Aiming High
Achieving Together
Welcome to ARK Bentworth Primary Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to ARK Bentworth Primary Academy - a primary school for 3-11 year olds which transitioned into an Academy in September 2012.

We have one form of entry and are non-denominational and non-selective, welcoming boys and girls of all abilities from the local area.

The academy is characterised by high expectations and high achievement for all pupils. We provide an inspiring yet nurturing learning environment where teachers really know pupils and their parents, and every child can flourish.

ARK Bentworth Primary Academy aims to enable all its pupils to realise their full potential and provides them with every opportunity to succeed. Our aim is that each child will achieve a good level 4 at key stage 2, which will give them a strong foundation for secondary learning. In addition to this it is crucial that every pupil leaves the academy with a love of learning and is well prepared for the transition to secondary school.

We support and stretch our students in finding their talents through rigorous and engaging learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Through outstanding leadership, teaching and pastoral support, we provide an inspirational environment which celebrates success and encourages pupils to strive for excellence in everything they do. I look forward to meeting you and discussing what ARK Bentworth Primary Academy can offer your child.

Damian McBeath
Headteacher

ARK Bentworth Primary Academy
Our Vision and Values

Our Vision
Our vision is to **Aim High and Achieve Together**.
We achieve through the highest of expectations encouraging all to attain the highest standards.
We learn together as a community through exciting opportunities.
Our teachers are inspirational and prepare our children with the skills for life as citizens of the future.

Our Values
ARK Bentworth Primary Academy is characterised by its core values and high expectations for pupil achievement and personal development.

- **Determination:** We strive to do our best
- **Ambition:** We achieve success
- **Community:** We work together as a team
- **Friendship:** We have empathy for one another
- **Inspiration:** We are excited in by our learning
Our Culture

High expectations
We set exceptionally high expectations for all our pupils which we reinforce constantly as they go through school.
We aim to have at least 90% of pupils reaching level 4a in both English and mathematics by the end of year 6, so that they are fully prepared to start secondary school.

Exemplary behaviour
Our school has a respectful and orderly atmosphere, where teachers can focus on teaching and pupils on learning.
We aim for uninterrupted teaching and learning to make exceptional achievement possible.

Excellent teaching
Nothing is more important than excellent teaching, underpinned by high quality professional development.
We work hard to ensure that our pupils have the very best teachers and that teachers have the support they need to deliver outstanding lessons.
**Depth before breadth**

A strong command of English and mathematics is essential for the whole curriculum. We prioritise depth before breadth, so that all pupils secure firm foundations in these core subjects as early as possible.

We ensure that each child’s curriculum is appropriate to their needs.

**Small School environment**

ARK Bentworth Primary Academy is organised so that every pupil knows and is known well by every teacher within the school. This enables us to provide a great deal of support and encouragement for all children and their families. We are a one form entry school, at full capacity we will have 240 children from the ages of 3 to 11 years old.

**More time for learning**

With Breakfast club, Enrichment clubs and After School club, our longer school day provides more time for learning and supports the well being of our children.
Our Curriculum

ICT

Pupils have access to the latest technology including interactive whiteboards, tablets, chrome books and wireless laptops to enhance their learning and learn computer skills. Children learn programmes including word processing, data handling and graphics.

ICT is used as a tool to enrich learning in other curricular subjects.

eTargets

We have developed an entire programme online to support pupils improve their writing. Our aim is to provide children with the skills they need to access their learning anywhere and anytime.

Inside the classroom children use these resources to develop independence and enrich the curriculum.

Children receive eTargets cards with a QR code and web address to take home. They can then use these codes to access online learning materials focused on the topic they are working on, allowing them to access learning outside school.

(eTargets are currently available Year 2 to Year 6; we are looking at developing our own early years and year 1 appropriate material)

Independent Learning Folders

Every child from year 1 upwards receives an independent learning folder at the start of the school year. Each half term teacher provide pupils with a suggested range of learning activities to help support their learning in class. This will provide parents and pupils with all the guidance they need to engage in some independent study.

Inside the folder is a submission date and more information about what pupils and parents can expect. The folders will be collected on the submission date and any independent work completed will be given a grade.
The Early Years Curriculum

Research has proven excellent teaching and learning in the earliest years of a child’s life to be a key ingredient of future success. We aim to provide our Early Years pupils with that outstanding start by following the ARK Schools Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

The curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning - three prime areas:

♦ Personal, social and emotional development
♦ Communication and language
♦ Physical development

These prime areas fundamental to a child’s development within the Early Years and beyond, they are interrelated and support children’s learning in the four specific areas:

♦ Literacy
♦ Mathematics
♦ Understanding the world
♦ Expressive arts and design

The specific areas of learning provide children with the essential skills and knowledge they need to become successful citizens of the future. By providing stimulating indoor and outdoor learning environments we nurture the individual, ensuring every child’s needs are met and their abilities developed to their full potential.
Our Curriculum

English

This is divided into three areas:

**Speaking and listening**

Pupils are given opportunities to experience different kinds of speaking and listening so that they can learn how to express themselves and how to listen to others’ opinions. We use drama techniques to provide opportunities for children to express themselves in different situations.

**Reading**

Our aim is that every child should enjoy reading; for pleasure and to find out information. Children read every day, individually, in small groups and as a class. Children learn to read through synthetic phonics and a wide range of reading strategies. We strongly encourage parents to read with their children on a daily basis. Children are encouraged to become independent readers as they move through the school.

**Writing**

We ensure that every child can write appropriately for a variety of situations as they move through school. Initially children are encouraged to write in play situations and, as they become more confident, to write in a more structured way. We combine teaching spelling and handwriting with phonics. Knowledge of letter sounds helps a child to spell correctly and to tackle unknown words when reading. Handwriting is taught on a regular basis, with a clear progression each year.

**Foundation subjects**

History, geography, design and technology, personal, social and health education, music, art and drama is taught through a creative and themed approach as well as in distinct lessons. Children’s learning is inspired by learning challenge questions such as ‘Why can’t a meerkat live in the North Pole?’ in Year 1, ranging to ‘Why were the Norman castles certainly not bouncy?’ in Year 4. We keep parents up to date on the topics being covered across each phase through half termly curriculum maps.

To enrich our children’s learning, termly visits and visitors are linked to our curriculum studies.
**Mathematics Mastery**

ARK Bentworth Primary teaches a world-leading maths curriculum. Our aim is to ensure that every child achieves mastery of mathematics concepts, computational skills, problem solving and application of mathematics to daily life activities. Children learn drawing strategies to solve complex problems and build strong links between objects, pictures, and abstract numbers. We teach mathematics topics in depth, so children understand the “how” as well as the “why”.

Mathematics Mastery differs from the current national curriculum in a number of ways;

- An emphasis on pupils mastering the basic knowledge and skills in mathematics. By studying fewer areas of learning pupils develop a greater understanding of whole number, fractions, geometry and statistics.
- Visual modelling helps pupils make the links between a concrete understanding and abstract application of mathematical concepts.
- Fewer areas of learning mean that teachers can focus on quality delivery supported by a rigorous scheme of work.

**Science**

Children take part in investigative activities and experiments through which they acquire and develop scientific knowledge, skills and understanding. Science is taught separately as well as through cross-curricular links.

**Religious Education**

We focus on developing children’s social, moral and community spirit, by exploring a range of cultural beliefs. Pupils are taught to be understanding and considerate to others both in the school and the wider community.

**Modern Foreign Languages**

Pupils will learn French in KS2 and other languages through enrichment opportunities.
Sports, Health and Fitness Education

Our aim is that more than 90% of pupils will leave our schools healthy. This would compare to current national figures of 66% (December 2013). Children from Years 1-6 take part in a whole afternoon of Sports, Health and Fitness each week, rotating between three classes, which gives a much greater context to their learning.

Sports

High-quality sports education inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect. This is a progressive curriculum building from the early development of gross motor skills; it then focuses on teaching skills required for a range of sports and then providing opportunity for pupil to apply their skills in competitive games.

The sports education programme is linked to the 2014 National Curriculum ensuring full coverage of all relevant programmes of study.

Health

The health education programme aims to ensure children lead, healthy, active lives through learning about the following:

Healthy Body - Pupils learn about their bodies and how to keep them healthy.

Healthy Mind - Pupils learn about the importance of a healthy mind. They learn about how to keep themselves well and happy;

Healthy lifestyles - Pupils learn the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle including eating a healthy diet.

Fitness

The aim of the fitness programme is to ensure that pupils receive regular, sustained physical activities. Lessons are designed to raise the heart rate and improve overall fitness, stamina and flexibility. Children experience a range of different fitness activities over the course of the school year such as aerobics, Zumba, yoga, and dance.

Levels of individual fitness will be assessed termly and reported upon to parents and carers.
Every child will succeed

ARK Bentworth Primary Academy is an inclusive school and our team of dedicated staff are committed to all our pupils’ success. We believe that every child will succeed academically at ARK Bentworth Primary Academy.

We ensure this by keeping track of pupils’ progress and by regularly assessing where pupils are in terms of their learning. If pupils do not make expected progress we intervene quickly and provide appropriate support.

**Special educational needs (SEN)**

We are committed to enabling every pupil to achieve his or her potential. The academy follows the Government’s “Revised Code of Practice” in identifying, assessing and supporting pupils with special educational needs. Through Individual Education Plans we provide support which is tailored to cater for each pupil’s unique situation. Support may be given in class, in a small group or through one to one sessions, and is delivered by a skilled team of teachers and learning support assistants.

**English as an additional language (EAL)**

Pupils for whom English is an additional language will benefit from our emphasis on the core curriculum, gaining extra support until they reach the expected achievement for their age in English. Through careful assessment and a combination of small learning groups, our pupils have full access to the learning opportunities provided by the school.

**Gifted and talented pupils (G&T)**

We want all our pupils to maximise their potential and ensure that all our pupils are appropriately challenged and supported. Careful identification and assessment enables us to provide suitable challenge and differentiation to extend the learning of all our pupils.
Family Dining

We are committed to providing a healthy and nutritious meal for every child alongside the experience of eating meals in a small group alongside adults. Instead of queuing to collect their lunch, children sit at octagonal tables and have food served to them. Children sit in a mix of year groups to allow them to learn from and support each other in the serving and sharing of food. Pupils learn table manners, how to hold cutlery properly, how to share food at a table and have the opportunity to experience discussion and chat over dinner with support from staff. We place great importance on all pupils learning these important social skills and this is a part of the school day which is planned for and shared with teachers and other adults.

Celebration assembly

Each week we hold a celebration assembly, in which parents join us to celebrate significant achievements and events. This is a chance to get together as a community and focus upon success, helping the children appreciate and develop a sense of pride in themselves and their peers.
Admissions

ARK Bentworth Primary Academy is a non-selective school for local children. If the academy is oversubscribed, priority will be given to students with statements of special educational needs, where the academy is named on the statement. The remaining places will then be offered in the following order of priority:

- children who are in public care
- children who have a sibling who already attends the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (for this purpose “sibling” means a whole, half or step-brother or -sister resident at the same address)
- children who live closest to the school, using a straight line distance from the main entrance of the academy to the main entrance of the child’s home.

The local authority will keep a waiting list which is used to fill casual vacancies occurring if students leave during the year, or withdraw from a place that has been offered.
Contact information

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the academy please contact us:

Web: www.arkbentworthprimary.org

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