



# ARK ATWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

### WC 31 October 2016

Have courage and be kind

#### Diary Dates for November and December

**Please look at the Coo message below!**

#### November

- 7<sup>th</sup> AM Year 3 Belgium Wide Horizons Outreach Programme  
8<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Phonics workshop for Reception Parents Room 201  
AM Year 3 Norway Wide Horizons Outreach Programme  
9<sup>th</sup> 8.45 Reading Workshop for KS2 (Y3 – 5) parents Room 202  
8.45 Phonics workshop for Year 1 Parents Room 201  
10<sup>th</sup> 8.45-10.45 Triple P Parent Discussion Group: Developing Good Bedtime Routines Room 202  
11<sup>th</sup> **Playground cake sale –supporting Memories of Maya**  
Anti-Bullying Week  
14<sup>th</sup> E-Safety Training– Parent Workshops at 9.00 & 19.00
- AM Year 4 Ghana Wide Horizons Outreach Programme  
15<sup>th</sup> AM Year 4 Brazil Wide Horizons Outreach Programme  
18<sup>th</sup> 9 - 12Maida Vale Library Pupil Take-Over Day (6 KS2 pupils).  
21<sup>st</sup> AM Year 5 Spain Wide Horizons Outreach Programme  
22<sup>nd</sup> AM Year 5Greece Wide Horizons Outreach Programme  
23<sup>rd</sup> 9.00 Open Morning for Year R & Nursery Prospective Parents 2017
- 24<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Parent Council - Studio  
25<sup>th</sup> International day (details to follow after half term.)  
28<sup>th</sup> KS1 Maths Calculation Workshop for Parents (8.45 & 18.30)  
29<sup>th</sup> KS2 Maths Calculation Workshop for Parents (8.45 & 18.30)

#### December

- Tues 6<sup>th</sup>  
14.30-15.30 Spain Class last session @ Rhythm Studio + Performance to parents from 15.30-16.30
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup>  
14:00pm KS2 One Voice Choir to sing carols at Amberley Centre.  
16.45 Clarinet after school club group performance to parents – Room 201  
Nursery Parent's meets: all day – in Meeting Room  
8.45 Year 5 Greece Class Assembly  
11 – 11.45 Spain Class visit Maida Vale library
- 8<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Parent Forum – Studio  
11 – 11.45 Spain Class visit Maida Vale library  
**CLUBS FINISH TODAY**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – School Closed – Teacher Training Day**  
Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Last Year 1 Swimming of Term  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Year R trip to London Zoo  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup> 9am Nursery Globe 1 Christmas performance for parents –Hall  
14:00 Nursery Globe 2 Christmas performance for parents  
16:45 Nutcracker performance by Streetdance and Drama combined groups Hall  
Miss Griffiths and Miss Rebecca  
Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Winter Fair 16:00 – 18:00  
Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Y1 Trip to Father Christmas Play  
**END OF TERM Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Dec School finishes 14:00**

#### Notes from teachers

- Year N** Events for Nursery performances have been put into the diary so make a note of them! Please also remember to bring in those extra clothes in a named bag for your child in case of accidents! In class this week we have been learning about the changes in nature in autumn. Next week we will be thinking about fireworks, bonfire night and the story of Guy Fawkes. In maths we continue to work on recognising and naming numbers and counting on in ones accurately.
- Year R** We are really enjoying our park visits! Next week we are working on comparing the sizes and weights of things – please work with your child on words like –heavier, lighter, bigger, smaller greater, more and less.
- Year 1.** We are continuing our literacy on fairy tales – please read as many as you can with your child. Look out for the Phonics Workshop next Wednesday morning to help with knowing how the school teaches your child to decode. We are also very excited about the trip on Monday to the Puppet Theatre!
- Year 2** We have made a good start to this half term – the children who have learned poems off by heart have been performing them in class – wonderful! Please continue to read poems at home with your child. In maths next week we will be working on column subtraction – if you can practice with your child at home this would really help them. Spellings this week have been focussing on words ending in –ff – please practice these. Off, stuff, cuff, staff, stiff are examples.
- Year 3** We have thoroughly enjoyed our first week learning about the Victorians and the children have been sharing their half term topic work with everyone. Please continue to find out about Victorian life for a child at home to add to the children's knowledge.
- Year 4** We have finished our non-chronological leaflets on Sumatran Tigers and are now moving on to narrative work – please encourage your child to read for 20 minutes daily to help their fluency and vocabulary development. Spellings we are working on include suffixes - ing, -en –er e.g. forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner.
- Year 5** .Look out on the website next week and in parentmail for the reading book list suggestions for Year 5. In maths we are now working on Unit 3 – please make sure your child has worked on the homework book and finished Unit 2. Year 5 class assemblies are coming up this half term so keep an eye on the diary for those too.

## Supporting our school with Coo

The school calendar is quickly filling up with important dates that we all try not to miss: end-of-Year shows, Class assemblies, school trips and more.

Top tip: all Coo members get these dates automatically into their calendars AND if 150 NEW people join before the Christmas holidays, Friends of ARK Atwood will receive a £250 donation.

How can YOU help?

- Download the app at <https://www.letscoo.com/app> (yes, multiple parents/Carers can join)

- Enter the code for your child's year group:

Nursery: 2BAUSR

YR: ARKMEX

Y1: PDMXVK

Y2: CVA4MS

Y3: SRTBP5

Y4: ZASGCD

Y5: DYM2SG

Once you have joined, you will also get added to the overall ARK Atwood Coo Group.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Anne-Sophie (Constance & Gabriel's mum) on [asmo15@gmail.com](mailto:asmo15@gmail.com)

Just a few clicks on our smartphones and a lovely donation to our school: it's that easy!

## Transition Teds and attendance.

Congratulations to Italy class for some magnificent transitions around the school this week – they have worked incredibly hard!

Italy Class also win the attendance trophy for the week with the best attendance and no lates at all – well done!

## FOAA and the Winter Fair

**FoAA Coffee**

**Diary dates**

**Tuesday 8 November:** Purple Carrot Nutrition (cooking & nutrition classes, healthy eating workshops for kids,

**Tuesday 15 November:** Bake with Maria - Christmas Baking Taster Session

### **WINTER FAIR – FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

The winter fair is now booked and we are working hard to arrange this event so it is fun for everyone! This year we are changing the format as a trial. The fair will be from 4pm – 6pm after school on the 16<sup>th</sup> and be held on the downstairs floor of the school. The key points of contact for this are Fiona (Sholto's mum Y2) and Bouchera (Adam R's mum Y4) Miss Baxter will be the key point of contact in school.

***If you feel you would like to help with a stall please speak to Fiona [Fiona@fionamj.co.uk](mailto:Fiona@fionamj.co.uk)***

***If you feel you could help with the food and drink café which will be in the Studio – please speak to Bouchera (catch on the playground at school pick up time)***

***Any other queries – speak to Miss Baxter!***

We are hoping that Team Atwood will pull together and everyone who can, will do a little bit to make this brilliant!

Thanks in advance!

## Other Notes

### **Lunch time – From Miss Altrudo Lunchtime Lead supervisor**

The new menu is going down very well – children are loving the new lunches and especially the range of fruit and milkshakes on offer for dessert. Years 3,4 and 5 especially are enjoying making their own choices. As a result we have noticed a lot less waste each day and children generally are feeling well fed.

During lunch, I have put in a new reward system including a special sticker for the pupil who has been noticeably sensible, kind and showing their manners. We announce awards at lining up at the end of lunchtime so that the other children and the teachers can celebrate and recognise that child's positive attitude.

### **Sport and fitness**

Mr Mackenzie has put up new displays in the corridor by the hall showing the sports pictures from the Twitter feed and from parents. He will update the displays regularly and also put up some pictures of the children playing sport in clubs.

This week children have taken part in a KSI Football tournament and a Netball tournament. Next week 7 year 5's will be going off to a football tournament too! We are fully aware that the outdoor sports provision is limited through the lack of space and we continue to search for viable options off site to try to improve this.

Regent's Park Royals RFC. Every Sunday at Regent's Park. 07770 753162,  
[info@regentsparkroyals.co.uk](mailto:info@regentsparkroyals.co.uk) <http://www.regentsparkroyals.co.uk>

Community Cricket sessions, every Monday, Paddington Rec, 4:00-6:00. £1 per session. No booking necessary. For more info contact Shakeel Ahmed [Shakeel.Ahmed@middlesexccc.com](mailto:Shakeel.Ahmed@middlesexccc.com) 07506 35

## Parent's forum

### **Welcome to our update of the latest parents forum meet.**

**Ventilation** – the concern was that the school classrooms in particular were extremely hot in summer; Westminster council have been contacted and this issue is being dealt with. This is a long term issue which we are all aware needs to be fixed.

**E-Safety and Cyber bullying.** A parent asked whether this was something the school would deliver workshops for parents and parents especially year 5. On the 19<sup>th</sup> November as part of Anti bullying week there are two workshops planned (please see the diary above) these are aimed for parents staff and children and will cover all the most up to date information to ensure that children are safe.

**Notice boards;** A parent asked if there could be pictures of sporting and clubs activities so children's activities could be seen and celebrated. This is possible so look out for the updated boards around the school.

**Home Reading and Home learning policies.** It was agreed that the answer to many questions regarding these policies would be discussed at the parent council which is meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> November. A working party is planned to look at home learning and reading. There is ongoing training with the school library lead and volunteers in how to ensure children pick books which are age appropriate and at the correct reading ability level. In order to support parents with the expectation of 20 minutes reading per night, the school will make efforts to train all staff in ensuring books home are able to support this.

**Rewards** – could children be rewarded or celebrated in class or in assemblies for books they have read? The literacy working party will discuss and feed-back their outcomes.

Reading list for year groups – this will be published on the website. New guided reading in school for year 5 and 6 is in place.

**The curriculum newsletters** will be updated in the spring term to incorporate the spellings for the year group studied in the half term.

**Homework** – is an ongoing discussion. There are plans to publish spellings on the website for parents to support this and mathematics ongoing number work is outlined in each curriculum newsletter

**Sport clubs** – parents understandably would like to see more clubs. The school is aware and is looking into creative solutions in the local neighbourhood to extend the sports provision.

**Clubs** – Could there be greater provision for the younger years including parents possibly running after school clubs. The school welcomes offers from parents to support these.

**Team trials** - Could children who tried out for a place in a team, be told whether or not they were successful? Yes – this communication will improve.

**Increase achievement awards** – this should be possible now that the achievement assemblies are held in Key Groups.

**Parents meeting** – will be three times annually from now on. Sign up from the spring term will be through parentmail.

**Tablets** – will not necessarily be ipads. The school is still looking at the variety of available options. Coding will be on laptops and be run from spring.

**Lunchtimes** – could the year groups eating times be rotated so that the same year group is not always eating last? Yes these timetables will be looked at by SLT in the term. The snack mid-morning should be adequate so children can get through to lunchtime with enough energy. Lunch quantities have now been adjusted in line with the different age needs.

**School trips**- parents who offer should be notified if they are not needed to help on the day. This will happen by teachers verbally on the day

**Roof top playground** This is not feasible as a result of the enormous cost. The school is looking at other options for play. The roof top garden is being actively managed by Patti and the school including Ark Schools management. There will be opportunities for fundraising during the year.

**Parking** – is an ongoing concern. We will not be able to get a lollipop person as a result of a survey with Westminster Council and in the meantime we ask parents to please not drive down Amberley Road. This is not only a safety issue but directly impacts the school in regard to the use of the pitch so vital in our sports offer.

**Parent mail** – is still being sorted out and should be fully working in time for the next parent evening meets to iron out frustrations with signing up to see teachers. It is now the school's form of communication with parents.

**Triple P** – those who attended are very enthusiastic at this offer and it would be great to see more parents come and be involved. Please ask at the office or speak to Miss Rees for more information. These are of course, free of charge.

**Parent Council** – this was discussed. It is a new initiative; a specifically selected parent from each class (using the class list) will be invited to take part. The idea behind this is to try and extend the parental involvement and give opportunities for working parties to be formed on issues raised at the forum. Further information on this will follow. The diary date for the council meet is in the diary dates at the top of this newsletter.

## Book club news

Dear all,

Book club is coming up on 8<sup>th</sup> November. The meet is offsite rather than in school that night.

Our summer reads were:

The midnight watch by David dyer  
A brick that built the houses by Kate tempest  
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi  
The magic strings of Frankie presto Mitch Albom  
The tidal zone by Sarah moss  
My dear I wanted to tell you by Louisa Young  
A God in ruins by Kate Atkinson  
On The Road... with kids by John Ahern

Please don't worry if you haven't read all/any of the books - come along anyway. Everyone is welcome!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on 20<sup>th</sup>