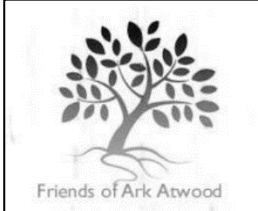




Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 4th November

Dear Parents,



Friends of Ark Atwood On Wednesday (9th November) we have our next Friends of Ark Atwood meeting at 8.45am straight after drop off. All parents are invited – tea, coffee and cake provided! We will be planning for the upcoming events this term and also discussing fundraising for future events. A huge thank you to all the parents who contributed their time and culinary skills for the recent International Day celebration which was a great success.

School Street Scheme - CCTV I know from lots of parent conversations that there are ongoing concerns about the safety of the roads around the school at the start and end of the day. I remain in touch with suppliers, the council and others in the hope that a permanent solution will be found.

The long term solution is ultimately the School Street Scheme which is implemented by the council. Westminster City Council has this week informed the school that they will be installing CCTV cameras as part of their ongoing monitoring of their trial School Street Scheme locations. This is the latest step in the council's process of determining how best to manage the roads around the school during the busy pick up and drop off time. No information has yet been received about when they be installed or for how long. The council will make a 'formal decision on the future of all of our trial School Streets in early 2023.'

Hopefully this means we are one step closer to a solution. Further details about the School Street Scheme can be found online here: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/school-streets/trial-schools/ark-atwood-primary>

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

Parents Evening – 28th November & 4th December

Parents Evenings are taking place later this term on Monday 28th November and Thursday 1st December. These will be in person sessions.

As previously, school will finish at 2.40pm on these days with the first session beginning at 3.00pm and the last session finishing at 6.00pm. You will be able to book your slot(s) from Monday 7th November – we will let you know when the system is up and running.



Carpenter Needed!

We have some carpentry work to be completed at school and are struggling to find a company/individual to help with this work. If you know of anyone who can support us, please contact Mr Evelyn.



Year 6 Pop Art

During Autumn 1, Year 6 spent their art lessons studying the Pop Art movement that emerged in Britain and America during the 1950's. They drew inspiration from artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol to create a striking self-portrait. I think you can agree they have all nailed the brief!

Can you name the children and see the teacher?



Year 2 at the Tower of London

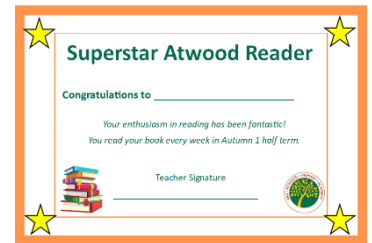


To mark the end of our history unit on Kings and Queens, Year 2 visited the historic Tower of London on Thursday. The rain paused for us and we had a fantastic day, exploring the castle grounds, climbing up and down the castle walls, having adventures in the white tower and finally

marvelling over the beautiful crown jewels. Year 2 illustrated their amazing historical knowledge and showed great perseverance throughout the day, exploring such huge castle grounds. A big thank you to all the parents who came with us for your incredible support throughout the day.

Reading Homework

As our Year 1 and Year 2 students started their reading homework at the start of September, we were able to present our first round of certificates to the children who brought back their books every week in autumn 1 half term. Those children were announced in assembly and have received their certificate.



A big well done to all those children as it demonstrates their enthusiasm to their reading and will massively help their progress in reading fluency too. We look forward to announcing the next winners in autumn 2, when Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils will also have the opportunity to get their certificate. Congratulations to the following students in Year 1 and Year 2:

Class	Names
Italy	Ayman, Wafa, Salah, Aleena, Sephora, Zoe, Sara, Nicole, Melek, Nonni, Kairo, Zayn, Yazan, Charley, Tia
France	Amalia, Ava, Finbarr, Mercy, Umar, Mariam, Ariana
China	Laith, Huzaifah, Ali, Awo, Hero, Layla, Omar, Ayah, Daniel
Barbados	Aya, Suheyb, Charlie, Alphie, Hana, Yas, Qaasim, Siya, Nathaniel, Said, Thomas, Samuel, Kirsten

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	Kairo & Zayanna
France	Mercy & Zaki
China	Ayah & Harun
Barbados	Zaid & Caleb
Norway	Tobi & Mayar
Belgium	Alissa & Selim



Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital to success at school. We track attendance closely and celebrate excellent attendance.

Congratulations to our classes with the best attendance over the last five days:

Class Breakdown			
Globe	93.8%	Belgium	90.8%
Mexico	96.4%	Ghana	100%
India	86.0%	Brazil	95.6%
Italy	95.9%	Greece	96.4%
France	94.2%	Spain	91.7%
China	92.5%	Canada	98.8%
Barbados	89.3%	Australia	93.1%
Norway	97.5%	Whole School	94.2%



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 games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OVERWATCH 2

A long-awaited sequel to 2016's massively successful Overwatch, this is a futuristic shooting game with a focus on teamwork and strategy which gives it an extra dimension to the majority of titles in the genre. Its cast of characters is diverse and memorable, while there's a definite (and rewarding) learning curve to players improving their skill. Created by established developers Blizzard Entertainment, Overwatch 2 is free to play, with an emphasis on competitive multiplayer action – meaning that children may want to play the game even more simply because their friends have it.

AGE RATING
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MULTIPLE PASSWORDS

Overwatch 2 supports convenient cross-play across consoles and PC – as long as users link all their devices under a unifying account on the Blizzard battle.net platform. This has other benefits (preserving a player's original skins for use in the new game), but if your child does want to link their accounts, be warned: the process can be extremely tricky and requires multiple passwords.

VOICE CHAT

As a shooting game which focuses on fast-paced, competitive play, teamwork is central to getting the most out of the Overwatch 2 experience. Many players use voice chat to coordinate with other users – often with friends, but sometimes also with strangers. In either case, this means your child is in contact with others, who may – for example – use offensive language in the heat of the moment.

IN-GAME PURCHASING

Like many free-to-play games, Overwatch 2 offers in-game purchases for unlocking its colourful skins. While new characters arrive as part of a free 'battle pass' each season (normally lasting around three months), players can unlock them much earlier by buying a premium version of the pass. There are also in-game bundles (with varying costs) themed around certain characters or events.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

Overwatch 2 heavily features combat, although the on-screen shootouts are relatively sanitised. Most of its characters are of a fantastical nature (there's a gorilla scientist with a laser weapon, for instance, and a DJ on roller-blades who fires sound energy), but some – such as Reaper, an assassin in a wrath-like metal mask – are a little on the darker side and could unnerve younger players.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ASSIST WITH ACCOUNT LINKING

If your child is trying to link their accounts from different devices together, it might be wise for you to help them set it up. Not only should it enable the process to run more smoothly (and save you being asked for the passwords for each account), but you'll also be able to make sure that the website for linking is correct. We've put the right web address under the expert's bio at the bottom of this guide.

MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS

Playing Overwatch 2 with friends is almost universally the most popular way to enjoy the game. If your child is playing with a new friend they only know online – or a stranger – you may want to monitor the chat to make sure they aren't being exposed to anything unsavoury. You might also decide to adjust the in-game voice chat settings so only confirmed friends can speak to your child.

USE IT AS INSPIRATION

Overwatch characters represent many races, nationalities, gender identities and sexual orientations. This eclectic roster of heroes offers a superb jumping-off point for discussing racial, sexual or gender diversity with your child. Whether it's finding Nepal on a globe together or talking about non-traditional relationships, the game could be an excellent conversation starter.

LIMIT IN-GAME SPENDING

The loot boxes featured in the first Overwatch have been replaced by a rotating storefront – so users only have a set time to purchase a skin or item before it becomes unavailable. Your child can still earn plenty of items, however, through the free battle pass. In any case, we'd advise removing any payment methods – or at least setting limits in advance – if you're worried about in-game spending.

WATCH SOME GAMEPLAY

Overwatch players fight with an array of weapons and explosives, but the battles are presented in a way that forgoes blood, gore or dismemberment, regardless of the mode or characters selected. The game also usually avoids the word "kill" – referring to "eliminations" instead. Watching footage of Overwatch 2 on YouTube could help you decide whether it's suitable for your child before they play.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of gaming, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.

<https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/support/articles/34948>

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