



## **Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Dear Parents,

A message from Ark Schools:

We're pleased to let you know that Tam Broadway, currently Headteacher at Ark Isaac Newton Academy, has been successfully appointed as Headteacher of Ark Atwood and will be joining the school at the start of the Summer Term.

Both final candidates showed strengths but it was clear that Tam was able to show a real ability to lead a school to be truly excellent and demonstrated a firm commitment to Ark Atwood. It is testament to Atwood that we have been able to attract such high calibre candidates including Tam who has led Ark Isaac Newton for over nine years, securing it as an outstanding school with very impressive results. Tam will be starting after Easter and will spend some time with James on handover before then hopefully meeting as many of you as possible over this period. By starting in the summer term, it also means that she will be able to work alongside Laura before her maternity leave ensuring a smooth handover of her areas of expertise.

Venessa Willms, Ark's Director of Education, said "Tam will be filling some big shoes, but I am confident her vision for excellence will take Atwood even further forward, that her dedication to children will mean Atwood pupils will flourish and be happy and that she is deeply committed to maintaining the high levels of staff development and community feel that James and the team have established."

I have known Tam for almost ten years, worked with her closely and respect her enormously. I know she will be an excellent appointment and I will be in touch soon to organise some dates and events where you will have the chance to hear from her and ask any questions you may have.

Have a great weekend,

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

## **Ark Atwood FC**



Atwood FC was back in action last night Friday afternoon with a Y5/6 Boys match against Ark Academy. The match was a keenly fought affair finishing in a 3-3 draw (a last-minute equaliser from Ark Academy). Well played boys!

### **Nursery & Reception Informal Coffee & Pastry Meeting**

We will be hosting a coffee afternoon before collection time at 3pm next Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. All Nursery and Reception parents are invited.

Do come along for this informal event to meet other parents, speak with some of the Atwood team and spend some time in your child's school.

## Year 6 at the Imperial War Museum

Last week, Year 6 got the opportunity to undertake a Documentary Challenge at the Imperial War Museum. They recorded mini documentaries telling the stories of World War One that are too important to be kept inside the museum. After making the documentary, children had the time to further explore the museum, including experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of a reconstruction of a trench and climbing inside an Anderson and Morrison shelter! We are very excited to use our experience to write our World War One narrative flashback.



## School Street Scheme

As parents are aware, CCTV cameras are now in place in Amberley Road with this area now being deemed a Street Scheme during the hours around the start and end of the day.

Westminster local authority has informed us that 87 warning letters have been sent out to road users driving down Amberley Road during this time. From this week, Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) are being issued.

Further information: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/school-streets/cctv-school-streets-trial>

## Attendance Numbers – w/c 30<sup>th</sup> January

Nursery	81.4
Mexico	81.9
India	90.1
Italy	92.2
France	88.8
China	93.7
Barbados	96.8
Norway	89.1
Belgium	94.0
Ghana	97.3
Brazil	87.1
Greece	91.6
Spain	91.1
Canada	95.8
Australia	96.4
Whole School	91.3

Well done to this week's top class:

**Ghana Class**

**97.3%**



**Attendance Top Tip**

If a parent or sibling is unwell, look into which Atwood families live near you and can help with the school run so that your child does not miss out on a day at school.

If you are not sure who lives locally, speak to the Atwood office who will be able to link you up with other families.

## Parent / Teacher Book Club

The next parent and teacher Book Club meet is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February downstairs at the Prince Alfred on Formosa Street from 7pm.

We will be discussing 'You don't know what war is' by Yeva Skalietska. Do bring suggestions for our next read - books with a number in the title.

All welcome - parents and teachers - you don't need to have read the book!



## Year One at Lauderdale Synagogue

As part of our RWE curriculum, Year One had the opportunity to visit Lauderdale Synagogue on Ashworth Road. Their guided tour was not only filled with new information but also gave children a chance to see what they had learned in class, up close and personal. It was a pleasure to see children being inquisitive and hear them make connections between the Jewish faith and their own religions. Their day ended with a picnic at Paddington Rec and much loved time in the playground.



## House Points



The House Points for this week have been counted. Totals for this week:

Aspiration & Achievement	Scholarship	Perseverance	Integrity	Respect & Responsibility	Enthusiasm
<b>273</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>288</b>

Well done to Respect and Responsibility House on a very successful week!

## Achievement Assembly

As always on Friday, we celebrated two wonderful scholars from each class who have either personified the Atwood Values or been true Atwood scholars producing great work. Congratulations to these children (we are switching each week between Upper School and Lower School).

Class	Children
Italy	Freddie & Ayman
France	Hicham & Suraiyah
China	Layla & Amari
Barbados	Eisa & Alphie
Norway	Tala & Mariam
Belgium	Camille & Zuhir



## Community Events

**Westbourne Community Voices**

**HOW CAN I KEEP MY CHILD SAFE?**

**HELP PROVIDED!**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Wednesday 8th February 9.30-12.30**  
 Westbourne Park Baptist Church  
 Corner of Porchester Road and Westbourne Park Villas, W2 5DX

*It takes a community to bring up a child*

Speech bubbles contain the following text:  
 - "I'm worried about knife crime!"  
 - "Why do young people join gangs?"  
 - "We need to do something, but I don't know what?"  
 - "My son doesn't tell me what he is doing or who he is with"



**ENJOY ACTIVE FUN THIS February**

**ACTIVITIES AND HEALTHY FOOD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**  
 FEBRUARY HALF-TERM 2023

This February half-term, it's more important than ever that young people in Westminster have somewhere to go for fun activities and healthy meals.

Whether you like sports, arts & crafts or cooking, there's something for all children and young people to enjoy!

There are also activities for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities so everyone can join the fun.

Don't delay!  
 Find out what free activities and food offers are available to you and register today!

ourcity.org.uk /haf-programme

City of Westminster

OUR CITY

Includes a QR code labeled 'SCAN ME' and illustrations of a tennis racket, microphone, and sports equipment.

## E-Safety

We share E-Safety information with parents in the Atwood newsletter. This is to help you in ensuring that your child can use technology safely. Please read the following information.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the Internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

### MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the Internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

### BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

### REMAND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

### KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

### DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect houses: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

### TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

### CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

### Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RASE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday