



Newsletter

May 2024

Summer Term

Thank you for everyone for the positive return to school following the easter break. We were so pleased to see that everyone was so well rested and happy to be back.

Our school value this half term is 'Happiness' a wonderful value for all to show and the children have definitely been showing this value in bucket loads since being back at school.



Attendance

Last term we had 27 children who are currently on 100% for the year so far. The class with the best attendance across the term was 4JC. And they have received a voucher for £20 to spend on whatever they like as a class.

Our aspirational attendance target remains at 96% with children very keen to be the best class each week. (National attendance sits at around 94%)

Week 1 (8.4.24 - 12.4.24) - Class 5JP with 98.8%
Week 2 (15.4.24 - 19.4.24) - Class 2AB with 100%
Week 3 (22.1.24 - 26.1.24) - Class 4JC with 96.3%
Week 4 (29.4.24 - 3.5.24) - Class 4JC with 97.78%
Week 5 (6.5.24 - 10.5.24) - Class 10NL with 99.38%



Mobile phone reminder

We know that lots of year 6 pupils walk to and from school alone and that parents feel safer knowing that they have their mobile phones with them.

This is completely understood and supported by school staff. However, please can we remind you all that phones should be delivered to the school office where they will be kept safe and locked away until they are collected at the end of the day. No mobile phones should be in school bags. We cannot guarantee they are safe and our safeguarding policy is clear that personal phones in communal areas are a risk. All our staff lock their personal phones in their lockers in the morning and are only allowed them in the staff room. The same safety aspects are expected of all pupils too. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Parent Partnership

Lovely to see the parents that attended the drop in on Tuesday 24th April.

The discussion was centered around supporting children during transition.

Please look out for the next meeting and should you wish for any particular issue to be added to the agenda, contact us.

Jo Clarke DHT & Lisa Batchelor Inclusion Support

Wellbeing & Mental Health



Mental Health Awareness Week



Mental Health Awareness Week will soon be upon us. It will take place in the week commencing 13th May with the theme being 'Movement: Moving more for our mental health.'

Being active is important for our mental health but so many of us struggle to get enough exercise. We know there are many different reasons for this, so this Mental Health Awareness Week we will encourage children to find moments for movement in their daily routines. Going for a walk in your neighbourhood, putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room, chair exercises when you're watching television - it all counts!

Wellbeing is important to us as a school so here are some tips for self-care.



WAYS TO TAKE A BREAK



Uniform

- * As you know we have a new logo which reflects our new school name of Aqueduct Primary Academy. Whilst the picture of our local community Aqueduct remains the same, the new logo will now be used on our uniform.
- * We have been in contact with Baker & Son and Lads & Lassies (formerly Bristow's) who have confirmed that from the week commencing 1st July all uniform sold will have the new logo.
- * Uniform with the old log will continue to be allowed and we do still have some spare logo jumpers and cardigans in school that can be used. However any new uniform purchased will need to be with the new logo.
- * A plain T-Shirt or the logo PE top will continue to be expected to be worn for PE as our uniform policy remains the same.
- * Plain jumpers and cardigans are not part of our policy and will continue to be asked not to be worn and the rest of the uniform expectations remain unchanged.
- * From September 2024 all reception pupils and new pupils joining the school will be expected to wear the new logo uniform.



Please come and talk to us if you require any support to follow our uniform policy. We are here to help.

A copy of our policy is available on our website.

[uniform-policy-sept-2023.pdf \(aqueductprimary.co.uk\)](https://www.aqueductprimary.co.uk/uniform-policy-sept-2023.pdf)

Safety Reminder

For your child's safety, please could we ask that you do not drop children off at school unsupervised. The doors of the school open at 8:45 and there is no staff on the playground to supervise them. We have noticed that there have been some children waiting for the doors to open from 8:30.



Exciting News

We are please to be able to share the exciting news that Mrs Jones who works in reception and Miss Bates who works in KS2 are both pregnant. Miss Bates is due in September and very excited to start her new family and Mrs Jones is due in November and her daughter Olivia is excited to become a big sister. We are so very pleased for them both.



READING AT AQUEDUCT PRIMARY ACADEMY



Books Home (frequently asked question)

Your child may seem to bring home a book that you feel is too easy or that you feel they have bought home for a while or before. The reason for this is, the reading practice they get at home is focused on building their fluency (speed) of reading and ensuring they are comprehending the meaning of the text. Children will feel proud to read to you and you can enjoy listening as their reading develops.

The decoding, phonics and blending is taught in reading lessons.

At Aqueduct Primary Academy, we strongly believe that reading is the foundation to all learning. We also believe it should be enjoyed and promoted. For this reason, reading is a key priority in our school and lies at the heart of our curriculum. We aim for all of our children to become fluent readers who can fully comprehend texts and learn to love reading.

The staff are excellent advocates for this belief, which is why we are always reviewing how we can develop our reading offer.

Reading Records

Reading Records will continue to come home for parents, older siblings, grandparents etc. to make comments when your children read at home. There will be weekly information in them to inform parents of the books the children are reading in school. However, reading in school will focus around shared texts and the learning linked to these. This will not be logged in the Reading Records



Whole Class Reading

Whole class reading happens four times a week from year two to year six. These lessons are based around high quality texts, selected carefully to inspire each age range and are by a range of different authors. During these lessons, our pupils develop their fluency and comprehension skills and are immersed in language rich vocabulary.

Reception and Year one have phonic/reading lessons five times a week. They also have afternoon sessions focusing on their phonics. Books that they bring home to read link to the sounds that they have been learning, and repeatedly reading the book that includes these sounds increase the fluency.

Lessons are planned to ensure children have opportunities to read aloud in class and read with a partner whilst being taught strategies to read with fluency and enjoyment.

Our Reading Commitment

- We have extended our Guided Reading lessons.
- Children have extended time to read quality texts.
- Story time in all classes every day
- Parents will be informed of the books the children are reading in their lessons.
- Increased opportunities for children to be reading to others.

Reading Spines

In addition to encouraging pupils to read often, we are also passionate about our pupils reading widely and therefore, each class has a set of 'reading spines'. Class reading spines include a series of high-quality texts, which vary in author and genre and feature an array of key themes. Staff share these with the children regularly throughout the school year.

Please take a look at them on our website.

aqueductprimary.co.uk/our-curriculum/curriculum-subjects/reading/reading-spine/

Love Reading

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 13th May - Friday 17th May - SATS WEEK

Monday 13th May - Friday 17th May - Mental Health Awareness Week

Thursday 16th May - Special Lunch - Mexican Menu

Sunday 19th May - Last day to purchase raffle tickets for Year 1 & 2 Beach Trip Fundraiser

Monday 20th May - Raffle drawn in assembly

Monday 27th - Friday 31st May - HALF TERM

Tuesday 4th June - Year 5 and 6 Swimming lessons begin

Wednesday 5th June - Year 5 and 6 Mayan Civilisation Workshop in school

Thursday 6th June - KS1 to The Beach

Wednesday 12th June - Class and Leavers photos

Thursday 13th June - Reception trip to Think Tank Museum

Friday 28th June - Summer Fayre

Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd July - Year 6 transition days

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th July - Year 2 Residential

Friday 12th July - Year 6 trip

Tuesday 16th July - Year 6 Prom (Caseys. 5-7pm)

Wednesday 17th July - Year 6 Graduation

Thursday 18th July - Last day of school

Friday 19th July - Professional Development Day (School closed)

A full copy of our term and holiday dates is available on our school website.

aqueductprimary.co.uk/our-school/term-holiday-dates/