

Friday 15th November

Hello parents,

Here we are at the end of week 3 and we're thinking ahead to lots of exciting things in the weeks leading up to the winter holidays!

Please see below for updates on the following things:

1. Recent trips and visits
2. Thank you for parents evening
3. Positive feedback from other external guests
4. Parent Governor Election deadline is **Monday 18th November**
5. Reception and Nursery open mornings: next one is on Tuesday 19th November
6. Winter Fair: Friday 6th December 3.45pm on Older Years Site MUGA
7. Trip payment deadline: 10th December

1. **You can read about our recent trips and learning experiences here:**

- **Year 2 had their Owl Experience** meeting real owls flying around their classrooms – read more [here](#);
- Each **Year 5 class visited Hampton Court Palace** as part of their humanities study of Henry VIII – read more [here](#).
- We **marked Remembrance Day** on both sites on Monday 11th November with assemblies led by Mr. Haimendorf in every year group across primary and secondary and 2 minutes of silence at 11am from Year 3-Year 13.
- We have also been thinking a lot about bullying this week as part of **anti-bullying week**. We take bullying and by-standing bullying very seriously at KSA and children should be clear on the definitions of what bullying is and how we stop it. We've also been thinking about how our KSA values, particularly working together and being kind, help to ensure no one ever feels left out of their peer groups. We're always thinking about the many small ways we can show kindness – greeting people with warm smiles and eye contact – or work together – asking people questions and suggesting they join in.

2. **Thank you for Parents Evenings**

It has been a delight to see parents at Parents Evening meetings over the last two weeks – thank you for taking the time to come and see your children's classrooms, their work and talk with us about how we can continue to work together to get the best out of your children's education. There was only one or two parents in each class who had not attended their meetings by the end of Monday and many classes had already got 100% attendance – thank you so much!

3. **Positive feedback from external guests**

We had many guests visiting us across both sites last week. Damian Macbeath, the Primary Regional Director of Ark and Lydia Cuddy-Gibbs, the Ark Early Years Consultant came to spend some time with us seeing how the year has started in Nursery and Reception and in Year 6. They were both hugely impressed by our work, how brilliantly your children are working together and their excellent attitudes to learning. They were extremely pleased with the work they saw in lessons and in pupils' books - a very positive visit!

We also welcomed a team of six Senior Leaders from different schools around the country as part of a programme we've joined called Challenge Partners. The idea is that Senior Leaders learn from

each other by observing, asking questions and sharing best practice. The Lead Reviewer and the two primary colleagues were extremely impressed by what they saw at YYS and in the Junior School. They complimented how strong our learning culture is, how carefully and rigorously the curriculum is planned, how well pupils work in pairs in lessons and both the quality and quantity of work pupils were proud to share in their books. It was pleasing that the areas for development we shared are consistent with the areas we are already prioritising for improvement most specifically about pupils doing more of the thinking and hard work than their teachers and showing this depth of understanding more visibly to their teachers every lesson.

4. Parent governor election

One of the parent governor terms has recently come to an end, so a governor will be appointed for a three year term. The appointment process is outlined in the attached document. We have many fantastic skills, insights and perspectives in our parent community so we welcome any and all applications. The deadline for application is Monday 18th November, and applications can be made through the Ark portal: <https://arkonline.tfaforms.net/2>

5. Reception and Nursery open mornings for starters in September 2020

- If you have a three or four year old or you know someone who does, please spread the word to friends and family who might be interested in joining the KSA family. There is a flyer attached that you might like to forward on!
- The next open morning is on Tuesday 19th November at 9.30am. Please arrive at the Younger Years Site and join us in the Main Hall for a presentation from Senior Leaders, have a tour of the site visiting lessons in Nursery and Reception, and have your questions answered about joining either Nursery or Reception.

6. Winter Fair

- We are excited about the KSA Winter Fair which will be on Friday 6th December, starting at 3.45pm on the Older Years Site MUGA.
- We hope all the Younger Years Site families will join us for Santa's Grotto, a bouncy castle, stalls and plenty of festive fun.
- If you would like to help out in organising the Winter Fair, please contact Gabby Woolf, Head of Operations, on g.woolf@kingsolomonacademy.org

7. Trip payment deadline

- We are proud of the way in which we enrich our curriculum through running a comprehensive programme of trips, visits and workshops for all primary children every half term.
- The cost of this per pupil works out at between £40 and £50.
- We ask parents to contribute £35 towards this cost as a one off payment. We are able to subsidise the cost for parents of children on Free School Meals so those parents only need to contribute £20.
- Parents are asked to pay by 10th December. It is possible to pay in instalments. All payments must go through Parent Pay or be paid in cash or with a card at either of the offices on the YYS or the OYS. For any enquiries about Parent Pay, please go to Cheryl Francis in the YYS Office or call her on 0207 641 4122.

Beth Humphreys
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Head of Primary