwich Science Festival

NORWICH SCIENCE FESTIVAL



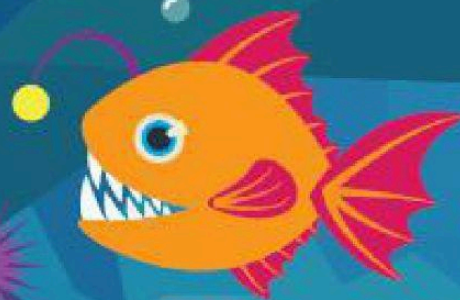
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SAT 17-SAT 24 FEB



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