

# PARENT NEWSLETTER



## WELL DONE NENE!



We are incredibly proud to celebrate this **remarkable success at The Ark Christian School.**

A huge congratulations to **Nene Heleina Kullberg**, who has received

**the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award, achieving the highest mark in Spain for Cambridge IGCSE™ Business Studies** in the June 2025 examinations.

This achievement is a wonderful reflection of dedication, perseverance, academic excellence and outstanding teaching. **We are so proud of you!** 🥰

## RECRUITMENT OF STUDENT



**Fees and conditions for September 2026** will be available very soon. We kindly encourage parents to stay tuned for upcoming announcements and detailed information.

**Registration for the 2026/2027 academic year is now open**, and we encourage our families to plan ahead.

In addition, our school truly values your support. Therefore, **if you, as parents, introduce new families to the school**, we will show our appreciation with a gift, as you are helping our school grow and remain a welcoming place for learning.

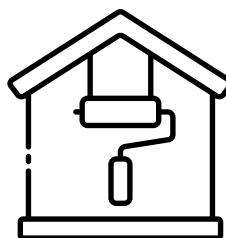
## BUILDING IMPROVEMENT

Our school is looking brighter than ever! Recently, **the ceilings throughout the school have been freshly painted**, including in the corridors and in every classroom across Early Years, Primary, and Secondary. These updates not only improve the look of our learning spaces but also create a more welcoming and comfortable environment for students and staff alike.

In addition, **a new partition has been installed at the reception area, providing a dedicated workspace for our secretary.** This new setup is designed to make the reception area more organized and convenient for you, ensuring a smoother experience when visiting the school.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share that plans are underway **to repaint the school's exterior**, as well as the interior walls, in a fresh new color. These updates will give the whole building a vibrant and refreshed look for everyone to enjoy.

We are proud of these improvements and look forward to seeing our school continue to grow and shine!



# Church dates for your diary



## Sunday March 22nd:

Easter performance at the Ark Church at 11.00 am



## Every Sunday at 11.00 am

The Ark Church weekly service

## Bible Story



**Daniel** – A story about character, choices, and inner strength (**Daniel 1-12**)

**Daniel** was still very young when his life changed completely. He was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon and placed in an unfamiliar world with new rules, a new language, and strong pressure to fit in (**Daniel 1:1-6**). Everything familiar was gone, yet Daniel held on to his values and sense of who he was.

**One of his first challenges** involved food. Daniel and his friends were offered rich meals and wine from the king's table. Instead, "Daniel resolved not to defile himself" (Daniel 1:8). He spoke respectfully and suggested a short trial. For ten days, they ate simple plant-based food and drank only water (Daniel 1:12). After that time, "they looked healthier and better nourished than the others" (Daniel 1:15). **This moment highlights discipline, self-control, and consistency rather than diet itself.**

As Daniel grew older, he became known for being honest and dependable. Others could find "no corruption in him" (Daniel 6:4). His character was built through everyday choices long before major tests appeared.

Later, a law was passed that made prayer illegal. Daniel continued his daily routine calmly and openly (Daniel 6:10). Because of this, he was thrown into a den of lions—but he survived. He later said, **"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions"** (Daniel 6:22).

### What We Can Learn from Daniel's Story

- Small daily choices shape character over time.
- Self-discipline and simplicity can lead to strength and clarity.
- Staying true to one's values builds inner resilience.

Daniel's story reminds us that strength is formed quietly, long before it is tested.



## Get to know

**Mr. Ian Hartzler** has been a valued member of The Ark Christian School for **8.5 years** and has 10 years of teaching experience. He was born on September 21, in Malaga, Spain and has lived in Spain, the USA, and Ecuador. At The Ark, he teaches **IGCSE Coordinated Sciences and AS/A Level Biology** and serves as the **Examination Officer of the Cambridge Examination Centre**.

**Mr. Hartzler** completed his secondary education at **Sunny View School** in Torremolinos, Spain, and later continued his studies in the United States. He earned a B.S. in **Environmental Science from Messiah College and an M.S. in Biology from Clarion University**. His specialization in bird conservation reflects his deep appreciation for God's creation and connects naturally with his love for birdwatching.

Before joining The Ark, **Mr. Hartzler** worked mainly as a biologist. He also served as a social worker and taught Science at a Christian school in the USA, experiences that helped shape his caring, thoughtful approach to students and learning.

**Mr. Hartzler** is married and has one child. Outside the classroom, he enjoys reading, studying the Bible, and going for a run. After a busy school day, he enjoys unwinding with a cup of tea, and many are surprised to learn that he is very good at jigsaw puzzles.

He was inspired to become a teacher after realizing that teaching allowed him to positively impact lives. He believes the heart of good teaching is truly wanting what is best for students and living out Christian values such as respect, compassion, and forgiveness in everyday life.

**His advice to students** who are preparing for exams or feeling academic pressure is practical and encouraging:

- Make a study plan and follow it — even a bad plan is better than no plan.
- Work smarter, not harder, focusing on the most efficient ways to achieve the grades you need.



**Storm Lily Rowley Bott** is a bright and energetic student in Year 5 at The Ark Christian School. She loves learning **Christian values and growing in her faith**, and she especially enjoys the support and encouragement of her teachers. Outside the classroom, Storm has a busy and exciting life. She practices **acro with Upside Down Studio**, spends time riding and caring for horses and ponies with her mom, and enjoys Friday night karaoke with her mom and dad.

She is also very close to her grandma, who lives with them and is an important part of her life.

Storm's **favorite book** is Diary of a Wimpy Kid, which she finds fun and interesting. She enjoys Cluedo, a game she can play with her grandma, and stays active with **dancing every Tuesday, singing lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays, horse riding whenever possible, and acro once a month**. She is preparing to compete in March in **Gibraltar**, performing both solo and in a group, guided by her teacher Lauren.

Storm dreams of being a **Superstar**, because she loves dancing, singing, and acting, and she would love to turn everything she touches into gold to help people in need. She also **hopes to learn French** to visit France one day.

Storm loves performing and being creative. She says dancing and singing make her **feel happy, excited, and alive**, and she enjoys seeing how her performances bring joy to others. One of her most magical moments was performing in "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Salon Varietes Theatre during Christmas, sharing a dressing room and stage with friends, and **enjoying every moment of the experience**.



## MOMENTS FROM SCHOOL LIFE



Our **Secondary School students** have shone brightly during the first semester! Each class celebrated four students by giving out certificates for **Academic Excellence, Consistent Effort, Positive Attitude, and Citizenship.**

These awards honor not only great grades but also kindness, perseverance, and a positive spirit. **Congratulations to all the winners—you make us proud!**

## THE GRINCH



On December 20, the **Manuel España Theatre in Las Lagunas de Mijas** was filled with festive spirit as hundreds of people gathered to enjoy the musical **“The Grinch.”** The performance, which was free to attend, attracted a large audience, with long queues forming outside the theatre well before the show began.

The musical was produced by Harmony Music School under the direction of **Mr. Yamandu.**

The cast included talented students from **Harmony Music School** as well as students from **The Ark Christian School**, who worked together to bring the famous Christmas story to life on stage.

The audience was delighted by the energetic songs and confident performances. The young actors and singers showed great dedication and enthusiasm, which created a **joyful and festive atmosphere throughout the theatre.**



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