



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 11th December

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID Holiday Guidance Earlier in the week, I wrote to parents to share the change of date for the last day of term – now Thursday 17th December. Even though school will be closed after this date, you do need to be aware of the process that needs to be followed should your child have a positive COVID test over the holidays. I will be sharing the same guidance with school staff. Depending on the timings of the symptoms, you may be required to contact the school so that we support the government's test and trace programme. Please read the following information carefully and keep it to hand in case you need to follow these guidelines over the holidays

Details as follows:

- Where a pupil or staff member has a positive test, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since last being in school, **the school should not be contacted.** Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after school closes (up to 23rd December), if a pupil or staff member tests positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. **Parents should email me straight away and I will call you back: j.evelyn@arkatwoodprimary.org.**
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching (23rd December). **You are therefore not required to contact me from after this date onwards.**

I will be in touch if there is any requirement for children to isolate. Please get in touch if you have any questions or are unsure about anything.

Parent Survey Thank you to all of you who responded to the recent parent survey we carried out. We had 108 responses compared to the 2019 parent survey which is great but we would like even more next time! Key points arising:

- Over 95% of parents told us their children are happy and feel safe at school
- Over 90% of parents told us that their child/children are well taught, are making good progress and feel well supported
- Over 90% of parents told us that the school is well led and that they know who to talk to if they have a concern
- 80% said communication between home and school is good. Many parents cited the lack of time to talk to teachers due to COVID as the issue concerning them here. Clearly this is a challenge given the current restrictions and we look forward to the time when we can revert to normal. Email and Parent Mail are vital at this time as is the weekly newsletter and the Atwood Twitter page. Senior leaders are always present on the gate in the morning and at the end of the day to answer any questions and pass on messages. Please remember that parents can talk briefly with teachers after school so long as distancing requirements are observed. We received lots of positive feedback about the virtual parent/teacher consultations last week and hope that this has helped give you a better understanding of how your child is getting on at school.
- There were so many lovely responses to the question asking for your favourite things about Atwood. These included reference to the 'community spirit', the school being 'warm, friendly and supportive', the 'total commitment of top quality staff', 'genuine care for the children', 'well led and organised', 'diversity of the community', 'constantly evolving and looking for improvement' and 'my child is so happy'. Thank you to our amazing Atwood families.

Christmas Jumper Day

So lovely to see all the Christmas jumpers which raised a fantastic £267.54.

End of Term – Date Change

The last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December with the usual end of day timings applying. A letter has been sent to parents regarding this change – this letter is on the Atwood website in the 'newsletter' section.

- The three main areas where parents wanted changes to be made were lunchtimes, timings and parent compliance with face coverings.
 - Lunchtimes: I recognise that this is an area for improvement at the school. There is therefore going to be a catering review to provide a full picture of where improvements are needed and agreed actions for how to achieve these. I will, of course, keep parents updated on this process.
 - Timings: a number of parents fed back about the timings for the school day. As you will be aware, our current decisions are guided by the requirement for year groups not to mix. I do recognise that the timings are not ideal for some families – particularly those with children in different year groups who may have to wait. We have reduced the staggered times since the summer term to bring them closer together and reduce waiting time. Unfortunately, whilst the current guidelines are in place, we are not able to run clubs or provide for late pick-ups. However, a shorter school day has provided positive benefits to behaviour and attention particularly for our SEND pupils. We do hope changes in restrictions allow us to simplify our drop off and pick up arrangements in the near future.
 - Face Coverings: we are asking that all parents wear a face mask when collecting and distance as much as possible. School leaders and teachers releasing children are also wearing masks. I will look to speak to more parents who are not complying to ensure we are doing all we can. If you fall into the extremely clinically vulnerable category, you can share this information with school leaders so we can approach issues sensitively. However, even in these cases, socially distancing must be adhered to.
- Where issues were solely by individuals, I am very happy to discuss these with you on a one to one basis – do please get in touch and we can arrange a time to speak.

We will be running another parent forum next term where I will update you as well as answer any further questions you may have.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn

Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

Attendance

Children should be in school every session, every day to get the best education. We monitor attendance closely and celebrate our best attenders. Here are the figures for this week:

| 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | Average for this week | Average for the year so far |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barbados & Belgium | Spain | Australia | 96.37% | 95.74% |



Achievement Assembly

We have been holding Achievement Assemblies in class this week to celebrate the achievements of our scholars and to recognise children who exemplify our Atwood values.

Congratulations to our winners this week:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Nursery | Globe | Freddie & Safiya | | |
| Reception | India | Zaid & Marianne | Mexico | Daniel & Hannah |
| Year One | Italy | Georgie & Amani | France | Sophia & Ali |
| Year Two | Barbados | Iason & Sofia Ali | China | Ron & Sienna |
| Year Three | Belgium | Elias & Anja | Norway | Rayan & Hiba |
| Year Four | Brazil | Natalia & Olaf | Ghana | Mohamad & Obi |
| Year Five | Spain | Farhad & Mohamed E | Greece | Donis & Omer |
| Year Six | Australia | Maryam & Nevaeh | Canada | Zoey & Cairo |

Year One Bakers!

This week Year 1 became expert bakers and made gingerbread stars. They followed the recipe very carefully and decorated the gingerbread stars so professionally. Watch out for the instructions which we will be writing up next week in literacy.



Atwood Winter Shows

The traditional Atwood Winter show must go on! Although we find ourselves in different circumstances this year, we know that it is an Atwood tradition to have some festive singing. To allow this to happen we are organising year group concerts which we will then record and send out the link to parents via parentmail. These are the recording dates:

Monday 14th December – Year 1 and Year 2

Tuesday 15th December – Year 3 and Year 4

Wednesday 16th December – Year 5 and Year 6

Thursday 17th December – Nursery and Reception

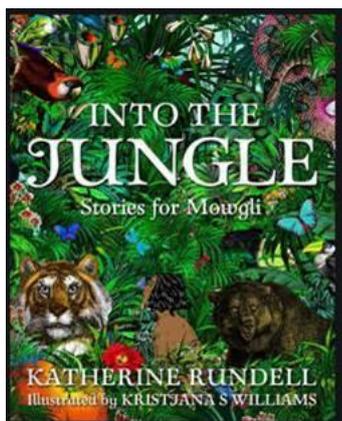


We would like the children to dress up for their concert recording day so please note down the date of your child's concert, so they can come to school dressed in festive party wear or Christmas jumpers.

After all the year groups have recorded, we will then send out the recordings via a google drive link. This google drive link will only be sent out to the parents in your child's year group and will be available for two weeks. After two weeks, the link will be deleted. If your child is currently on our 'no photo permission list', the office team should have been in touch to confirm if you feel happy to have your child included in the show. If you have not heard from them and do not want your child included, please call the office as soon as possible.

In preparation for the concert, it would be fantastic if you can help your child practise their song lyrics (they will be sent home this week) and if your child has a line or reading, it would be much appreciated if you could help them learn this too.

Reading Recommendation



We love reading at Atwood and do all we can to support children in becoming avid readers with a love of literature. Parents are often on the lookout for new titles so we have decided to begin a new series of staff recommendations. This week, Miss Noonan shares one of her favourites:

Katherine Rundell's 'Into the Jungle, Stories for Mowgli' is perfect for any reader who adored The Jungle Book. If you've ever wondered how Bagheera came to be so independent, or the life of Kaa before he encountered the jungle then this is a read for you! Stories imagined for Mowgli – beautifully told and beautifully illustrated – this book is a must!

Year 4 Maths & ICT

Year 4 have been learning about different representations of data in Maths and put their knowledge to the test in ICT, where they had to collect data and then input that on to a spreadsheet. After this, they then chose how to represent their findings on either a line graph or bar chart. Great cross-curricular learning!



E-Safety

As we work increasingly online, we want to provide regular information helping parents to ensure their children are safe.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Gaming & Gambling Series

NOS
Gaming & Gambling

Brought to you by
NOS National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about... GAMING STREAMERS & INFLUENCERS

What are they?

'Gaming Streamers & Influencers'

Streamers are people who stream themselves gaming, drawing, making things etc. for people to watch on the internet. Usually this will be done live, and others are able to chat with them in real time while they do so. Influencers are social media stars who hold influence over the people that follow them, like a kind of trend-setter or taste-maker, who companies often pay to promote their products. A streamer could also be considered an influencer in their chosen area.

JADAGAMING

LIVE

Know the Risks

Adult Content

Many streamers use platforms such as Twitch or YouTube to broadcast themselves. YouTube for example, is only for ages 13+ (and the kids is for under 13s) and may contain a lot of other adult content. Streamers themselves, may be unsuitable for younger audiences with the kind of content they make, and with many opting to stream live, anything can – and does – happen.

Authenticity Risk

A lot of streamers will have some kind of sponsorship deal in place with a company trying to sell their products to an audience. When the audience is mostly younger viewers, they may not realise that streamers are getting paid to promote a product and may not necessarily have their best interests in mind.

Bullying and hate

While some streamers do employ moderators to try and combat hateful comments or bullying in their comments sections, they can still be very hectic. Hateful language is quite common, and people looking to groom children or engage in online bullying behaviour, could frequent the live chats.

Subscriptions

Streamers also make money through subscriptions on websites like Twitch, where fans will donate them a small amount as little or as often as they like, called 'bits', they can be bought in bundles of varying prices which can be gifted to streamers via 'cheers'. Children could buy these 'bits' in large amounts without realising what they're doing, leaving a big bill behind.

BULLY

HATE

Safety Tips

Discuss what's real online

Be sure to teach kids the difference between what's real and honest, or fake and untrustworthy online. Photoshopping fake images and videos and bragging about themselves online is unfortunately quite commonplace so it is difficult to tell what is real or fake. People with large followings can be promoting unhealthy or unattainable lifestyles to children to boost their own online influence.

Use Filters

There are filters that can be put in place to block out a lot of adult content on streaming sites. Just make sure you have access to children's accounts so you can set the parameters and keep track of what they're seeing yourself. Usually, parental controls will be located in the settings portion of an account's menu.

Check age settings

Both YouTube and Twitch state that they are not suitable for children under 13 years old, but other sites might be different. YouTube Kids, for example, is for ages 13 and under, and offers much of the same kid-friendly content that YouTube does without the risk of running into something improper.

Affiliate links

Keep an eye out for affiliate links in social media posts and tags like #ad. UK influencers have to follow the CAP Code for advertising standards, but many don't. It can be hard to tell who is working through legitimate channels because it's almost impossible to regulate. Many streamers encourage fans to buy merchandise through online shops and stores.

Action & Support

Name check streamers

If your child has begun showing an interest in a streamer or influencer, check their names on Google. Some popular streamers have been discovered flouting industry regulations and using their young audiences to enhance their personal wealth through scams whilst others may swear on streams or promote drinking, substance abuse or links to gambling sites they operate to their young audiences.

Talk to your child

Initiate an open dialogue with your child about the kind of content they're consuming online. Ask about their favourite streamers and whether they like their personalities or the games they play and the community they have. Also remind them about what they should and shouldn't be sharing about themselves online. First, block your child from social media stars do it, it can also be damaging.

Block and report

If you suspect a streamer might be taking advantage of their audience, or worse grooming children in any way, and have irrefutable evidence, do not hesitate to block and report them. First, block your child from being able to view their content and alert other parents to your concerns. Go immediately to the police or local authorities with the evidence of what you've seen.

Our Expert

Mark Foster

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.09.2020