



ARK ATWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

6th February 2017

HAVE COURAGE AND BE KIND

DIARY DATES SPRING TERM SECOND HALF

FEBRUARY

Monday 20th SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

Tuesday 21st February 8.30 Spring 2 starts for pupils

Thursday 23rd

9.15 Anthony Mannix (Headteacher, Barlby Primary) visiting
Year 1 Trip to London Eye

11.00 China Class Maida Vale Library

Friday 24th

13.00-15.00 Triple P Parent Course

Monday 27th

Year 5 Romeo & Juliet Workshop
8.45 SRE Year 5 Parent Meeting

Tuesday 28th

8.45 Year R Targeted Phonics Workshop for Parents (Miss Clemente and Miss Thomson)

MARCH

Wednesday 1st

30x Year 5 Pupils at Lord's Cricket Ground: Hawkeye/Maths

Thursday 2nd

World Book Day

Saturday 4th

Ignite Choir rehearsal 10 – 14.30

Monday 6th

Year 5 Romeo & Juliet Workshop (Hall required from 9.30 until 11.00)
AM Year 3 Wide Horizons outreach

Tuesday 7th

AM Year 3 Wide Horizons outreach
Year 3 & 4 Football tournament @ Paddington Rec (4 boys & 3 girls)

Wednesday 8th

8.45 Year 1 Targeted Phonics Workshop for Parents (Miss Clemente)

Thursday 9th

AM Year 3 Wide Horizons outreach
Year 3 & 4 Football tournament @ Paddington Rec (4 boys & 3 girls)

Monday 13th

AM Year 5 Wide Horizons outreach

Tuesday 14th

AM Year 5 Wide Horizons outreach

Wednesday 15th

16.30 Governing body

Thursday 16

10.00 Ghana Class Maida Vale Library

Friday 17th

INSET DAY – No school

Value this week: Enthusiasm

Monday 20th

AM Year 4 Wide Horizons outreach
Year 5 Romeo & Juliet Performance

Tuesday 21st

AM Year 4 Wide Horizons outreach

Wednesday 22nd

End of KS2 after-school music lessons for the spring term

Thursday 23rd

Year 4 Brazil Class assembly

Monday 27th

NO CLUBS this week
11.00 Spain Class Maida Vale Library

Tuesday 28th

Year 5 Greece Rhythm Studio performance to parents

Thursday 30th

Year 4 Ghana Class assembly
11.00 Greece Class Maida Vale Library

Friday 31st End of Term – close for Easter Holidays

School Uniform SALE

Below is an updated list of what we still have in the building to clear it out at half the normal retail price.

Please understand that **ONLY** this stock will be at the reduced price to make space in our limited storage areas. The stock is sold on a first come basis.

If you wish to purchase any of this stock please email f.dalu-chandu@arkatwoodprimary.org who will organise for you to collect.

Please do not ask at the office unless it is confirmed by Fiona your items are waiting for collection.

Reversible Jackets £12

XS (3-4) x 38

S (5-6) x 23

M (7-8) x 16

Knitted V Neck Jumper £8

24" x 18

White Polos £4

XS x 5

PE Hoodie £7

3-4 x 3

Sweatshirt Crew Neck £4

3-4 x1

Menu for spring summer 2017

This is now available for KSI (Year R, 1 and 2) parents to choose the options for lunch with their child. KS2 (Years 3,4 and 5) will choose themselves on the day. To make sure there is enough food for children we have sent the menu around for each child to look at and decide what they THINK they might want for each day over the three week cycle. Those quantities have been given to the kitchens and now children should have enough of their choice each day. There will be salad sticks (carrot and cucumber) as well as a piece of bread each day too.

Library and reading news

This week your children should bring home a letter telling you all about our upcoming "Sponsored Read". The event will take place week commencing 27th February to coincide with World Book Day. During half term please ask family and friends to sponsor your child to read a certain amount everyday on the sponsorship form provided. There is also a log for you to keep track of the number of minutes they read. Reading can be anything from a chapter book, newspaper, magazine or anything when they are out and about including menus and signs. If your child is still learning to read, then this can include the time you read to them. The idea is to encourage reading for fun while raising money for books to go in the library and classrooms. All monies need to be returned to school with forms in a marked envelope by March 10th.

In addition to this we will be holding another Book Fair with Usborne Books on Wednesday, March 8th. The last one was such a huge success in its new format that we wanted to do another one the same. The titles offered to children will naturally be completely different to the pre-Christmas fair. The children will come down and choose a book that they would like. If you wish to purchase this book for your child you can return the slip and money to school in a marked envelope by Friday, March 17th. Any orders after this time or placed on the website will not go towards our free titles from Usborne. Jane will be around after school to see parents as well, where you can browse and order from her selection, the Usborne catalogue or her other specials. Remember that we can get up to 60% of our total order back in free books, last time we got over £500 of free titles!

For World Book Day we would like to do a Big Book Swap! The idea is that the Monday before World Book Day (February 17th) the children bring a book from home that they no longer want and during the week they will get a chance to come and select a different book from those donated. It would help the children if you could put a post-it note on the front with the age your child recommends the book for.

Lots of exciting things coming up so if you have any questions please feel free to contact f.dalu-chandu@arkatwoodlibrary.org

Minutes of the Parents' Forum

Thanks to everyone who attended the Parents' Forum meeting on 3rd February 2017. Below is a brief summary of our discussion:

School Packed Lunches for trips

A parent had asked whether changes could be made to the school packed lunches that are offered when children go on trips. The consensus was that parents were happy with the lunches, although it was questioned whether juice needs to be offered as well as water. Any ideas for changes are welcome.

Forest Schools

A parent mentioned that they had recently been on the Forest Schools morning at Paddington Rec with Y5 whilst they were studying cartography and had really enjoyed it. A parent mentioned they had preferred it when Forest Schools was in Holland Park as it had felt less urban. It was also asked whether the canal could be incorporated into the curriculum in some way. The floating classroom was suggested. The school will consider this and the possibility of a more rural setting for Forest Schools.

School Office.

A parent mentioned that they thought that Shirley was a fantastic addition to the school office. It was agreed by all that the office is running very smoothly and that queries are dealt with practically and efficiently.

Spanish Classes

A parent asked why Y4 Spanish classes did not happen every week. They did not feel that they knew what progress their child is making. The Spanish lessons are occasionally cancelled but it was agreed that every attempt should be made not to do. The Spanish curriculum and vocabulary would be posted up on the website so that parents can assist their children at home.

Walking Bus

The walking bus that is being trialled is now full and will begin after half-term. It is staff-led and will follow two routes. As there is interest in further buses it was agreed that Miss Rees will come to the next Parents' Forum and give feedback on how it is working. It is hoped that from Y6 children will begin to come to school by themselves to prepare for secondary school.

Y4 PE

A parent mentioned that in a recent PE lesson the whole class had lost their whole PE lesson when some children had been disruptive. It was confirmed that it is not generally the school's policy to penalise the whole class and the school would look into this.

Musical Instruments for KS1

It was asked whether some of the Friends of Atwood money could be used for musical instruments for KS1 and whether the opportunity for peripatetic music lessons could also be provided further down the school (as they are in Y5). It was agreed that it would be fantastic to have some pianos in classrooms. If parents find these to buy cheaply please do let the school know. The school will also look into further music provision in KS1.

Roof Garden Update

Work continues on the roof garden. Patti is meeting with architects etc. and all is progressing well. Once the initial work has been done then there will be a great deal of opportunity for parents and children to be involved in the creation of the garden.

Space in the School

A parent asked what would happen once all classrooms were occupied. Music and art will then be done in classrooms. It was asked whether the WAES building next door could be used. The school can look in to this. It was noted that there are going to be a number of financial cuts over the next five years and the school needs to be prepared for this. The possibility of an Endowment Fund was raised at the last forum. This is being considered.

New Menu

The school has listened carefully to parents' comments about the current menu. The new menu will begin after half-term after consultation with both parents and children, both of which were enthusiastic about the changes.

Parent Council

An update was given on the Parent Council which met for the first time on 26.01.17. 13 people were randomly invited to the initial meeting (the 15th person on the register from each class and one from nursery). Six parents attended on the night and three apologies given. The aim of the council is to be able to discuss items which come up in the Parents' Forum in more detail. Four items were discussed:

1. Food. Prior to the full-school meeting the group looked at the new menu and put forward their comments.
2. Social Media. It was agreed that parents should be made aware of the difference between various social media channels. Atwood has an official Twitter feed (@arkatwood) and a Friends of Atwood Facebook page. The Coo social media app is a parent-led app and the school does not access this.
3. Home Learning and Reading. This was a matter which was raised at an earlier forum. The school has a general no-homework policy as research shows there is not much added value to homework. The majority of parents agreed that this should continue. There will be homework in Y6 to prepare the children for secondary school. The school has invested in a banding reading scheme set of books and children will bring one of these home each week together with their phonics book and free choice library book. It was agreed that it would be helpful for parents to be sent the spellings that are being practised in school and this was done.
4. Parking. This continues to be a concern. It was agreed that the school should go ahead with a parking pledge that all parents would hopefully sign – the emphasis being on greater safety for everyone. It was suggested that a banner could be made to hang in the front of the school showing parents where they should not park

The Parent Council will meet half-termly from until January 2018 when a new group of parents will be invited. If parents have any questions or issues they would like to put forward for discussion, please contact Sara Langham (saralangham31@gmail.com) in the first instance.

Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed.

Sara Langham

GET, SET, PLAY!

Start your family's musical journey with the Royal College of Music and Royal Albert Hall!

This four-part programme offers you and your children the FREE chance to experience a symphony orchestra live and to have hands-on experience learning musical instruments. You can then take advantage of specially discounted music tuition with your local music service, the Tri-borough Music Hub.

STAGE ONE
My Great Orchestral Adventure
Ages 4+

Learn about (and try out!) orchestral instruments and have a go at conducting in these family orchestra sessions. No experience or own instruments required! Then, experience the thrill of a symphony orchestra live on stage at the world-famous Royal Albert Hall in a special interactive family concert.

Saturday 15 & 22 October 11am-12pm, ClementJames Centre 1.45pm-2.45pm, Venture Centre 3.45pm-4.45pm, Dalgarno Centre	Wednesday 26 October 1.30pm-3.30pm: Final joint workshop, Royal College of Music 4.30pm: My Great Orchestral Adventure concert, Royal Albert Hall
--	--

STAGE TWO
Ukuleles, Sticks and Songs
Ages 6+

Learn to play the ukulele, shakers, rainsticks, ocean drums and guiro rhythms sticks and explore your singing voice with music from the Groove 'n Play series by composer Sally Groves.

Saturday 25 Feb, 8 & 11 March 11am-12pm, ClementJames Centre 1.45pm-2.45pm, Venture Centre 3.45pm-4.45pm, Dalgarno Centre	Sunday 10 March 11am-12.30pm: Final joint workshop and performance, Royal College of Music
---	--

STAGE THREE
Moving On
Ages 6+

Develop your family's hands-on experience playing instruments and singing with the next step in the Groove 'n Play series. New instruments this term include recorder, guitar, violin, bongo drums and keyboard.

Saturday 20 April, 6 & 13 May 11am-12pm, ClementJames Centre 1.45pm-2.45pm, Venture Centre 3.45pm-4.45pm, Dalgarno Centre	Saturday 20 May 11am-12.30pm: Final joint workshop and performance, Royal College of Music
---	--

STAGE FOUR
Learn an Instrument (age 7+) or join a choir (age 6+)

St. Marylebone School - Saturday Centre
Barby School or Naresand Craft School - After-school Centres

Specially discounted music tuition is available to children who have shown commitment and musical promise during Stages Two and Three. Lessons and ensembles are run by the Triborough Music Hub. Limited places available.

How to take part

Stages One, Two and Three are all completely FREE to eligible families. For more information or to sign up please contact: Karina Skinner, RCM Sparks Family Ambassador

karinaskinner.rcm@gmail.com / 07932 221782

Don't forget!

The Royal College of Music and Royal Albert Hall offer up a wide variety of events for children and families to get involved in, lots of which are FREE.

More info on the websites:
www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks/events www.royalalberthall.com/family

World Book Day - Thursday 2 March

Does your child have a favourite book character all lined up for World Book Day? Harry Potter? BFG? Matilda? Pippi Longstocking? No, not yet? How about going with this year's suggested theme, then? EVERYDAY SUPERHEROES.

No magic powers other than their belief that ordinary people can change the world for the better. Our own wonderful Atwood library and your local library are sure to have some biographical books on people such as Florence Nightingale, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yusafsai, Mary Seacole, Isaac Newton or Marie & Pierre Curie to name but a very few.

And the costumes are sometimes easy: grown up clothes and a prop or two.

World Book Day: sorted

FREE half term fun for families at Maida Vale Library, Sutherland Avenue, W9 2

Where's Spot?

Spot the Dog and some other well-known book characters are hiding in the library. Can you find them all?

Monday 13th to Saturday 18th February

Mask Making

Make a marvellous mask from a variety of materials.

Monday 13th February

10:30am-12:00pm and 2:30pm-4:00pm

Rubbish Robots!

Make your own robot from recycled bits 'n' bobs.

Wednesday 15th February

10:30am-12:00pm and 2:30pm-4:00pm

Snakes and Ladders

Design your own board and challenge your friends to a game.

Thursday 16th February

10:30am-12:00pm and 2:30pm-4:00pm

No Need to book, just come along!

Please note: Children of all ages are welcome at our events, though younger children might need the help of an adult.



Imagine if your Daily Mile was transported from the school playground to the Queen's front garden?

Imagine running with your friends up The Mall, one of the most famous streets in the world, then finishing right next to the magnificent Buckingham Palace - home of the Queen.

Well, this is a dream that could come true as The Daily Mile is heading to this

amazing setting to be part of the Vitality Westminster Mile in May - and you could be involved too.

Ten Year 5 pupils from every London borough will be chosen to run along this world-famous course in The Daily Mile event at the Vitality Westminster Mile on Sunday 28 May 2017. The event is completely free and all your school needs to do is email elaine@thedailymile.co.uk to register its interest.

Even if you are not picked by your school for The Daily Mile London, the good news is that you and your friends and family can still sign up for one of the other waves at the fun-packed Vitality Westminster Mile and enjoy the free Vitality Wellness Festival that runs all day in Green Park.

Entry to all other waves is free for all children aged 11 and under. Entry costs £6 for 12-18 year olds and £8 for adults with a £1 reduction for Westminster residents. Every finisher receives a medal and a goody bag. Find out more at vitalitywestminstermile.co.uk

Entry is open to everyone, all information and sign up details on the website vitalitywestminstermile.co.uk. Entry fee is £6 for children between the ages of 12- 18 and £8 for adults, but with a £1 discount for Westminster residents.

We would love as many of our children as possible to enter!
Mr Mackenzie.

Note to parents regarding sports trips – recently there have been a number of sports trips which we have had to cancel at the last moment when parents who have offered to accompany not been able to. We kindly request that the teachers know at least three days in advance to allow us to seek alternative adults. Furthermore – if we don't have parents offering to support Forest Schools and Sports Trips there is a chance that they may be cancelled at short notice.