

NEWSLETTER



**ARK Blacklands
Primary Academy**

TERM 1 WEEK 1

11TH SEPTEMBER 2015

**Things that make
me smile...**



Our pupils in reception playing together with water and sand.



Welcome Back!

It was lovely to see all our pupils looking their best in their uniforms. Our new EYFS children have settled in well and are enjoying the start of their new adventure at Blacklands. Here are Koby Chapman and Aaliyah Selmes-Taylor enjoying their very first day.



Charities

Our new pupil councillors will soon be holding their first meeting this year. One of the first agenda items to be discussed is which charities we will support this academic year.

The academy is approached regularly by lots of worthy causes, asking us to support them through fund-raising events. Although we would like to support all these great causes, we also need to be mindful of asking our local community for money too often.

The pupil council will, therefore, vote to adopt one charity per term and plan appropriate fund-raising events. Watch this space for further details.

Pedestrian and vehicle traffic

We are reviewing the impact of the start and end of school day on the local community, particularly in light of our expansion project. We are aware that at the end of the school day, there are a lot of parents and children exiting the premises. We have been asked to open the larger gates by some parents during this time but we are unable to do this as we would then be encouraging pedestrians to walk straight onto a highway. The pedestrian gate has been made to fit the width of the pavements as laid by the local council.



On Monday, we have 'traffic engineers' coming to look at our access arrangements and to review current procedures. We will continue to work with the local authority on ways to improve the access to our site.

Ark Blacklands Street Party

On Wednesday 9th September 2015, pupils and staff celebrated the moment in history when Queen Elizabeth II became our longest reigning monarch. At 17.30 BST, she had reigned for 23,226 days, 16 hours and 30 minutes—surpassing the reign of her great grandmother Queen Victoria.



The children celebrated by having a picnic whilst being entertained by each other as each year group performed a song, dance or reading about one of the queen's 60 decades. Children in early Years led a terrific parade of crowns.

Attending the street party was the Queen's representative, the Lord Lieutenant in full uniform. He ate with the children and talked to them about why this was such an important event (and also why he carried a sword!). Councillors from our local wards also attended and commented on the children's superb behaviour.



Clubs and Enrichment Activities

We have now published the great range of before and after school clubs and activities on our website. A copy has also been sent out to all parents who have signed up for emails through ParentPay. Please check out what is on offer on our website, using the 'About Us' link.

Key Dates

All key dates for parents will now appear on the website calendar.

Please check it regularly for updates.