

AGM MEETING NOTES

AGM meeting at Ark Conway 21/1/2022

Meeting commenced at 9:10am in person & online.

Mrs Ross-Wood opened the meeting by outlining the agenda for today's meeting.

Firstly Mrs Ross-Wood would like to thank everyone for their feedback sent in ahead of today's meeting. It has also been great to hear what you have liked about our school, it helps to know what to remain doing and it is also really important to hear how we can improve.

Finance/ Parents Forum :

For those of you that are new to the school, the Parents Forum fundraise on behalf of the school to bring in money for extra things like, ~~Challenge~~ Ark Curriculum Plus, each class receives £200 to help with that.

Each year the money raised also goes towards Year 4 & 5 theatre trips to see a Westend show, this year there is plans to involve year 6 as last year did not happen for anyone because of covid.

We also fund the Ark Conway's Christmas Tree, which is thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school which brings such joy and it's a much loved Ark Conway tradition. It was suggested by a parent in the meeting that maybe we could plant a permanent tree to save in the cost there.

Mrs Ross-Wood did state that it would take away the little space we have in the playground and would involve having to take up concrete as we did not have a lot of planting space.

The Parents Forum, during covid have taken on more of a community based role, which because of us not being able to meet or get together we have had to come up with other ideas to keep the engagement going. So we not only started our very own Little shop of Ark Conway online, selling homemade goodies including masks, we hosted an online raffle, a cake sale. It was important for us to do this to keep the community engaged. Also support via checking in making sure everyone was alright, using our platforms of WhatsApp & Classlist.

I just want to say thank you to everyone for pulling together, without our community I would not have been able to do all those things.-Danielle Chair.

Also 15% of all money raised goes towards our family fund, this gets help to those that need it, maybe for uniform or trips, to clubs.

We raised for the year 2020/2021: £1,302.61 please see slide for breakdown.

School Priorities:

Mrs Ross-Wood, went on to talk about ~~our~~ Personal development.

- Improved social media presence, we are now on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.
- Parental engagement
- Offering of more work-shops, more due in the coming months

- 1:1 parent readers, has been great to see happening again and if you would love to join in please contact the school office, we'd be happy to have you.
- Expert talks, Ark has always had in the past speakers from people outside the school as well as parents, if you are an expert in any area, maybe a job you do, or maybe you want to share your religion with us or you know of someone in a field that you think maybe useful for the children to learn from, please let the office know.
- Class exhibitions, is something we are planning to do lots more of as the children really love to show their learning (at least once each half term).

Quality of Education:

- Digital Education- for Years 3 upwards children have google chrome books to which they have at home. For now no younger years will receive this, but if individual pupils have to isolate, they will be given this to help with accessing learning.
- The school have now added into their own budget funds for more laptops, for ongoing future.
- Ark have introduced Wonder days each term, which the children really enjoy.

Behaviours & Attitudes:

Please see power point for an in depth explanation of what changes are happening and what Ark will continue to do.

Ark Conway's Wishlist:

2021/2022

- **School Microphone system**- lots of feedback regarding being able to hear the children during assemblies, whilst the school are encouraging the children to project their voices, we understand that for many still can't hear in assembly, this is due to the acoustics of the main hall. To add we did run some testing's of equipment to see what would work in the previous year. Mike (parent of pupil) is happy to continue the support for this to go ahead with Mrs Ross-Wood. The cost for the equipment could range from £500-£2,000 depending on what's needed.
- **Additional Reading Books**-Always in need of more books as some do get misplaced or not returned. Danielle has agreed to be our Schools Librarian, so anyone wanting to help get the library organised and ready please do come and find me.
- **Playground Equipment**- Money is allocated to each class and the children join in with voting for what they would like. – Just to add play equipment is not left in the playground, but each class have their own set of items they do take out & these things do need to be replaced as balls goes over and things get broken, which is normal.

2022/2023

- **Multi-purpose art studio**- This is a long term fundraising goal, which will need planning & costing. This will be in the small hall next to the library, which at the moment is underused.

The idea behind it is to have a place to go to get messy and get creative.

This will allow us to invite Kite Studios in again to continue the work they used to do and open up other opportunities for the children to enjoy a space.

The tables that were taking up a lot of space in there have now been removed to another school. The question of cost for this art studio development was brought up and it could be from £10,000....but nothing has been designed yet or planned so the cost is not set as yet.

Was also suggested that in the short term we set the hall up as an art room now, to trial out what things would work or not work, this is agreed a good idea.

Other things to mention:

- The schools garden in the summer holidays was brought up, a suggestion of a group of people that wouldn't mind coming in and help maintain the garden.

Mrs Ross-wood will liaise with Clare (parent garden volunteer) about making this happen.

- Celebrating Earth Day by planting a tree, more opportunities around the environment is what's being asked for.
- France trip was brought up- the school are looking into other possible places to go for this present year 6.

Issues Raised:

School lunches-

- Pupil voice & voting system- having the children more involved, giving them a say
- Variety of food and options- having it more kid friendly & checking
- Parent lunches- bringing these back, so for those that are new this will you give you the opportunity to have lunch with your child and taste the food too, past parents have loved this opportunity to have lunch with their child.

We are really lucky to have our very own in house chef and we serve fresh food daily. We also appreciate that we must make sure that the menu is child friendly- they know what they are eating. There will always be encouragement given to try the foods they are not liking. They will be encourage to eat what they do like on the plate. No child will be left not have eaten anything.

Parental Communication-

- Letters- are for when more information is needed to be sent home.
- Texts- are for reminders only, like assemblies,
- Seesaw- for learning

There is also Classlist which is run by the Parents Forum, to which is used for fundraising events, our online shop, general local information. Any information the school may want to make sure gets to every parent. Lots of Thank you and keeping you up to date with what's happening in the school.

Home Learning –

- More sharing/sending home results of spellings & arithmetic.
- In regards to getting feedback on what your child maybe struggling with, Ark work on the basis of spotting a child who may not have understood something they are learning and making sure that is dealt with as and when that arises, in the live lesson-so help them at the time of the lesson happening.

- Children will be given individual feedback will be targeted as and when in class.
- In regards to Seesaw and wanting to have feedback every time children post something, that's difficult to do all the time, this was happening more when we were having to do home learning and now we are back at school, there just isn't enough time to allocate to replying to everything. Teachers do still check them. There is also an option for your children to reply to class mates work.
- There is now a system in place to have drop in sessions with your class teacher on set days, please see timetable. If you need longer then you can always book an appointment via the school office.

After School Clubs:

- Having external providers were brought in to allow for consistency , on going learning of a new skills.
- This did allow teachers and Co-teachers to focus more time on lesson preps amongst all the extra commitments they have. There is talk of bringing them back into hosting clubs again.
- If you have any club recommendations , something you think the school could do then please don't hesitate to let the school know.

Sadly it is Danielle's final year at Ark Conway, so we will be looking for her replacement as Chair and we are also looking for a treasurer. If you are interested in the role, it doesn't have to be one person per role it can be made up of 2 people. If you would like to find out more about the roles please do come and find Mrs Ross-Wood or Danielle in the playground.

Thank you for those that attended the AGM in person and online.