



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

## Start of Spring Term – Letter to Parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

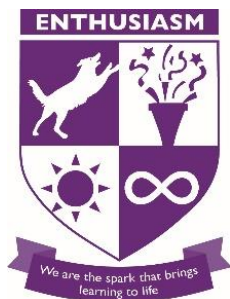
I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with friends and family. We are looking forward to welcoming children back to school tomorrow with gates opening at the usual time of 8.25am.

A few points ahead of the new term starting:

**Attendance** This is crucial to your child's progress. We are working hard this term to ensure that every child makes the most of their learning time. We are concerned about the growing number of term time absences and frequent late arrivals. This is a barrier to learning and causes unfair disruption to others. *We want to work together with parents to change this.* Morning work in class starts at 8.30am – missing 10 minutes each day results in nearly an hour of learning lost each week!



**School Lunches** As was communicated last term, **Westminster local authority has agreed to fund free school lunches for all children in Years Three to Six from this term for a minimum of 18 months.** This comes in addition to the free lunches that are already provided for children in Reception to Year 2. It is our understanding that this funding applies to all children attending the school regardless of whether they live in the borough. Nursery families will continue to pay for school lunches as this funding does not cover these children. The office will be in touch with any parents who have outstanding lunch debts from last term as these must be paid in full. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



**Enthusiasm House** A reminder that if your child is in Enthusiasm House, they have a non-uniform day this Friday as a reward for winning the most house points last term. The only condition is that, in line with their House colours, their non-uniform should contain some purple!

**House Captains** This Friday, the children will be electing new House Captains. If you are the parent of a child in Year 6 who is interested in standing for election, please encourage them and support them with their speeches.

**School Street Scheme** As well as working hard to improve attendance, another good new year's resolution is to ensure we are playing our part in keeping the roads around the school safe. As you will be aware, cameras have now been installed as part of this scheme and, according to the borough's timeline, these will go live during this month. Parents should therefore not be driving down Amberley Road during the period of enforcement as they will be liable for a penalty notice. Further information about the School Street Scheme can be found here: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/school-streets>

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow bright and early at 8.25am

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy