



Diary Dates

Diary dates for this term can be found on our school website: <http://arkatwoodprimary.org/calendar>.

In summary, key dates are included below.

The second half of the autumn term is always a very busy one in school: academically, as we prepare for end of term assessments to consolidate learning since September and socially, with trips, visits and end of term activities. There are details later on in the newsletter from the Friends of Atwood – the next big school event is the Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December so make a note in your diaries now.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13 November	14	15	16	17
		9.00 Open Morning for EY entry September 2018	10.05-10.50 Year 3 Belgium Class @ Maida Vale Library	Rec/KS1 Achievement Assembly
20	21	22	23	24
	Usborne Book Fair		11.00-11.45 Year 4 Brazil Class @ Maida Vale Library	KS2 Achievement Assembly
27	28	29	30	1 December
Year 6 trip to Bletchley Park	Year 6 Australia final session & performance @ Rhythm Studio 14.45-15.15 Performance (parents invited)	Year 5 Greece final session & performance @ Rhythm Studio 14.30-15.00 Performance (parents invited)	10.00-10.45 Year 4 Ghana Class @ Maida Vale Library 10.30-15.00 Ark Boys' Singing Event (10 boys from Years 5 & 6)	Rec/KS1 Achievement Assembly 2nd December 14.00-17.00 Christmas Fair
4	5	6	7	8
Last Year 1 Swimming of term Year 5 Pathways Week 10.05-10.50 Year 5 Greece Class @ Maida Vale Library	Year 5 & 6 'Think' Workshops	Year 5 Trip to Science Museum: Wonderlab 13.30 One Voice (20 children) perform at Amberley Estate Christmas Lunch	Clubs finish 11.00-11.45 Year 5 Spain Class @ Maida Vale Library 16.00 Friends of Atwood cake sale (Year 5)	INSET Day SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS Saturday 9 th 10.30-15.00 Ignite @ The Bargehouse
11	12	13	14	15
NO CLUBS THIS WEEK 10.05-10.50 Year 6 Canada Class @ Maida Vale Library	13.30 Year 2 @ The Lyric Theatre: Jack and the Beanstalk <i>Picnic Lunch in school before leaving</i>	9.15 KS2 Pop Christmas to parents 11.00 Nursery Christmas songs performance to parents (in Nursery) 15:30 Nursery Christmas songs performance to parents (in Nursery) 14.00 Year 1 @ The Lyric Theatre: Father Christmas <i>Picnic Lunch in school before leaving</i> 14.30 KS2 Pop Christmas to parents	9.15 Year R Christmas Show to parents 11.00-11.45 Year 6 Australia Class @ Maida Vale Library School Christmas Lunch 15.00 Year R Christmas Show to parents	9.15 KS1 Christmas Around the World to parents 14.00 Close for Christmas Holiday No P3 today
1 January	2	3	4	5
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY			8.30 Spring 1 starts for Pupils	

House Points

Running total of house points so far this term – 5 weeks to go until the victorious house for the autumn term is announced!

Aspiration & Achievement	Scholarship	Perseverance	Integrity	Respect & Responsibility	Enthusiasm

Attendance

Year to date attendance is currently **96.3%** which is just above target. Fantastic news – keep it up!



Shoes!

Please can I remind you about our policy on smart footwear. We've seen lots of coloured trainers creeping in on non-PE days. Details of acceptable footwear can be found in our uniform policy: <http://arkatwoodprimary.org/uniform>

Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our school's culture of high expectations and academic achievement. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

Parent Forum Minutes

Meeting held on 3rd November 2017

1. Lunches

- The school will do some work with the kitchen lead, Dani, on school lunches.
- There will be a menu change for the spring term, which will involve feedback from pupils.
- School will monitor portion sizes and ensuring that all choices are available. There are always teachers and senior leaders in the dining hall. Please encourage children to feedback on portion sizes there and then.
- Packed lunches can be changed on a termly basis. It is not possible to mix school lunches and packed lunches.
- It is preferred that children in Reception to Y2 do not have packed lunches as it is good to encourage children to try new food but if there is a particular need please speak to the school.
- The school packed lunch that is taken on trips will be looked at it to see if another item can be added especially for older children.
- The school will look at how lunch time is staffed both upstairs and in the hall.
- To simplify payment the cost per term will be put up on the website so parents know exactly how much to pay. The new menu and the cost for Spring 1 will be online w/c December 11th.
- It was agreed that mixed-seating is proving very successful – the children seem to really like it.

2. Online payments

- The school will check whether clubs can be paid for online.
- The school has previously requested a card reader from ARK but it is an ARK policy not to have these in schools. Atwood will contact the finance team to see if this can be arranged as they would also like one.

3. Coding Offer

- Coding is taught and the IT Curriculum aims are being implemented. This will be updated on the website.
- A range of ideas is currently being considered to support teachers with the Upper KS2 technical curriculum.
- Atwood is working with Riva Learning to look at the possibility of teaching all Year 5 and 6 pupils a 10-session Computing Starter course that gently introduces various concepts such as coding, mobile app development, animations, game design and robotics.
- The updated Offer will be published on the website as will the Y6 curriculum aims.

4. P.E.

- It is correct that this year 1 hr of P.E. is currently being offered. The timetable is packed. This can be looked at again next year but other things (e.g. rhythm studio) will then have to come out.
- The lunchtime sport offer is very good and quite unique. KS2 children at pitch – 30 mins per day = 2.5 hours per week of physical activity and different sports are provided. With PE this equates to 3.5 hours per week. The activity planned by Mr Mackenzie is very physical. Mr Mackenzie is at the pitch for 1.5 hours every lunchtime leading this. Rota of children changes weekly.
- The Forum agreed that Mr Mackenzie is doing a great job encouraging children who are not that keen on P.E.
- There is currently no Daily Mile as the logistics for using the pitch or the canal path made it too difficult. The school hopes to bring it back if feasible. There is a new estate manager who Mr Upfield will meet with soon.
- KSI P.E. offer continues to be one hour a week for now.
- Skipping was suggested as an alternative but this has previously been tried unsuccessfully.
- Swimming will be in the summer term of Year 6. As of this academic year (end of year) schools are required to publish: Number of year 6 pupils meeting the national curriculum requirement to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.
- Both Year 6 classes will enjoy a summer term swimming programme before secondary school and this is something that will be repeated each year.

5. Flu Jabs

- These will be optionally offered to all children in Ys R-4 before Christmas. A letter will be sent from the school.

6. Achievement Assembly

- Parents are still invited to Achievement Assembly when their child receives a certificate. Apologies to those parents who did not receive these recently.

7. School Trips

- To ensure that parents have a fair opportunity to volunteer for trips this will be in the letter that is sent out for each trip where parental help is required.
- The school will try its best to notify parents who have not been chosen.

8. Y6 Residential Trip

A letter concerning the Y6 residential trip will be sent out to parents very shortly. Parents can begin paying for the trip in instalments from this point.

9. Homework

- The aim of homework in Y6 is for the teachers to see how the children are doing. Feedback will not be given to parents.
- Online courses such as Mathletics and Reading Eggs are too expensive for the school to provide and are something parents would need to do at home.

10. School Office

- The school is not able to get an answerphone for the time being.
- **Atwood can now be notified of a child's absence via ParentMail.** This is a very efficient way of letting us know that your child is absent and the reasons why

11. Reception Clubs

- Will start in January.

12. P3

- If parents are having any difficulties with P3 please could you let Mr Upfield know as this will then be discussed with Linda.

13. Secondary Transfer

- A parent thanked the school for being so helpful with the secondary transfer process both in allowing the children to see as many schools as possible and to give advice. It was much appreciated.

14. Roof Garden Update

- Planning application is to be submitted this week. The process should take 21 days. Patti is working with the architect on some fantastic plans which will be shared as soon as possible. The aim is for the roof garden to be ready by the summer term 2018.
- All fundraising is currently being steered towards the roof garden. It was asked if Friends of Atwood could please provide an update of the amount that has been raised so far for this project. They are very happy to do so.

NB: As attendance has been very low at the last two evening Parents' Forums we are considering only having Parents' Forums in the day going forwards. Please let us or the school office know if you would like them to continue in the evening as we are very happy to do so if there is enough uptake.

Library News

It has been a really busy start to the year and we are thankful to have 4 new volunteers on board. They are currently training so that we can continue to see all 14 classes every week.

We have had a lot of wonderful new stock arrive which the children are really enthusiastic about. We also have our new cushions and a proper Returns Box which was kindly paid for by the Friends of ARK Atwood.



We wanted to say a huge thank you for all your support for the Scholastic Book Club we are sending home every half term. It is causing quite a buzz in school when the children see it on the library desk. A reminder that our current club closes on November 13th and that all orders give the school 25% back in free books. Last time we got 10 free books which is wonderful! You can view the leaflets online and order here

<http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/ark-atwood>

We also have our very popular and successful **Usborne Book Fair** coming up again on **November 22nd**. The children will come down and look at the wonderful selection that Jane brings. They will then choose a few books that they may like and we will put it on a wish list which will be sent home with them at the end of the day. If you wish to order the books, you can do so by either coming to see Jane at the end of the day where you can pay by card or alternately by returning the wish list along with the exact money or a cheque made payable to Jane Ireland, in an envelope to the office. Usborne do wonderful books as we have seen in the past and the school has received over £1000 in free books since we started doing the fairs. This is great opportunity to get some holiday shopping done as well as support the school. Jane will stay at the end of the day until around 5pm for anyone who wants to pop in after school or before picking up from clubs for you to order anything you want either from the items she has or from her catalogue. Orders will close on November 29th to allow delivery in time for the end of term.

Friends of Ark Atwood (FofAA)

Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped, baked, set up, cleaned up, participated, planned, showed up during this 1st term of the school year ☺

This is how we are doing so far:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning: thank you to Maria & Sarah. We raised a record breaking £570!!!
- Y6 Cake Sale: raised £215
- Wear a Hood for @wood: raised £268
- Halloween Disco: huge thank you to Iman and all her helpers for a great party which also raised £700!!!

NEXT UP: Atwood Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December 2-5 pm

It's beginning to look a lot like... the Atwood Christmas Fair.

Halls will be Decked, lights will be twinkling away in the Winter Wonderland Grotto, a distant ho-ho-ho can be heard in the distance, almost drowned out by the sound of excited children decorating biscuits while their parents enjoy some of the delicious food on offer. And let's not forget the beautiful and uplifting (un)traditional Christmas songs at the end.

But we can't do it all without lots of help **FROM YOU.**

So what can you do?

- Volunteer on the day, especially to help run the kids' activities (contact FofAA or your Class Rep to sign up) **INCLUDING** 1-2 parents to be SANTA
- Bake cakes to bring on the day for the cake stall
- Clean Out your cupboards and closets at home (ideal just before Xmas). We need:
 - o NEW items, such as unwanted gifts for kids and adults (for the Secret Santa Shop so the kids can buy presents for someone in the family)
 - o NEARLY NEW items, such as toys, books, DVDs, children and adult clothes, bric a brac (no shoes) for the Y6 Isle of Wight Residential Trip Stall
 - o USED toys for the Knock-em Down stall
- For the Winter Wonderland, we also need the items below, which can be found in most pound shops:
 - o White netting
 - o White sheets
 - o White and Light Blue balloons
 - o Cotton balls
 - o White glitter spray paint
 - o Battery operated fairy lights (white, with batteries): LOTS & LOTS & LOTS. If you label them with your name, we can make sure you get them back afterwards
- Jam (or olive, or mayonnaise: not too big or too small) jars filled with small items like the ones in party bags for the Jolly Snow Jars (if adding sweets, no nuts and all individually wrapped)
- Miscellaneous Items:
 - o Camping lamps (battery operated) to illuminate the stalls outside
 - o Wrapping paper: can be the leftover rolls you have at home
 - o Juice Boxes
 - o Small bottled water
 - o Apple Juice in large boxes
 - o Tiny vegan/ halal marshmallows

- If you would like to contribute but can neither spare the time to volunteer nor to rummage through your unwanted items at home, we are always very grateful for small cash donations, which allow us to buy indispensable items.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: does anyone have a PA system or speakers with dock and microphone we can borrow to play the obligatory cheesy Xmas music in the playground?

Most importantly: please come to the Fair, bring family and friends and spend an afternoon with our lovely Atwood community!

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH:

- School Newsletter
- Email atwoodfriends@gmail.com
- Facebook: Like us on <http://www.facebook.com/AtwoodFriends>
- Twitter: Follow us <http://twitter.com/FofArkAtwood>
- Notice Board next to the main school gate