

MAGIC ARC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring 1

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Dates for Your Diary:

- 23rd April – Staff Inset Day
- 24th May – Staff Inset Day

Attendance

Can I remind all parents/guardians that your child attending school regularly is of paramount importance. Research by the DfE tells us that there is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. We will be having a focus on attendance next term and will do whatever we can to support you in getting your child to school. We have already seen some great improvements in attendance by a number of pupils and this is very encouraging.

Introduction from the Head

It is a real honour to be writing our first Newsletter to you as the new Headteacher of Magic Arc Independent School. I have been struck over the past few weeks by the warmth of the staff and pupils here and I have been made to feel very welcome. My aspiration is to build on our current strengths and successes to create

a school which delivers exceptional outcomes for pupils with a strong emphasis on life skills, personal development and education. I have been impressed by how well pupils have risen to the high standards we set around behaviour and engagement in learning.

Mrs Emmett.



Life in Mars Class

(Brian Obray)

Returning from Christmas we have all settled back into school.



Having read *The BFG* as a class last term, we all decided that we wanted to read a David Walliams book this term. We eventually settled on *Gangster Granny* and we are already over half way through.

Having previously built rollercoasters with K'nex for reward time last term, we are ahead with next term's subject of engineering, where I am sure we will all enjoy building bridges and other structures, exploring different forces and testing how strong we can make a structure.

Magic Announces . . .

- Our new curriculum plans show that we are introducing a broader learning experience for your child
- Swimming lessons will be taking place for the 6 weeks after the half-term break. This activity will be reviewed and could possibly be extended further
- Forest School. The reason we have introduced this into our curriculum is that children learn best from first hand experiences. This activity will be reviewed and will possibly be extended further
- A new maths and science teacher is starting in March 2019. We are continuing to interview and recruit additional teachers to our school
- Our pupils have contributed towards our behaviour policy and have help to shape our procedures.

Ofsted

As you know Ofsted inspected the school in November 2018 and the formal report has just been published. We have a great deal to do to move Magic Arc Independent School forward and build further on its strengths. Our Post Inspection Action Plan is now being implemented and this regular half termly communication will provide you with highlights of the steps we have taken to improve our school and the education on offer for your child.

I set out on the right, a short commentary under each of the inspection headings. This is by no means a fully comprehensive overview of what is happening at the school, but is just an update on some key areas.

We are not sure when Ofsted will be returning but it is highly likely that this will be unannounced. I will of course keep you up to date on any news with regard to this.

Leadership and Management:

- The recruitment of a new Headteacher
- The introduction of new policies & procedures to ensure the quality of provision is monitored rigorously
- Establishing links with the local community

The Quality of Teaching and Learning:

- The introduction of weekly swimming for the forthcoming term
- An enrichment programme – such as Forest School and school trips to enable pupils to bring the learning experience to life
- The recruitment of new teaching staff – with specialisms in Science and Maths

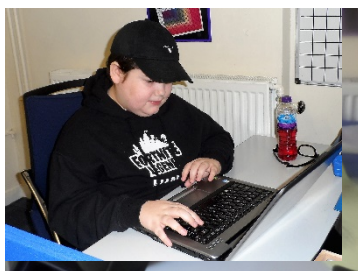
Behaviour, Welfare and Safety:

- The introduction of a school council, with pupils already actively participating in school life
- An integrated therapy service, including Occupational Therapy, Dyslexia support, Counselling and Speech and Language for students who require additional support
- A plan of capital spend on premises

Outcomes for pupils:

- A phased introduction of a new curriculum, with links to the National Curriculum, including science, ICT and humanities
- A new approach to assessment and the rigorous monitoring of pupil progress

Magic Presents . . .



I like coming to Magic as I feel welcome here. In other schools you can sometimes be bullied, but at Magic you are included and others will understand your differences. You feel at home and make friends that understand you and have the same or similar conditions. I feel welcome in my class with my friends.

I've been learning about China, the Silk Road and The Shang Dynasty in history. In art we have been drawing and painting Chinese art. In DT we have been making some models of dragons and making shadow puppets. We celebrate different events across the year like Christmas, Easter and Halloween. Recently we have learned about the Holocaust to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.