

Weekly Parent Update

Dear parents/carers,

We've been notified by concerning incidents in the local area, last weekend near to Mays Lane and in New Barnet. I have shared information below, please do refer to it. We have reminded pupils of the importance of going straight home after school and also of getting help from an adult nearby in any concerning situation.

Tomorrow, we will be closed due to industrial action and normal school resumes Friday morning. We apologise for any disruption this causes our families and thank you for your continuing support for our staff.

Ms Ryan, Principal

Coming up this week & next week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 3rd March, Obama's Sweet Treats (lunchtime fundraiser) - Monday 6th March, Y8 Trip to Globe Theatre - Tuesday 7th March, Y8 Easter Bake Off - Tuesday 7th March, Y8 Football Fixture v Ashmole (Home) - Wednesday 8th March, Y10 Easter Bake Off - Wednesday 8th March, Schools Club – Performance - Thursday 9th March, Y9 Easter Bake Off - Thursday 9th March, Middlesex Cross Country Championship Y7
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Industrial Action – school closed and pupil virtual work to complete tomorrow

Due to the significant number of our staff participating in this action tomorrow, Thursday 2nd March, school will be closed.

Pupils will be shared virtual work to complete on their chromebook from this term's Assessment Information Booklet.

We have some capacity onsite for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We have contacted individual parents this relates to – please contact k.rouse@arkpioneer.org today if you have any further queries on this.

We anticipate it is likely there will be further closures on 15th and 16th March. We will update parents as soon as we know the latest information closer to those dates.

Local area concerns – New Barnet & Mays Lane incidents

Yesterday, we sent an extra update to parents as we are aware of two separate incidents where pupils were intimidated and subject to theft in the New Barnet area. Specifically this is near the Sainsbury's and the New Barnet Leisure Centre. Incidents took place after school. Our NW6 Schools Police Team are aware and dealing with this, and other local schools are also aware. We have also raised our concern with the local council.

We would strongly encourage your child to avoid these areas. We do ask all pupils to **go home straight after school, so they are not in public places unsupervised** in the evening. Multiple staff support pupils getting on buses or walking to the tube safely each day. Most pupils have picked up a bus on the high road and left by 4:15pm – you will know your own child's journey time home.

There was a separate incident reported to a local school on Mays Lane regarding the weekend:

- As a primary pupil approached shops on Mays Lane, a man in a white car pulled up, opened the back door and tried to get our pupil to get into the back seat. The pupil ran into the Co-op and the

man followed them in. Finding no available staff, the child had the sense to approach a young mother with a young child and asked for help. When the man saw this, he left the store and drove off. Having spoken to the manager of the store, the parents were alarmed to hear of a similar incident which occurred with a young adult woman the previous week, and have asked me to share these details with our school community to help safeguard everyone. The police are involved and are in the process of taking witness statements.

Again we have reported this to the police. Please do get in touch if you have any further concerns about any aspect of safety or any questions via info@arkpioneer.org. We will direct it to the correct member of staff.

'Prime Energy' and 'Prime Hydration' drinks – please do not bring into school

Prime Hydration and *Prime Energy* drinks have become very popular among pupils due to marketing from the online influencers KSI and Logan Paul. Local stores such as Sainsburys in New Barnet are selling the drinks with a limit of 3 bottles per person. Prime Energy come with a caution warning to parents as it contains 200mg of caffeine and as it is an energy drink it is banned in school along with all other energy drinks such as Monster/Red Bull etc.

Prime Hydration is not banned as it is a healthier drink however, *the selling* of Prime Hydration is banned in school. Often pupils will feel pressured into paying 3 -4 times the original price of the drink in order to keep up with the trend (The drink retails for £2.50, with pupils willing to pay up £10 for it). This obviously puts a lot of financial pressure on pupils and parents so we would appreciate your support in ensuring your child does not bring Prime into school to be sold. Pupils seen selling or carrying numerous bottles of Prime will have it confiscated with parents needing to come into school to collect it.

Year 8 Globe Trip: Monday 6th March

We look forward to all pupils in Year 8 attending the trip to the Globe theatre on Monday to watch the production of *The Tempest*. All pupils should bring a packed lunch and a rain jacket. Uniform is compulsory. Pupils will arrive back at High Barnet tube station for 5:15pm / 5:30pm and will be dismissed from the station.

Chromebooks in school for Y 7,9,10: Monday 6th March

To support pupils with their assessment revision we will be having revision sessions in lesson on Monday 6th March. To help with this, pupils should bring in their Chromebook full charged and with headphones on Monday 6th March.

Menu updates – changes based on pupil survey

We have made the following changes, all based on survey feedback and the follow up 'Audience with the Chef Manager' with Pupil Council after the survey

- We have introduced a fruit salad break snack option. We purchase and prepare the fruit salad ourselves in house. Trials have been very popular. These will continue to be available every day at a cost of £1.80
- Pasta is now changed to wholewheat pasta and for all options
- We have extended our range of vegetables with every meat & vegetarian hot food option; this adjusts depending on availability of supply (in line with current national shortages)

Though supply costs have increased considerably, we have continued to keep prices the same since opening:

- Hot Meal Deal - £2.40 Hot Meal + Drink / Dessert (No cost for pupils receiving Free School Meals)
- Cold Meal Deal - £2.40 Sandwich + Drink/Dessert (No cost for pupils receiving Free School Meals)

Other pricing

- Baguettes / Wraps - £2.80
- Fruit salad – £1.80
- Sandwich / Pasta pot /Jacket pot (small meal) - £2.00
- All Drinks, Whole Fruits, Yoghurts & Desserts – 85p

Thank you – Survey and Forum feedback

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parent Forum yesterday and completed our recent survey. We'll come back on a separate email with findings and actions.

Please get in touch with any questions on info@arkpioneer.org

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