



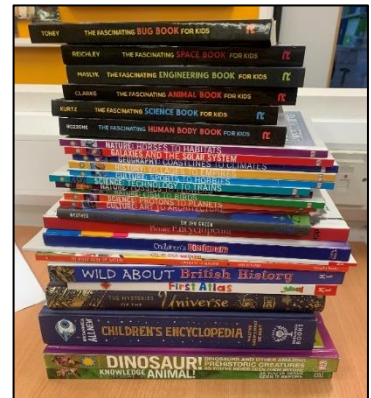
\*\*\*A reminder that there is an Ark network wide inset day coming up on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. School will be closed to all children on this day. \*\*\*

## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents,

Yesterday I spent the day at Ark Byron Primary Academy in Acton as a part of a team of Ark Headteachers looking at practice in other schools in our network. These occasions are known as Peer Reviews. I have always felt that one of Ark's great strengths is the importance it places on developing staff and these occasions provide a great opportunity to see and reflect on practice in other schools doing the same work as us. The same group of Headteachers also visited Ark Atwood in October so everyone gets the opportunity to host and visit elsewhere. It was lovely to be able to reflect on all that we do, compare our approach to that of a similar size school and consider ways we can improve and develop our practice. I am looking forward to seeing practice in another Ark school later in the term – this time in Hastings.

**Book Donations** There are lots of pressures on school budgets at the moment and we are trying to do all we can to ensure that these pressures do not impact on our provision for children. Teaching reading is a crucial part – arguably the most important part – of our provision. We are therefore enormously grateful for any donations in this area and were therefore thrilled to receive this exceptionally generous book donation from Hunter's (Mexico Class) grandmother. An incredible addition to our library. Our librarian, Fiona, maintains wish lists for new books so if you would like to support the school, and, in particular, our library, you can purchase books from these lists:



Wishlist: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/23BV26F4K0AW3?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/23BV26F4K0AW3?ref_=wl_share)

Graphic Novel Wishlist (the children love these – they have proven to be an excellent way to get children into reading): [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2Y8B9UHPO20JD?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2Y8B9UHPO20JD?ref_=wl_share)

**Parent Coffee Morning** Our next parent coffee morning is 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.

**Friends of Ark Atwood** Yesterday, the Friends of Ark Atwood met and agreed two events taking place this term:

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Wear Pyjamas Day - £1 donation
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Jumble & Bake Sale

Have a great weekend,

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

## Strike Action


As you may be aware, one of the teaching unions, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted for strike action on the following dates which affect our school:

- 1<sup>st</sup> February: All schools in England and Wales
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March: South-east and south-west England, and London
- 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March: Two-day strike of all schools in England and Wales

The first strike day (1<sup>st</sup> February) will not affect you as this was already booked as an Ark network inset day and school will therefore remain closed to all children as planned

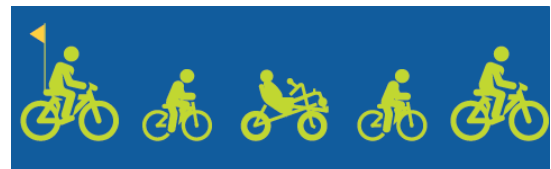
I will update you on the situation regarding our school in due course. Do let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this.

## Attendance Numbers – w/c 16<sup>th</sup> January

Nursery	93.9	<p>Well done to this week's top class:</p> <p><b>Barbados Class</b></p> <p><b>98.6%</b></p>  <p><b>Attendance Top Tip</b></p> <p>Teach your child good hygiene - regular hand washing and using tissues will help prevent them picking up or passing on bugs that lead to absence due to illness.</p> <p>This is especially important at this time of year when there is lots of illness around.</p>
Mexico	82.4	
India	85.8	
Italy	94.8	
France	94.8	
China	96.7	
Barbados	98.6	
Norway	96.9	
Belgium	95.8	
Ghana	99.2	
Brazil	95.6	
Greece	96.8	
Spain	93.6	
Canada	96.8	
Australia	98.3	
Whole School	94.8	

## Cycle Bus Pilot

The charity, Sustrans, is looking for families to take part in a Cycle Bus pilot in London. A Cycle Bus is a simple idea: local parents and children cycling together to school supported by experienced riders and marshals. It's fun, exciting, good for everyone and a great way to start the day!



Sustrans, the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle, are proposing to help parents set up a Cycle Bus at your school. They can help with coordination, designing a suitable route, enlisting the support of local volunteers to equip parents with information and knowledge to take the lead going forward.

They would like to start as soon as possible so please do register your interest via this brief survey: <https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/fridedays-signup>

(On the subject of transport, Atwood parents are able to give feedback on the School Street Scheme. Further details can be found here: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/school-streets/feedback-form>).

## Year 3 at the Science Museum



On Thursday, Year 3 went on an amazing trip to the Science Museum! They had an excellent day and the children were full of enthusiasm. The children were able to explore the museum and then immerse themselves in science experiments and hands on learning in the 'Wonderlab' to bring our class learning to life. They even got to watch a live show called 'Flash Bang Wallop!'

## PREVENT Workshops

Last week in the newsletter, we informed you that 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.

We had to share with parents, the lovely feedback the school received from the team delivering the training. We are really proud of our scholars especially given the importance of keeping safe online:

*"Firstly I would like to say how wonderful the children were throughout all four sessions, they had great knowledge on online safety. The students were well engaged and had lots of constructive points which they were able to share along with building on each other's opinions. The students were thoughtful about each other's views and able to discuss their own difference of opinion and especially around the time of voting at the end of each video, where some children changed their mind when categorising the risk after hearing the counter argument. The students were able to point out the risks posed to Zak the gamer and were able to express the correct steps that they thought Zak should take. It was a pleasure to spend the day with years 5 & 6."*

Each week, the final page of the Atwood newsletter is devoted to Online Safety. We hope the information shared helps parents to manage this tricky and challenging area.

## 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).

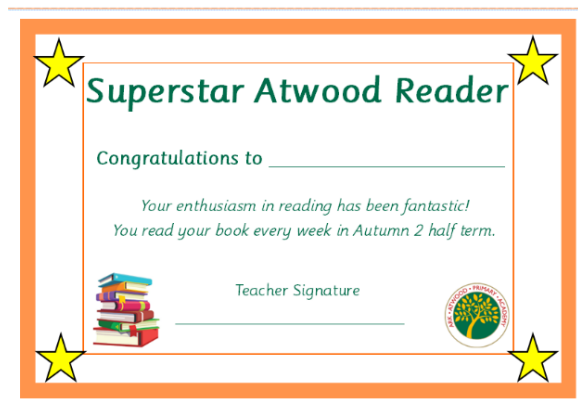
Class	Children
Italy	Zayn & Zoe
France	Daniel & Layla
Barbados	Sam & Rahaf
China	Ellaet & Wasif
Norway	Sally & Eisah
Belgium	Valentina & Alaya



## Lower School Reading Super Scholars

Congratulations to all the Atwood scholars in lower school who have brought in their reading homework every week with their reading record.

They have received their special reading certificate this afternoon. Remember it resets now so we will look to see who has brought in their reading homework every week again after February half term to reveal the next group of reading scholars.



Class	Names
Italy	Amal, Zayn, Summer, Salah, Ayyan, Yazan, Aleena, Sephora, Charley, Jude, Melek, Sophia, Tia, Uday, Wafa, Zoe, Nonni, Sara, Nicole and Summer.
France	Mariam, Umar, Ava, Amron, Yassein, Alylah, Olivia, Finbarr, Amalia, Zavier, Neyla, Emaan
China	Laith, Huzaifah, Riccardo, Mira, Hero, Omar, Ayah, Emma, Shiho, Daniel, Mia, Ali
Barbados	Suheyb, Rahaf, Talia, Charlie, Yas, Hana, Qaasim, Nathaniel, Zaid, Thomas, Samuel, Kirsten, Eisah Caleb
Norway	Noor, Sally, Omer, Roja
Belgium	Emily, Sophia, Hassan, Raseel, Alex, Ziyad, Allisa

## House Points



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

Aspiration & Achievement	Scholarship	Perseverance	Integrity	Respect & Responsibility	Enthusiasm
<b>320</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>296</b>

Well done to Perseverance House on a very successful week!

# 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 apps 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 TWITTER

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be ‘trending’. Twitter users can engage with other people’s posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
13+

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person’s Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

#### FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a ‘view count’ feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven’t reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

#### TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

#### PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account’s authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

#### CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their ‘policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach’. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

#### HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter’s most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag’s meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with ‘trending’ hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

#### SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child’s tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter’s privacy settings so that your child can’t be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won’t be shared.

#### FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they’ve seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message’s possible motive. Emphasise that it’s not a good idea to retweet something if they aren’t sure it’s correct.

#### ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child’s tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child’s again for seven days.

#### EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else’s tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

#### PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It’s important that young people think about what they’re about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed ‘nudges’: little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

#### BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The ‘mute’ feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child’s timeline. The other user won’t know that they’ve been muted.

#### MEET OUR EXPERT

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

#### BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the ‘blue tick’ system, it’s essential that young Twitter users understand what this means. In terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they’ve been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | [https://blog.twitter.com/en\\_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update](https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update) | [https://blog.twitter.com/en\\_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation](https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation) | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=etd>

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