



**\*\*\*A reminder that there is an Ark network wide inset day coming up on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. School will be closed to all children on this day.\*\*\***

## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents,

**Lateness** As you are aware, we are having a real push this term on improving attendance. Whilst the majority of children have excellent attendance, a significant minority are missing far too much school and this is having a negative impact on their learning which is concerning.

As well as attendance being a concern, we are also alarmed at the number of children arriving late at school each day. The table below shows the number of late arrivals each day this week – this is children arriving at school after the gate has closed at 8.40am. Over 10% of the school population were late on Monday!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
44	41	20	35	37

Atwood staff have learning prepared from 8.30am so whilst the gate closes after this time, we strongly encourage children to be in school by 8.30am. Please look to arrive at school at 8.25am each day and help us to reduce the concerning numbers in the table above.

I am sorry to be writing messages like this but I hope you understand just why it is so important along with our firm belief in the importance of every minute.

**Meetings** We have a couple of parent meetings coming up:

- **Friends of Ark Atwood** The next Friends of Ark Atwood meeting is taking place this coming **Thursday (19th January) at 8.45am straight after drop off.** We will be discussing and planning events for this term and making some decisions about how to allocate money raised at previous events. All parents are very welcome to attend!
- **Parent Coffee Morning** Our next parent coffee morning on **Tuesday 24th January – straight after drop off at 8.45am.** It will be an informal meeting but I will be updating parents on some aspects of school life and answering any questions you may have.

**House Captains** Finally, last week the children elected brand new House Captains. Congratulations to the newly appointed Liam, Salma, Jvaughn, Nicholas, Malak and Laila.


Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy



## Attendance Numbers – w/c 9<sup>th</sup> January

Nursery	93.6%	<p>Well done to this week's top class:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Australia Class</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>98.8%</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attendance Top Tip</b></p> <p>If your child has a medical appointment, please schedule this for the holidays or after school.</p> <p>If it has to be during the day, make it towards the end of the day so a minimal amount of learning is missed.</p> <p>Children should return to school after an appointment.</p>
Mexico	84.6%	
India	92.5%	
Italy	95.5%	
France	94.0%	
China	91.0%	
Barbados	96.4%	
Norway	87.6%	
Belgium	93.4%	
Ghana	94.2%	
Brazil	93.7%	
Greece	94.2%	
Spain	91.4%	
Canada	95.1%	
Australia	98.8%	
Whole School	93.0%	

## Atwood Football Team



The Year 3 and 4 boys football team was in action on Wednesday afternoon against King Solomon Academy. The game was played in very soggy conditions but the children battled hard and came up just short in a tight 4-3 defeat.

The children played with great spirit, worked hard and were every bit a team. Well done to them all on a great performance!

## PREVENT Workshops

We had the Westminster Prevent team in on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January to work with Parents, Year 5 and Year 6 children and to deliver whole school staff training. They focused particularly on children keeping safe online and being alert and vigilant to the potential risks posed by strangers online. Year 5 and 6 took part in interactive workshops featuring Zak, a vlogger and gamer, and worked to identify concerns and actions needed at various stages of his online activities.

Children were really sensible and showed great insight into the red flags that appeared in online characters behaviours and how to address these concerns. Well done Year 5 and Year 6 for your critical thinking skills and exercising caution and healthy suspicion in those scenarios.

## House Points



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

Aspiration & Achievement	Scholarship	Perseverance	Integrity	Respect & Responsibility	Enthusiasm
<b>318</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>305</b>

Well done to Scholarship House and thank you to Salma, Scholarship House Captain, for her lovely words in assembly today.

## Year 6 Residential

The Year 6 Residential to the Isle of Wight is taking place from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We require parents to make regular payments over the coming months. The table below sets out the payment plan amounts and deadlines.

Date	Pupil Premium Eligible	Non Pupil Premium
By end of January	£30	£40
By end of February	£30	£40
By end of March	£30	£40
By end of April	£40	£50
<b>Total Payment (incl Deposit)</b>	<b>£200</b>	<b>£250</b>

Payment should be made via Wisepay or cash in an envelope to the office. If you have any questions about payment, please contact Maria Hall in the school office. The price is fully inclusive of accommodation, all meals, a full programme of tutored activities, insurance and coach travel to and from the centre.

## 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
Ghana	Alexei & Anas
Brazil	Hana & Iqra
Greece	Zion & Samira
Spain	Jessie & Aboudi
Canada	Traevon & Ellis
Australia	Mason & Jvaughn





## 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 game of many 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.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OF WORLD WARCRAFT

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
12+

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation – but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

**ALWAYS ONLINE**

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on a PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

**VOICE AND TEXT CHAT**

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

**REGULAR EXPANSIONS**

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £90.

**IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

**SIMULATED VIOLENCE**

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

**POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION**

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite "end" because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

**MANAGE PLAYTIME**

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

**MAKE IT A REWARD**

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them "quests") like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

**SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL**

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively "pays" for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

**REMEMBER THE AGE RATING**

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

**ADVENTURE TOGETHER**

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

**Meet Our Expert**

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Deserto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, 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.

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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2011/aug/29/world-of-warcraft-video-game-addict> | <https://worldofwarcraft.com/en-us/start>

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