



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week to kick off the new year culminating in our rescheduled sports days over the last two days. Whilst today's Key Stage Two Sports Day ended up being a washout, we managed to get through almost all the events! Having postponed them back in July, the staff team felt that rescheduling them for the end of the first week of term would provide a fitting end to the first week and an opportunity for the adults to get to know the children better in a setting away from our site. Enormous thanks to Mr Bowden for organising everything.

Whilst the term has started relatively smoothly, we have had some disruption in Year 3 with a number of adults, including both teachers, absent for Covid related reasons. This has been covered internally by Mr Bowden, Miss Sherlock and Miss Niste to ensure that any disruption is mitigated as far as possible with the children being with familiar Atwood adults. I suspect there will be further Covid related bumps in the road and we will do our best to ensure absence, as far as possible, is covered internally so that children are with adults familiar to our routines, teaching methods and systems.

The start of the school year involves lots of planning, preparation and decision making. Please read on for further information about class timetables, the upcoming parent information sessions, PE days, secondary transition and year 3 swimming.

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy



### Parent Information Sessions

We are delighted that these sessions are returning this year. They are run by your child's year group teachers where they will share with you details of what children will be learning and lots of other information. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Sessions run from 8.00am to 8.15am and will be held in your child's classroom.

Tuesday 14th Sept: Year 1

Thursday 16th Sept: Year 2

Monday 20th Sept: Year 6

Tuesday 21st Sept: Year 4

Wednesday 22nd Sept: Year 3

Thursday 23rd Sept: Year 5

A year group adult will be available to look after your child during this time.

## Timetables & Curriculum Overviews

Timetables for each class along with curriculum overviews have been updated for the new academic year and are now on the Atwood website here: <https://arkatwoodprimary.org/curriculum/curriculum-overviews-timetables>

Curriculum Overviews set out the topics being studied in each subject each term. They also include the trips and experiences we hope to run and the class books that will be read across the year.

## PE Days

PE sessions take place on the following days:

Nursery:	Monday and Friday
Reception:	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Year One:	Monday and Friday
Year Two:	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year Three:	Wednesday and Thursday ( <i>Thursday is swimming at Moberley Sports Centre. Details below.</i> )
Year Four:	Wednesday and Friday
Year Five:	Wednesday and Thursday
Year Six:	Thursday and Friday

Children come to school in their PE kit on these days. PE uniform is listed on the Atwood website and includes a green school t-shirt, red shorts and a green hooded top with logo.

## Year 6 – Secondary Transition

Parents of children in Year 6 should now be thinking about which secondary school they would like to apply to for their child. **The deadline for applications is 31st October 2021.**

Mr Evelyn wrote to Year 6 parents this week with further details about the application process. That letter along with further information can be found on the Atwood website here:

<https://arkatwoodprimary.org/admissions/transferring-secondary-school>

Many of our children go to Paddington Academy or Westminster Academy. We will be hosting a session from 9am to 10am on Tuesday 21st September with the Principals of Paddington Academy and Westminster Academy where they will introduce their schools and take answer any questions you may have.

Key Dates:

1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	eAdmissions website opens for applications
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	Closing date for applications
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	National Offer Day (when you will be advised of the outcome of your application)
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Deadline for successful applicants to accept or decline their school offer
From 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Waiting lists for schools held by Westminster Admissions will be made available
6 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Appeals must be lodged by this date
May/June/July 2021	Appeals are heard by an independent panel

## Year 3 Swimming

We are delighted that we are able to re-introduce swimming to the Atwood curriculum again this term. Given the disruption over the past two years, we have decided to switch swimming to Year 3 so we ensure all children have had lessons as they move up the school.

Swimming will take place on Thursday morning at the Moberley Centre with children travelling there and back by public transport. A risk assessment will be completed ahead of the first visit to ensure any safety concerns are addressed. This will include ensuring that all Covid related requirements are met. The first session will be on Thursday 23rd September.

In order to ensure everything runs smoothly, we ask that children come to school on a Thursday wearing their swimming suit under their Atwood uniform.

Swimming sessions are compulsory and are an important part of our curriculum. Visits will be fully staffed but we may need some additional parent volunteers to support on a week by week basis. If you are able to support on a Thursday morning, please contact the office.

It is essential that children come with the appropriate kit as follows:

- Swimming suit (worn under their uniform)
- Swimming hat
- Towel
- Plastic bag for wet items

Please contact the Year 3 teachers if you have any questions.

## Graphic Novels

Graphic Novels are becoming increasingly common in the children's bestseller list and are a great way into reading for 'reluctant readers'. For many children, the imagery supporting the text is immediately engaging and hooks them in. Fiona, our librarian, has bought a number of graphic novels for the Atwood library and the list of children wanting to read these is growing all the time. What is particularly pleasing is that these same children are then moving into other genres and more traditional chapter books.

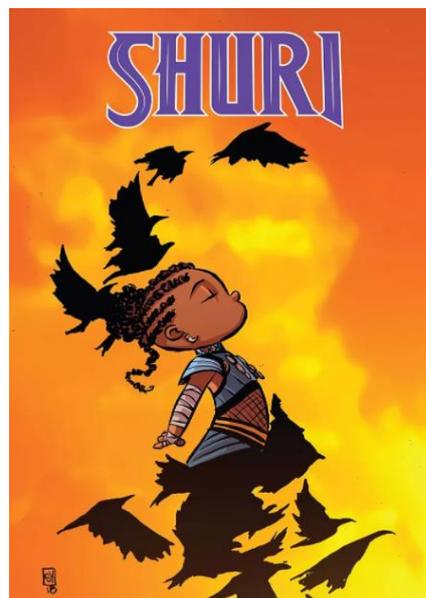
If you want to read more about graphic novels, here is an interesting blog: <https://blog.educationplatform.co.uk/2021/09/01/using-graphic-novels-in-the-classroom-to-engage-students/>

Recommended Graphic Novels:

<https://padlet.com/r Ruddick9zra/73uh2srzpbia>

Book recommendations (including some graphic novels):

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>



# 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 issue of many 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.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.



**Be cautious with your profile**  
Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

**Lock your devices**  
Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

**Be smart with screen time**  
Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

**Know how to deal with bullies**  
Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

**Manage online relationships wisely**  
Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

**React well to inappropriate content**  
When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

**Report offensive in-game chat**  
If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

**Learn to spot fake news**  
If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

**Keep it 'real' with online friends**  
Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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