



# ARK ATWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

WC 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### HAVE COURAGE AND BE KIND

#### DIARY DATES AUTUMN TERM FIRST HALF

##### September

12<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Swimming begins

19<sup>th</sup> New Nursery pupils start

20<sup>th</sup> 19:00 Back to School briefing for parents

21<sup>st</sup> 8:45 Back to School briefing for parents

22<sup>nd</sup> 9am Tapestry workshop for Year R parents

22<sup>nd</sup> 16:15 Peripatetic Music Tuition for Y5 pupils starts  
(Clarinet, Violin, Flute)

##### CLUBS BEGIN THIS WEEK

26<sup>th</sup> 7.45 – 8.20 Year 1 Breakfast briefing for parents

27<sup>th</sup> 7.45 – 8.20 Year 2 Breakfast briefing for parents

28<sup>th</sup> 7.45 – 8.20 Year 3 Breakfast briefing for parents

29<sup>th</sup> 7.45 – 8.20 Year 4 Breakfast briefing for parents

Y1 Trip to the London Aquarium

30<sup>th</sup> 7.45 – 8.20 Year 5 Breakfast briefing for parents

##### October

5<sup>th</sup> Photographer in – individual and sibling  
photographs

7<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Reception Parent Forum  
Happy News printed today

10<sup>th</sup> 8.45 SEN parent workshop Interventions and  
support at Atwood

19:00 SEN parent workshop Interventions and  
support at Atwood

12<sup>th</sup> 9am Open Morning YR and nursery prospective  
parents

13<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Year 2 China Class assembly – Hall

8.45 – 10.45 Triple P Parent seminar – The power  
of positive parenting

14<sup>th</sup> 8.45

17<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Parent workshop – KS1 Mathematics  
calculations

19.00 Parent workshop – KS1 Mathematics  
calculations

18<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Parent workshop – KS2 Mathematics  
calculations

19.00 Parent workshop – KS2 Mathematics  
calculations

20<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Year 2 Barbados class assembly

8.45 – 10.45 Triple P Parent seminar – Raising  
competent confident children

21<sup>st</sup> 4pm Half term begins

#### MESSAGE FROM MR UPFIELD

### Welcome Back

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the autumn term. It has been a pleasure to see all of our existing pupils and families as well as meet the new members of our school community. Despite the summer-time weather, make no mistake – autumn term is in full swing. It's mid-September, and by now the rhythm of our days is carving the flow of our weeks.

We have a very busy term ahead of us and we will endeavour to keep you up to date with what's been happening as well as forthcoming events via the weekly newsletter. Do remember to keep in touch with us and let us know if you have questions about any aspect of life at Atwood.

**Key diary dates for the term are published on today's newsletter. I wanted to draw your attention to a few forthcoming events:**

##### **Back to School Briefings**

I will be running two sessions (morning and evening) to run through the 'nuts and bolts' of Atwood. All parents are welcome to come along to either session for a refresher about all things Atwood. Topics covered will be diverse and include: home school communication; our strategic priorities and plans for this academic year; uniform; lunchtimes; how to make payments to the school; attendance; the roles of the Parent Forum, Parent Council and Friends of Atwood etc.

These briefings are not the forum – this will come later in the term – but more an opportunity for me to go through as many things as possible with parents that ensure the smooth running of our ever increasing school.

### **Year Group Breakfast Briefings**

Breakfast Briefings are planned for year groups 1-5. These are a chance for you to meet with your child's year group teachers and phase leader. The briefings contain important information about curriculum, timetable, homework, targets and plans for the year. We have scheduled the briefings from 7.45-8.20am so that a greater number of parents can attend before heading off to work. Each year group session will be held in one of the year group classrooms and will start at 7.45am prompt. The sessions will finish by 8.20am so that the school day can get underway.

For the week of Breakfast Briefings we will offer free breakfast club to your child (and siblings) so that you can attend. We will have additional staff deployed for this. When arriving at school please let Maria know that you are attending a breakfast briefing so that you do not get charged.

We hope that you will find these briefings very helpful.

### **Reception Parents Forum**

The Reception Parents Forum is specifically for new parents in reception. In the past we have found that reception parents have a number of questions following their children's first few weeks in school. Come along to ask your questions and meet with me and Sara Langham our Parent Governor.

### **Parenting Seminars and workshops**

We have an exciting range of parent seminars and workshops planned for this term delivered by ourselves (maths calculations; SEN etc.) and in partnership with Triple P. In addition we have e-safety training planned for autumn 2 which we will be running as both morning and evening sessions. If you have any questions regarding any of these please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the leadership team.

### **Parent Mail**

I will send home a separate mailing within the next couple of weeks regarding Parent Mail and how we will be switching to this as our main method of communication between home and school. Please look out for this!

We look forward to working with you and your children this year. With parents, staff and children working together in partnership I am sure that 2016-17 will be a most successful year for Atwood.

With best wishes for the coming year,



Daniel Upfield, Headteacher

## **Pupil Information**

It is imperative that all details are kept up-to-date, especially your emergency contact numbers. Please ensure that any changes are communicated to the school office at the earliest opportunity. It is also very important that we know about all allergies your child might have, however slight (plasters, nut allergies, wasp stings, asthma etc.) so that your child receives the appropriate treatment.

If your child requires medication please speak to the school office who will explain the authorisation and administration process.

## **Staff List 2016-17**

An up to date staff list for the academic year can be found on our website. Staff can be contacted via email at: [initial.surname@arkatwoodprimary.org](mailto:initial.surname@arkatwoodprimary.org)

## **Term Dates**

Term dates for 2016-17 can be found on our school website: <http://arkatwoodprimary.org/term-dates>

Please note holiday dates and INSET days when the school is closed for staff training.

Our new ambassadors have been appointed and they will be the representatives for that class in our new School Council. Miss Rees will hold regular council meetings and the pupils will feedback to their classes. They will also gather ideas from their classes on how we can make school better for them.

Year R India Dacho and Noor	Year 2 Barbados D'Mari and Soraya	Year 4 Ghana Deja and Sybil
Year R Mexico Gabriel and Mariam	Year 2 China Neveah and Adam M	Year 4 Brazil India and Quincy
Year 1 France Abbi and Edison	Year 3 Belgium Freddie and Zara	Year 5 Greece Prefects – to be notified after interview
Year 1 Italy Indigo and Raphy	Year 3 Norway Haris and Shiloh	Year 5 Spain Prefects – to be notified after interview

## HOUSE CAPTAINS

Congratulations to the newly elected house captains below; they will be house captains for the year and will lead some school house assemblies during the year as well as support assemblies and lead their house on sports day.

Aspiration and achievement	Eleanor Smith	Perseverance	Elias Taybi	Respect and responsibility	Spencer Ward
Scholarship	Tom Ladenberg	Integrity	Amin Bourenane	Enthusiasm	Rayya Facey

## Achievement certificates KSI

Congratulations to the Reception and KSI children below who received certificates this Friday in assembly. The Value for this week is a special one of courage and kindness.

### Scholar

Year R India Sophia, Keira	Year 1 France Tomiwa	Year 2 Barbados Ayoub
Year R Mexico Malak, Sina	Year 1 Italy Yasemi	Year 2 China Ali-El Kadey

### Value

Year R India Aaliyah, Charlie	Year 1 France -Astrid	Year 2 Barbados Leena
Year R Mexico Amani, Olaf	Year 1 Italy Robin	Year 2 China Oyinkro

## Notes from Miss Baxter

Welcome to a new year and a new newsletter format. Communication with all parents and carers is very important so I would appreciate any feedback on what is here and what else you would like to hear about. It isn't possible to print pictures each week in the newsletter but there will be twitter updates and also pictures on the Happy News which is published every few weeks.

### House points, prefects and ambassadors

From now on the house points and transition points earned will be displayed in the school; the house captains will collect the points and update the displays weekly.

Prefects in Year 5 will lead the school council and ambassadors in each class will form the class representatives on the school council. The meetings will be overseen by Miss Rees but the pupils will run the meetings, minute them and feedback ideas and discussions from the meetings to their classes.

House points will be collected every two weeks and the trophy handed out in the KS2 achievement assembly. The display in the corridor will let all children know which house has won in the last two weeks.

### Health

There has been a report that there are some classes with pupils who have nits. Please check your children's heads and condition and comb to remove nits if you see them. They are an annoyance we know, and it is best resolved if everyone just keeps checking and reporting if there are cases in school of which they know.

### Clubs

Shirley Mahoney (in the office) and Miss Baxter will be responsible for the clubs this year. As the school is now up to year 5 it is not possible to offer all children a club after school, so the letters will go out with children and places arranged by Miss Baxter and parents notified. The letter will let you know exactly what to do and the process we will follow in school to make club places as fair as possible. We are still working on securing an additional place for children to play football after school and as soon as we have that sorted out we will arrange the club accordingly and let you know. Please be on time to pick up children from clubs at 5pm (unless the specific club has a different end time.) Shirley will now be in the office until 6 each evening so if you have problems or are unexpectedly late, please call to let her know.

### Lunch

We will be moving to halal meat, when it is on the menu, for Friday's. This will mean for pupils, Monday will remain meat-free, Tuesday Thursday and Friday will be halal and Wednesdays will be meat option which is not halal and may include pork. For all children on every day there are rolls filled with cheese, tuna or just with butter, and a vegetarian cooked option.

Next week there will be a repeat of the menu which was served this week. This is because of an administrative change at the start of the year. From then on the weeks should continue as planned. If you have any queries about the **menu** please speak to **Miss Baxter or Miss Rees**. If you have queries about payment then please speak to Maria Hall in the office.

## Library news

All classes, including Reception, are scheduled to visit the library starting next week. All Reception parents will receive a note home with their first books explaining how the library works and how long you have books for. If you are unsure of anything please contact one of the library staff who will be more than happy to answer any questions. Alternately you can email Fiona at [fionadc74@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fionadc74@yahoo.co.uk).

We have new volunteers joined the team, so a huge thank you to them. They have made it possible to have the library open every afternoon from 12-4pm.

We have lots of exciting ideas and plans for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming all the children back and seeing their excitement over all the new titles coming.

Please return any outstanding books from last year, there are over 100 books that have not come back yet. Letters will be going home next week to remind you, so please look for the green dots on your books.

## Attendance

We are proud of our attendance record at Atwood and continue each week to collect percentages for each class as well as the numbers of children arriving late. The number of late arrivals is significantly reducing and this helps the children's learning enormously. They get the best start to their day, have a chance to settle in and be ready to learn.

There is an attendance policy on our website which covers the procedures we follow if your child is persistently late or absent unexpectedly from school. Please look at the document which is also available in paper format from the main office.

Each week Miss Rees uses the attendance and lates figures to determine which group will use the climbing apparatus on a Friday. The children are very motivated to win this!

**This week the class with the highest percentage attendance is China Class**

**The classes with no lates this week are: Reception India and Reception Mexico, Barbados, Norway and Brazil**

## Yoga for parents and carers

Miss Rees will be running a taster yoga session for parents and carers in the Studio at 9am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. There is no charge and younger siblings of pupils at Atwood are welcome to come and play while the yoga is taking place. Please come wearing clothing appropriate for yoga and bring water. If there is enough interest then Miss Rees will continue this on a weekly basis.