



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 21st April

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am excited to be writing my first Atwood newsletter, whilst I confess it does not look quite as substantial as previous editions, I will get there, so please be kind whilst I do. Thank you for making me feel so welcome at Ark Atwood this week. It has been great meeting and talking to several of you on the gate either first thing in the morning or at the end of the school day. The staff and pupils have equally helped to make me feel part of the Atwood family and I am very excited to be leading the school forward and working with you all further.

Highlights this week have been spending some time teaching one of the Year 5 classes and leading the values assemblies to both upper and lower school. I spent time discussing the importance of the Atwood ASPIRE values and how we not only see them as words but also live and breathe them. It is very clear from visiting classes, watching the pupils during lunch times etc. that the values are very well embedded in day-to-day practice. Having selected my new house from the 'Sorting Hat', one sixth of the Atwood population were excited to see that I have been chosen to be in **Perseverance**, the others may be less enthusiastic by this decision!

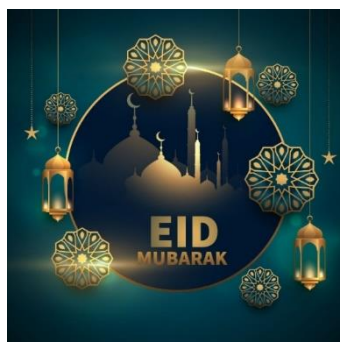
As a new Headteacher to the school, I do want to reset the standard of the school uniform. When I came to visit and meet with some parents last term, I was asked if I had high standards and expectations around the uniform, I certainly do! During our assemblies this week I set out clear uniform expectations for the pupils and told them I will be visiting classes next week with my 'uniform stickers' to check that the pupils are taking '**responsibility**' as scholars and wearing their full uniform with pride. To help them in doing this please ensure the following:

- Smart and ready for learning (ties, shirts tucked in etc.)
- Black shoes (trainers only for PE days)
- Hair tidy/tied back if long with hair accessories that match/coordinate with our uniform colours
- Stud earrings only
- No nail polish
- No necklaces

Have a great weekend everyone, I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.

Ms Tam McKernan
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

Eid Mubarak to those families celebrating this weekend, I hope you enjoy spending time with friends and family.



Key Reminders for Week Beginning 24th April

- Parent Evenings take place on Monday 24th April and **Wednesday 26th April** so school will close an hour earlier at 2.40pm. Please make sure the pupils are picked up promptly to allow time for staff to set up.
- P3 Afterschool Club will run as usual next week.
- NEU Strike Action Proposal – information will be sent out on Monday 24th regarding a potential full/partial school closure.
- Club updates will be available next week.
- Updated lunch menus will be on the website next week.

Welcoming parent governors and an Ark link governor to our Local Governing Body

We are delighted to announce that three new governors have been appointed to our Atwood LGB.

Myriam Sundstrom and Michael Yanny will be joining officially from the autumn term as parent governors after a handover term with Jess Lipson this summer. We're not saying goodbye to Jess yet but want to thank her for all she's done to help promote the role and speak to those who were interested in applying.

Myriam Sundstrom is a parent of a child in Year 3 and says: "As a parent governor, I am looking forward to working with the school and Atwood families to be the voice of all parents and help our children learn and thrive in the best possible environment."

Michael Yanny has children in years 1 and 6 and says "It is great honour and privilege to serve and represent the parents at this great school. Go Ark Atwood!"

Our third new governor is Ellis McCallister who joins us as an Ark link governor. Ellis is the Digital Support and Data Quality lead at Ark; she has valuable experience in safeguarding as well as a good knowledge of the local community. We welcome all three of them and look forward to working with them!

Harriet Barclay, Chair of the LGB.

Cover Teacher Required

We are currently recruiting for a Cover Teacher to join our team in May. If you know anyone that might be interested in the role, please ask them to get in touch with a school leader. Further details can be found on the Atwood website:

<https://arkatwoodprimary.org/vacancies>

Spotlight



Last term in Geography, Year 2 learnt about all the continents and oceans around the world. For our end of unit piece of writing we gave our opinion on our favourite continent and ocean. This is Adam Adnan's in China class. He has given fantastic justifications for his argument and explains his reasons with 'because'. Check out his beautiful handwriting too! Well done Adnan!

19/4/22 Independent Write

LO: To give reasons based on knowledge from our geography unit.
(Cross-Curricular—(ACP Planet Earth Assessment piece))

Which continent would you prefer to live and which ocean would you travel across?

I chose It because Somalia is next to the Indian Ocean so I can visit my family. On the other hand I wouldn't visit the Southern Ocean because it is too cold and I don't want a polar bear to eat me.

19/4/22 Independent Write

LO: To give reasons based on knowledge from our geography unit.
(Cross-Curricular—(ACP Planet Earth Assessment piece))

Which continent would you prefer to live and which ocean would you travel across?

I would choose any continent to live it would be Africa because it has the largest desert the Sahara which can reach sixty-seven degrees Celsius. I love that it has the longest river the river Nile and feed the animals. I would want to see the wildebeest and Zebra because it look beautiful. I would want to visit my family because I haven't seen them in a long time. The climate is probably tropical and sunny. I wouldn't visit Antarctica because it's the coldest continent.

I would travel across the Indian Ocean because I want to see the giant clam. I would love to see interesting wild life. On top of that

Parent / Teacher Book Club

Thank you to everyone who came to our last parent and teacher Book Club. For our next read, on the topic of 'London', we chose:

Samuel Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*

We will meet to discuss on Wednesday 17th May downstairs at the Prince Albert on Formosa Street at 7pm.

Any queries please contact hayes_evelyn@icloud.com

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 FORTNITE

CHAPTER 4

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 12

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like The Walking Dead to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from Alien or who Geralt from The Witcher is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iD and TechRadar.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.04.2023