



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 23rd September

***** Coming up Next Week *****

Monday 26th September

- Year 4 Parent Curriculum Session (8.00am)

Tuesday 27th September

- Year 5 Parent Curriculum Session (8.00am)
- Year 6 Parent Secondary School Meeting with WA & PA Principals (9.00am)
- Class Photos (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Wednesday 28th September

- Year 6 Parent Curriculum Session (8.00am)
- Class Photos (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2)

Dear Parents,

Prefects One of the joys of this time of year is appointing prefects. Similar to job applications, we ask children to write a formal letter applying for the role. We then shortlist and yesterday, myself and Miss Thomson had the great pleasure of interviewing the children. You won't be surprised to hear that the standard was very high but what was most impressive was the wealth of ideas the children had. I am really excited to see their ideas come to life!

Last year, we introduced new areas of responsibility for each prefect so that they could have impact in specific areas – this will be continuing this year. I am delighted to confirm the following prefects have been appointed:

- Behaviour: Joel
- Leadership: Vera
- Arts: Sama
- Learning: Ellis
- Environment: Keira
- Inclusion: Lola

Clubs Information regarding clubs has been circulated today – the deadline for signing up is Wednesday 28th September at 5.00pm. You will be notified on Friday 30th September if you have been successful in securing a place.

Clubs this year include creative writing, boys and girls football, yoga, singing, coding, board games and multi skills.

Enjoy the weekend,

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy



*** KSI Reading Homework – Starting Today ***



We are very excited to announce that we are starting KSI reading homework this week and your child will have been sent home with a brand new zippy bag with a reading record and two books to read. Whether your child is on the RWI phonics programme or in Comprehension, your child will be sent home with an additional decodable book to practise their reading skills as well as either their current RWI book or comprehension extract. On the note of KS2, we are just completing our assessments and then we will launch KS2 reading homework too.




We would like to remind you that research has shown that reading to an adult regularly (at least 5-10 minutes a day) dramatically improves a child's reading ability because it helps our scholars to become more fluent so please ensure you are doing this with your child. We will be tracking this by checking in on seesaw recordings of reading as well as by sending a reading record book home each week where you can leave parent comments on how you are finding your child's reading.

Key Messages:




Every Friday your child will get their reading homework (one RWI book/comprehension extract and one additional decodable text to practise.) Please check Seesaw too so the children can record their reading.

- These books should be used to practise reading aloud to an adult.
- Parents/Carers should provide comments once-twice a week on your child's reading (see example on letter sent home).
- The reading record book should be brought in **every Wednesday** to be checked by Atwood staff and 'stamped'. Then the books can be changed for the next week's homework.
- We will work on a one in, one out basis with the new decodable books so unless these books are returned, we cannot give your child another book.
- Certificates will be awarded to children at the end of each half term if they have brought their reading record back each week with a comment.
- Library books will be brought home on different day dependent on your class's library slot. These books, can be read with and to your child as they are not decodable matched books.

If your child is on phonics, the books they will take home are:

| Type of book | Purpose | What you should do? | When returned? |
|--|---|--|--|
|  RWI banded book | For the children to read to you and show off their accuracy, 'fred in head' and expression they have practised at school. | Listen to your child read this at least 2 times before sending back. Your child should record on Seesaw so teachers can hear them read at home and please write a comment in reading record. | Wednesday – Please return as we are running very low on our supply of the paper copies. |
|  RWI book bag book | For the children to read an additional book using the sounds they know at home. | Listen to your child read this at least 2 times before sending back. Write in reading record to give feedback to teacher. | Wednesday – Please ensure this is returned otherwise your child will not be able to get another book. |
|  Atwood library book | This is chosen by your child as a book they would like to listen to but not might be able to read themselves. | Please read this book to/with your child. Please read it twice before you send it back. | Wednesday – Please return so your child can receive their next library book. |

If your child is in comprehension, the books they will take home are:

| Type of book | Purpose | What you should do? | When returned? |
|--|---|--|--|
| Comprehension extract  | For the children to read an extract which they can practise their comprehension technique with. | Listen to your child read this extract. Your child should record on seesaw so teachers can hear them read at home too as well as submit their comprehension answers. | n/a - submitted on seesaw by Wednesday |
| Additional decodable book  | For the children to read an additional decodable book at home to continue to develop their fluency. | Listen to your child read this at least 2 times before sending back. Write in reading record sheet to give feedback to teacher. | Wednesday – Please ensure this is returned otherwise your child will not be able to get another book. |
| Atwood library book  | This is chosen by your child as a book they would like to listen to but not might be able to read themselves. | Please read this book to/with your child. Please read it twice before you send it back. | Wednesday – Please return so your child can receive their next library book. |

This information will also be sent home in a letter today. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's class teacher or Mrs Schofield, Reading Lead.

Parent Forum & Friends of Ark Atwood Chair

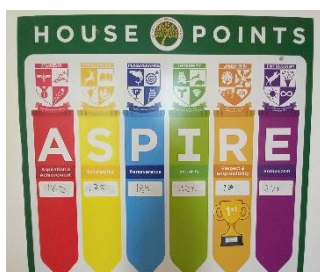
Thank you to those of you who came along to our Parent Forum yesterday. In case you missed it, the slides are on the Atwood website here:

<https://arkatwoodprimary.org/sites/default/files/Parent%20Forum%20%28September%202022%29.pdf>

As mentioned at the Parent Forum, we are looking to appoint a new Chair to lead the Friends of Ark Atwood. The role involves:

- Working with the Committee to oversee the running of the Friends of Ark Atwood
- Provide a point of contact for parents seeking community involvement
- Work with class reps and the Committee to organise events through the year

If you are interested in this role or would like more information, please contact Mr Evelyn



House Points

This week's winner is Respect and Responsibility with a brilliant 280 points. Well done!

All numbers are added to the end of term totals when we then reveal the house receiving the non-uniform day!

Reception Open Mornings for September 2023 Starters

If you have a child looking for a Reception place for September 2023, do come along to our upcoming Parent Open Mornings – details below. Please share with any families you know with children looking for Reception places next academic year.



RECEPTION OPEN MORNINGS

Is your child starting Reception in September 2023?

If so, come to one of our Open Mornings to find out more about Ark Atwood and all we can offer your child.

Open Mornings take place at 9.30am on these days:

- Tuesday 4th October 2022
- Tuesday 8th November 2022
- Tuesday 6th December 2022
- Tuesday 10th January 2023

Email to reserve your place: info@arkatwoodprimary.org

Secondary School Applications

A reminder to parents of Year 6 children regarding the deadline for secondary school applications (it is essential that parents complete the application by 31st October – please get in touch if you have questions).

I wrote to Year 6 parents earlier in the term with all of the information you need – the letter is on the Atwood website here <https://arkatwoodprimary.org/admissions/transferring-secondary-school>.

Year 6 parents will be able to hear from the Principals of Paddington Academy and Westminster Academy at a special session at 9.00am on Tuesday 27th September. For now, please ensure you are attending Open Days/Evenings so you can find out more about the schools you are applying to.

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 | Yazan & Sephora |
| France | Ava & Ariana |
| Barbados | Kirsten & Yas |
| China | Hudson & Awo |
| Norway | Omer & Rakan |
| Belgium | Raseel & Qasim |



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 devices 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 GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK

Google Chromebooks were first introduced in 2011 as a budget-friendly alternative to Windows laptops. They have a cloud-based desktop operating system created by Google that performs internet-based tasks simply and quickly. Although primarily optimised for Google apps – such as Gmail and Google Drive – newer devices also support Android apps and offer a range of parental controls via the Google Family Link tool. Nonetheless, whilst these tools are comprehensive, there are some limitations which means there are a number of risks trusted adults should be aware of.

SETTING UP

SET UP FAMILY LINK

To do this, first install the "Google Family Link" app onto your smartphone to set up an account for your child. If you're setting up a new account, it's important you follow the setup process and sign in with your parent account, as this has access to special privileges. Once this is done, you can add your child's account to the Chromebook.

DISABLE GUEST MODE

If "Guest mode" or the ability to add new users is available, your child may be able to bypass the Chromebook's parental controls. To disable this, sign into the Chromebook with your parent account, head to "Settings > Manage other people" and turn on "Restrict sign-in to the following users" – from there, you'll be able to turn off the "guest browsing" feature.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

In your child's account, head to "Settings > People > Parental controls set up" to begin the process. This will confirm the child's account you want to enable parental controls for and will list the devices that can be protected. You'll then be asked to enter the email and password, before being prompted to ask your child to confirm the supervision via their password.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE, ALL THE TIME

As "Internet-first" devices, Google Chromebooks are reliant on a Wi-Fi connection, with only limited support for offline tasks. This means your child has access to the internet at all times, with an enduring risk of being exposed to online harm, particularly as Family Link is only able to block most inappropriate content. Even if your child isn't searching for inappropriate websites and information, there's always the chance that they might see something that could upset them.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like most technology, laptops are addictive in nature, and you might find your child spending too long staring at their Chromebook – particularly given its support for Android apps, such as games and social media platforms. This could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks.

BEWARE OF MALWARE

Although Google's Chrome OS features a number of built-in security measures, that doesn't fully eliminate the risk of malware, which can be downloaded onto the machine via phishing emails or from downloading malware-laced content. This should be a particular concern if your child is taking their laptop into school, as the malware could find itself entering the school's network and infecting other pupils' laptops.

Advice for Parents & Carers

There are a number of safety features that you can enable to keep your child safe while using Google Chromebook:

- 1 Disable guest mode and control who can sign into your child's Chromebook
- 2 Restrict or block access to apps from the Chrome Web Store and the Google Play Store
- 3 Disable Incognito Mode so you can always track what sites your child has been on.
- 4 Manage the websites your children can visit on Chrome
- 5 Limit your child's ability to grant permissions to websites
- 6 Check Family Link to ensure the Chrome browser default is set to block sexually explicit and violent sites from being shown to children
- 7 Set bedtimes, screen-time limits, and lock devices when not in use

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-family-carer-and-supervision-tools> | <https://about.instagram.com/en/US/blog/> | <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-family-carer-and-supervision-tools> | <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/introducing-feels-and-shop-tabs>

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