

8/2/23

Weekly Parent Update

Dear parents/carers,

From the [Rubix Cube competition](#), to [year 7 at the Tate Modern](#) to [UK Maths Trust competitions](#), it's been half term filled with aspiration. Another first ahead this week, with 50 pupils off to Gerlitzten, Austria for our first ski trip. Whether on the slopes or not, we hope our pupils and families have a fun and restful break ahead!

Ms Ryan, Principal

Coming up
this week &
next week

- Y8 Ark Network Football Championships – Thursday 9th February
- Altruism Group Visit to Grasvenor Infant School visit 2 – Thursday 9th February
- Ski Trip to Gerlitzten, Austria Friday 10th February – Friday 17th February (50 pupils)
- Half Term break Monday 13th- Friday 17th February
- Academic Intervention – specific pupils Monday 13th – Wednesday 15th Feb
- Monday 20th Feb – all pupils back at school

Term Dates 2023-24

Here are the [term dates agreed for 2023-24](#). You will notice we have set out as a text version and there is also a one page downloadable calendar.

Please use these dates to inform holiday booking. See below for reminders on attendance policy relating to any days absence adjacent to holidays.

Ark Network Annual Parent survey – open until Friday!

Please represent our school if you haven't already: click to complete <https://edurio.com/poll/6zBy7P>
Thank you, we appreciate your feedback.

Globe Trip update: Year 8 and Year 9

We are delighted to announce that due to a last-minute cancellation at the Globe, Year 9 will have a trip to see the Tempest on Thursday 30th March. All pupils have been issued a letter with further information and a permission slip. All pupils are expected to attend the trip and slips should be returned to form tutors by Friday 10th February.

A reminder that all of Y8 will be going to see the Tempest on 6th March. Pupils should have returned permission slips. If this has not been completed, please email permission note to info@arkpioneer.org.

Parent Forum – now Tuesday 28th Feb 6pm

We had planned for this to be on 22nd Feb but as this is now a full parents evening for Y9 (see below) we have moved it back to Tuesday 28th February at 6pm. We hope you can join us to discuss current school events, survey results and plans for next steps on minibus fundraising.

Industrial Action - critical workers parent information

This is a reminder notice from last week. We are aware that a significant number of our staff are likely to be participating in this action and we need to ascertain capacity for provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. **If you believe your child falls into the critical workers' category and you require them to be onsite learning**, please complete: <https://forms.office.com/e/krgOqbUaCy>

February Music Practiceathon – a notice from Ms Barnes...

**We hope that you are enjoying learning your musical instrument
Remember that ‘Practice makes Perfect’**

Over the next two weeks aim to practice your musical instrument TEN times...
Bring [this form](#) back and if your teacher can hear the improvement in your playing you will be awarded FIVE merits

Equipment Shop – opening at school after half term

From Thursday 24th Feb we will run a morning ‘Equipment Shop’ at school in the canteen where pupils have breakfast. Pupils can pay with their contactless card in the same way they buy food. They need to have topped up to access this. If you have any questions, please email r.shah@arkpioneer.org

Pencil, Eraser, Semi-Circular Protractors	15p
Sharpener, Circular Protractors	30p
Drywipe Marker Pen	50p
BIC4 Colour Pen	£1.50
Scientific Calculator (correct recommended model)	£7.50
Navy Tights	£2.70
ID Card replacement	£5.00
Planner replacement	£5.00
Lock replacement (Y10 lockers)	£5.00

Attendance updates – reporting absence and booking holidays

We know that attendance is critical for pupils success in school. Should your child be too unwell to be at school, please report the absence using our [Form for reporting absence](#) here, which should only take a couple of minutes to complete.

- Where a pupil is absent in the days immediately before or after a school holiday medical evidence is required to authorise the absence. Please note that in line with the approach recommended by Barnet Local Authority, we will issue Fixed Penalty Notice to a parent/carer where a holiday has been booked in term time, including any parent/carer decision to book one or more days away adjacent to half-term or end of term breaks holidays. More details are in our Attendance Policy on our website [policies page](#).
- Medical appointments should be arranged outside of the academy day. Where this is not possible, pupils are expected to miss only part of the day.

Y9 Parents Evening, GCSE Options Fayre – Reminder to book

We are looking forward to meeting Year 9 parents as part of parents evening on **Wednesday 22nd February** from 4:30pm – 8:00pm. To sign up to the event, parents can book an arrival slot [here](#).

As part of the evening, parents/carers and pupils can meet separately with subject specific and leadership staff to discuss **Year 9 Options Programme** and GCSE choices. Further information will be available on arrival.

Quick links	Curriculum Booklets & subject information	Form for reporting absence	Menu pricing, free school meals	All previous parent updates	News & pictures	School Policies
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