



2nd September 2021

***** Message from our new Chair of Governors, Harriet Barclay *****

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am honoured to be taking on the role of Chair of Governors for Ark Atwood as we go into our tenth anniversary year. As a local parent, I see our pupils both in school and running around Paddington Rec playground; they are great ambassadors for a school I feel proud to be associated with.

Mr Evelyn and his team's aspirations for our pupils are relentlessly high. In the spring, I attended a staff training session around Diversity and Community. Even though Covid was still high on their minds, I saw a real determination from every member of staff to focus on the long-term for their pupils. Staff were bringing independent research and experiences from their own lives to the table, debating, challenging each other, all with an aim to create a richer curriculum and raise even better community members.

I know that the other half of our pupils' lives is down to you and want to thank you for all you do to prepare the children you look after for their time at school. Every morning's efforts are worth it – they are walking into a happy environment with an excellent climate to learn. It is our responsibility as governors to continue to support and challenge the strong team here and ensure this great work continues. I want to thank my predecessor, Sophie Taylor, for leading us through the last ten years and particularly for lending her expertise to our Covid response over the past year and a half. Sophie will remain on the governing body alongside our other members, whose breadth of experience is written up on the website.

If you have any questions for me or the governors over the course of the year then please contact Catherine.hughes@arkonline.org In the meantime, I want to welcome new parents, welcome back current parents and wish you a great start to our tenth anniversary year.

All the Best,

Harriet

Welcome to the Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are ready for the return to school on Monday. As always, I am getting in touch with the information you need so you are clear about how things will run. Many of the Covid restrictions we have previously been required to follow have now been eased. However, a risk assessment has still had to be completed and some of the control measures remain in place. Details as follows:

Start of Day The table on the right sets out the timings for the start of day. All year groups, other than Nursery, will arrive at the same time through the back gate and parents will be able to come into the playground to speak to staff as they drop children off. The table also sets out where each year group enters the building.

Reception – Year Six	Nursery
8.25am – 8.40am	8.40am – 8.50am
Enter via the back gate. Parents can come onto the playground with children entering the building at these places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 / 4: Yellow Stairs • Year 2 / 5: Back Stairs • Year 1 / 6: Main Stairs • Reception: Nursery Wooden Gate 	Enter via the main entrance. Parents should line up with their child along the wall similar to last year.

End of Day As part of our risk assessment, we will be keeping the staggered end of day timings to avoid overcrowding in corridors. This decision will be continually reviewed as I recognise it is not ideal for some families. End of day details are therefore as follows:

Main Entrance			
		Along wall towards Harrow Road	Along railings
3.15pm	Nursery	Nursery	
3.20pm	Reception	Mexico	India
3.35pm	Year One	France	Italy
3.40pm	Year Four	Brazil	Ghana
3.45pm	Year Six	Australia	Canada

Back Gate			
		Up hill towards canal	Along wall towards bike racks
3.35pm	Year Two	China	Barbados
3.40pm	Year Three	Norway	Belgium
3.45pm	Year Five	Spain	Greece

Breakfast & After School Club I am delighted that P3 will be returning with their Breakfast Club (running from 7.45am) and After School Club (from 3.45pm to 5.45pm). Further details can be found on the Atwood website (<https://arkatwoodprimary.org/life-school/p3-breakfast-and-after-school>) or in the attached brochure. Please note that P3 run this provision so please contact them directly if you have any questions.

Covid Arrangements The Covid requirements for schools have been eased. Below is a summary of the changes:

- **Extremely Clinically Vulnerable Children** If your GP has informed you that your child is 'Extremely Clinically Vulnerable', **please inform the office as soon as possible.**
- **Bubbles** We will no longer operate bubbles in the new term, which means that assemblies and larger group activities can resume and students from different classes and year groups will be able to mix.
- **Face Coverings** The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, we appreciate that some staff and students may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they want to.
- **Contact Tracing Close contract tracing** Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19 and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace. From 16th August, children under 18 years old identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive will not need to self-isolate and will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test.
- **Outbreaks** In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, I will communicate this to you.
- **Staff Testing** Staff continue to be strongly encouraged to take rapid lateral flow tests twice a week during term-time
- **Hygiene and Cleanliness** We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before eating, after breaks, on arrival and at other points during the day. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated as far as possible and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

Sports Day Sadly, we had to postpone sports days back in July owing to the local Covid situation at the time. Thankfully, as I mentioned at the end of last term, we have been able to reschedule these for early this term. Sports Days will be taking place at these times next week at Paddington Rec:

- Thursday 9th September: Key Stage One
- Friday 10th September: Key Stage Two

I will be in touch at the start of next week with all the final details but we are anticipating following a similar plan to what was in place for July.

Classes and Teachers The table below sets out the teacher for each class next year and which group of children they will be teaching.

Teachers		Incoming Class
Vanesa Otero	Nursery	
Carmen Alcazar	Reception – India	
Jacqueline Stewart	Reception – Mexico	
Yeli Gbeworo	Year One - France	India
Chloe Fisher	Year One – Italy	Mexico
Hannah Schofield	Year Two – China	Italy
Eleanor Harris	Year Two – Barbados	France
Kelly Bernstein	Year Three – Norway	Barbados
Sinead McLoughlin	Year Three – Belgium	China
Alex Peckham	Year Four – Brazil	Belgium
Amelia Buchanan-Taylor	Year Four – Ghana	Norway
Puja Nair	Year Five – Spain	Brazil
Laura Johnson	Year Five – Greece	Ghana
Emma Helliwell	Year Six - Canada	Spain
Lara Brown	Year Six - Australia	Greece

I am looking forward to seeing all of our children and families from years one to six on Monday to start off what I am sure will be a busy and enjoyable term. If you are a parent of a child in Reception or Nursery you will have received details of on-site induction meeting for you and your child; if you have any questions, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

Best Wishes



James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy