



17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## **Curriculum Changes – January 2020**

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of a long and busy term, I wanted to let you know of some further changes we are making next term relating to the Humanities part of the Atwood curriculum.

Like many other schools, we are keen to develop our children's knowledge of the world and ensure that as they journey through the school, they develop a greater understanding of how our planet has been shaped both through its geography and the events of history. With this bank of knowledge, children will then be able to develop their own perspectives and viewpoints as historians and geographers.

Ark is in the process of rolling out a new curriculum called 'Ark Curriculum Partnerships'. This covers a lot of subjects and we are going to adopt the History and Geography components. The approach is knowledge rich and will support children in achieving the ambitions we have for them as historians and geographers. Key benefits for our school and children will be:

- Rich and rigorous resources to support teaching and learning
- Coherent curriculum structure that builds on prior learning
- Units of work that begin with a 'big question' that children answer through an essay at the end of the unit (once they have acquired the requisite knowledge)
- A discovery box is sent home ahead of each unit with activities and information to act as an engaging 'hook' for the new topic
- Subject knowledge training and the development of subject communities for our teachers

The curriculum is having a phased introduction as it is developed:

- January: Year 1 and Year 3 (*children will be receiving their Discovery boxes before the end of term – please return these next term so they can be used again*)
- April: Year 4
- September: Year 2 and Year 5
- September 2021: Year 6

We will be running a parent session next term giving you more information about this exciting new area of our curriculum.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday,

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Head of School, Ark Atwood Primary Academy