



Achieving Success

# ARK Atwood Primary Academy

## Newsletter

### A New School Year

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 unseasonably mild weather, make no mistake – autumn term is in full swing. It's late 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 our twice termly newsletter and our Twitter account (@ARKAtwood). Please follow us!

In 2011 Atwood opened with 45 pupils and 11 staff. This September sees Atwood full for the first time from Nursery to Year 6. Our school community is now comprised of over 450 children and 66 staff. We are a busy, inner London primary with such a vibrant school community and there is never a dull moment. The new school year has got off to a great start with excellent standards of behaviour – routines and structures are working. A particular highlight has been the introduction of mixed-age dining and playtimes.

This year we are elevating the focus on our Houses. New House Captains have been elected and we are eagerly awaiting the design of our house shields. We're currently thinking about how children can be identified by their House, e.g. badges, ties etc. We'll keep you posted.

Do remember to keep in touch with us and let us know if you have questions about any aspect of life at Atwood.

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 2017-18 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 2017-18

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 2017-18 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.

## 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 for a coffee to meet other parents to ask your questions and meet with me, Laura Thomson (Assistant Headteacher, Early Years) and Sara Langham (Parent Governor).

## Parent Mail

This is our main method of communication with parents. Once we have an email address for a parent they are registered and receive an email to verify their account. Parent Mail is beneficial to parents because:

- Messages will get to you reliably and on time
- We can send messages directly to mums, dads and other carers at the same time
- Emergency or important information can be sent by text message
- iPhone and Android Apps available for parents on the go.

If you don't have an account or are having any difficulties with Parent Mail please speak to the office team. We really do want 100% of parents signed-up and engaging with us in this way.

## Diary Dates

To avoid any confusion, diary dates will now be published on the website. Hopefully having one source will make life easier rather than having to cross-reference with the newsletter. The diary will be updated at the beginning of every half-term.

## Parent Handbook

We published a new parent handbook this year which was given to all new families joining the school. The handbook was created in consultation with the Parent Council and contains a wealth of useful information about life at Atwood, e.g. uniform, school meals, communication etc. We have put an electronic copy on the school website as even if you're not a new parent, you might find the Q + A sections a useful reminder of the way we do things. The parent handbook can be found under the 'Policies' tab.

## House Captains

Congratulations to the newly elected Year 6 house captains:

Aspiration & Achievement	Scholarship	Perseverance	Integrity	Respect & Responsibility	Enthusiasm
Grace	Vinnie	Mya D	Olivia V	Isra	Constance

## Secondary Admissions

Year 6 parents please note that the deadline for secondary admissions is 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please visit this page of our website for comprehensive information: <http://arkatwoodprimary.org/admissions/secondary-transfer>. If you require any help please don't hesitate to speak to Mr Upfield or Miss Lester.

## Friends of Ark Atwood (FofAA)

All parents are automatically members of FofAA. This group promotes a cohesive school community and ensures that all children and their families can play a part in the wider school community. FofAA also fundraises for the school to help it achieve its aims for each child.

Following the school year's 1st (well attended, thank you) meeting, the minutes can be found on the school website here, under Minutes: <http://arkatwoodprimary.org/life-school/friends-ark-atwood-fofaa>

Thank you:

- To last year's volunteers and especially Leanne, without whom none of it would have been possible
- To all who came along to the Macmillan Coffee morning today

Next events:

- Cake sale (20<sup>th</sup> October)
- Halloween Disco (30<sup>th</sup> October)



Help needed:

- Volunteers to help organise the Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December. Please get in touch with FofAA [atwoodfriends@gmail.com](mailto:atwoodfriends@gmail.com)



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And remember to check the notice board outside school gates for any news!