



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

\*\*\* Parents Evenings are taking place next week on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. These will be in person sessions. 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. \*\*\*

Dear Parents,

As many of you will be aware, an Atwood child was hit by a car on Tuesday morning whilst crossing the road on the way to school. Thankfully the child was not hurt. The driver is believed to be an Atwood parent but did not stop. Clearly this is a very concerning incident and serves as a reminder to all parents about the importance of road safety around the school at the busy start and end of day. We all want the children to arrive and leave school safely and all have a part to play in making this happen.



I am continually in touch with the local authority regarding this issue and had emailed one of our councillors just last weekend. Discussions are ongoing with the local authority and our local councillors regarding the installation of CCTV and the issuing of parking tickets at the start/end of day and they have said further information will be published this week – at the time of writing this information had still not been published. What the council has told me is that they will be asking the police to monitor road use around the school in the interim.



I would like to remind all parents of three things:

1. Parents should only be driving down Amberley Road to/from school if their journey is absolutely necessary by car. It is a dead end and the road gets blocked quickly.
2. If you must make the journey to school by car then please ensure you drive slowly and extremely carefully. The road is narrow and it can be very difficult to see pedestrians and those crossing the road. Some children also come to school by bike and they should be able to feel safe when cycling home.
3. Scooters can be equally dangerous. Please use these at very low speeds and not on the pavement

I am continually surprised at just how aggressive some road users are. I strongly encourage all Atwood parents to reflect on whether their journey is absolutely necessary and if it is, to remember that we are a primary school and our children are small and not always immediately visible. We all owe it to them to be safe and careful.

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

### Atwood Christmas Tree

The Atwood Christmas Tree is up! We have kindly been donated the Christmas tree by Pines and Needles and they would love to offer parents a discount on Christmas trees in their pop-up stores! Our local pop up store is located at: 123 Shirland Road W9 2EW. Tel: 020 3598 4877

Discount Code: **ATWOOD10** - 10% Off

## Upcoming Dates

Lots happening before the end of term – key dates for parents are below. There are also trips taking place in some year groups which have been communicated to parents directly.

Date	Year Group(s) / Time	Venue
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Winter Fair (4pm – 6pm)	Ark Atwood
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Years 1, 2 and 3 Music Performance (PM)	Paddington Academy
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Performance (AM)	Ark Atwood
	Years 4, 5 and 6 Performance (PM)	Paddington Academy
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nursery Performance (PM)	Ark Atwood
	Christmas Lunch	Ark Atwood
	Parent/Teacher Quiz Night – 7pm	Ark Atwood

The Friends of Ark Atwood has two brilliant events coming up soon: The Winter Fair (after school on 8<sup>th</sup> December) and Quiz Night (14<sup>th</sup> December). Ishraf and the team need volunteers to support with the Winter Fair so please get in touch if you can help and make this event as successful as the recent International Evening. Parents and staff members are invited to the Quiz Night sign up to secure your place.



**Friends of Ark Atwood Presents**

# QUIZ NIGHT

**WED, 14TH DEC**

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM (FOR A PROMPT 7PM START)

**£5 PER PERSON**

*Join us for some fun and games!*

**@Ark Atwood Primary School**

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE! BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

•MAKE YOUR OWN TEAM •TEAMS OF UP TO 8  
•MINIMUM OF 4 PER TEAM •CHOOSE YOUR OWN TEAM NAME

**BOOKINGS VIA:**  
Wisepay, in person (Lul & Sabine) or School Office

For further enquiries contact: atwoodfriends@gmail.com

**ENJOY:**

- PRIZES
- BRING A DISH
- BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS (Soft or Alcohol)
- PARENTS & STAFF
- TEST YOUR BRAIN, RELAX AND HAVE A LAUGH!

**...KIDS FREE ZONE!**

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**Friends of Ark Atwood Presents**

# Winter FAIR

**FREE ENTRY**

**Thursday 8th December 2022**

**Time: After School**

☆Volunteers to set up needed! ☆ Volunteers to run stalls needed! ☆ Food to sell needed! ☆ Cakes to sell needed! ☆ Unused Toys (in good condition) and Prize items needed! ☆ Snow machine needed (to borrow) ☆ Football target net needed (to borrow) ☆ Winter themed decorations needed (E.g. Battery operated fairy lights, inflatable snowman, etc.)

All efforts, donations and contributions are hugely appreciated! Please contact Ishraf or Jonny to get involved or simply add your name to the list circulating in your class' groupchat!

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## Parents Evening – 28<sup>th</sup> November & 4<sup>th</sup> December

Parents Evenings are taking place next week on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December. These will be in person. **As previously, school will finish at 2.40pm on these days with the first session at 3.00pm.**

**Parent Support Sessions** We are keen to support families wherever we can and so have invited professionals who work with our school or locally to attend on Monday's parents evening from 3pm to 5pm. This is an opportunity to speak to them and find out information on how they can help you and your family. They will be based in the studio so if you do need to speak to them, please drop in. Attending:

**Lily O'Doherty – Speech and Language Therapist.** She and her team provide support to individuals with speech, language and communication needs. They work with a wide range of children and young people with different conditions including: Autism, Developmental Language Disorder, Stammering, Selective Mutism and Speech Sound Disorders.

**Noreen O'Neill – Debt Advisor, Citizens Advice Westminster.** Citizens Advice is an independent charity that provides free, confidential and impartial information and advice to the residents of Westminster. Amongst all the areas they cover is financial support which we know is a concern at the moment; they can also direct people towards financial support with energy bills

**Jasper Khawaja – Educational Psychologist.** Jasper has expertise in education, learning, child development (e.g. including behaviour and social-emotional needs) and the application of psychology to improve the learning and well-being/mental health of children and young people. Their service offers targeted and specialist psychological input covering Consultation, Assessment, Intervention, Training and Research in relation to all these areas.

**Harriet Amos – Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES).** WAES run adult education and training sessions at different sites across our borough. Information about their educational offer to adults will be available to view and discuss with a member of their team.





**Sherilyn Sibanda – Occupational Therapist.** Sherilyn is part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of Autism teachers, Visual and hearing Impairment teachers. They provide outreach support to schools and parents and specifically works with children attending mainstream and resource provisions.

One of the professionals working in the school, Jenny from Autism Outreach, is unable to make it but has asked the school to share details of an upcoming coffee morning.

## 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
Brazil	Lujayn & Malak
Ghana	Aliyah & Ali
Spain	Malika & Aren
Greece	Eddie & Kaevon
Canada	Sama & Mujadid
Australia	Ishaq



Bi-Borough Autism Advisory Service

**PARENT/ CARER COFFEE MORNING**

Are you a parent / carer of a child who is on the diagnostic pathway?  
Have you been waiting for an autism assessment and feel you would like some support?

Join us to discuss and think together in an informal forum on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November @ 10am – 11.00am via Microsoft Teams

Register your interest – [AEYIT@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:AEYIT@rbkc.gov.uk)



## 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	93.4%	Belgium	98.2%
Mexico	97.8%	Ghana	96.0%
India	94.8%	Brazil	94.7%
Italy	96.5%	Greece	90.7%
France	90.7%	Spain	94.7%
China	94.5%	Canada	90.3%
Barbados	98.9%	Australia	88.8%
Norway	97.8%	Whole School	94.7%

**Y3 Belgium**  
98.2%

**Y2 Barbados**  
98.9%



**YR Mexico & Y3 Norway**  
97.8%

## Year 3 Geographers

Last week, Year 3 became real life geographers and explored our local area. They enjoyed walking around Paddington Rec, completing field maps and focusing on their observational skills.

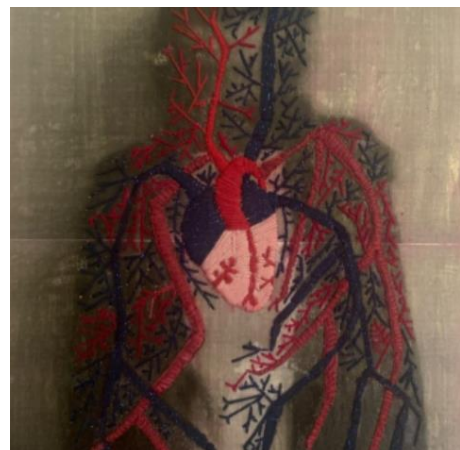


## Art Vote!

A former Atwood Scholar, Bunny, has been shortlisted for the Sovereign Art Award. She now attends Harris St John's Wood School. Her work is entitled 'The Threads Keeping Me Together' and she created this piece as a result of her personal investigation into identity and how some people hide their emotions due to external pressures. There is a public vote open to determine the winner – voting closes on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Go Bunny!

More information and how to vote can be found here:

<https://www.sovereignartfoundation.com/art-prizes/student-art-prize/london/>



# 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

# TIKTOK

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**  
(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

**18**  
CENSORED

#### DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

#### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive; figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

#### TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

#### MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

#### LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

#### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

#### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

### 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.



## National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) [@natonlineafety](https://twitter.com/natonlineafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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