



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 11th September

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to have the children back in school this week. The children have settled back into their learning quickly and have rapidly become well acquainted with the additional measures that have been put in place. Hand washing feels like it has its own place on the curriculum and we have acclimatised well to our 'new normal'.

Reminder: If a different adult is collecting your child, the office must be informed by 2pm that day.

On Monday it was clear that our start of day arrangements needed tweaking and I thank you all for quickly changing to the new arrival routines. I feel that this part of the day runs really smoothly and, again, the children have adapted to the new requirement to line up in the playground before moving upstairs. The end of the day collection arrangements are more challenging as parents are required to individually pick up their children and we have strived to keep the staggered times to a minimum. We are keen to keep these timings close together to minimise impact on learning time. We need the support of parents to help this process run as smoothly as possible.

In order to respect personal space and social distancing rules as much as possible:

- 1. If you arrive early for your slot, please stand away from the lining up areas until called forward by a school leader.**
- 2. Line up in the allocated yellow box when called forward.**
- 3. Say your child's name clearly to the class teacher when you get to the front of the line.**
- 4. When you have collected your child, please move swiftly away to avoid congestion**

Like all of our new routines, we will keep this under review. Westminster City Council have this morning painted lines and markings to support social distancing at the start and end of the day.



We will be running virtual parent forums on Zoom in a couple of weeks where you will have the opportunity to ask myself or Miss Thomson questions about all aspects of school life.

- Key Stage One Parents: 9.30am, Thursday 24th September
- Key Stage Two Parents: 9.30am, Friday 25th September

In the meantime, if you have any immediate questions or concerns, please speak to me or another leader on the gate. Alternatively, please contact the school office who can schedule a phone call.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the good weather.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

Year 6 Secondary Transition

Even though the new school year has just started, parents of children in Year 6 should now be thinking carefully about which secondary schools they will be applying. The deadline for applications is **Sunday 31st October**. Links to key Westminster documents have been uploaded onto the Atwood website under the 'Admissions' tab.

Secondary schools have published timings for open days which will be held virtually. Atwood is hoping to host a virtual session with Principals from Paddington Academy and Westminster Academy and Mr Evelyn will be writing to all Year 6 parents next week with further information. Please remember that parents should apply through the borough they live in. For example, if you live in Brent, you must apply through the Brent admissions process and not Westminster.



Curriculum Update

Following the disruption to learning last year, we have made some changes to our curriculum. Parents of children in years one to six will have received an email today with the curriculum and timetable for their class. Some of our units have changed order or been revised along with the actual order of teaching to ensure lessons are pitched at the correct standard. We plan to offer the full breadth of our curriculum as far as possible but some aspects, such as trips, will not be running with the exception of very local outdoor activities (such as the Year One local area walk next week). Our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be starting non-contact boxing this

At the moment, our teaching and learning is focused on our Climate for Learning – this is all about getting the children back into the routines and systems they are used to as well as those which are new. Later this month, we will be carrying out baseline assessments for all children to see precisely where they are in their learning and this will then determine how to adapt our provision as well as putting in additional support where necessary.

Nursery and Reception Start Times

It has been lovely to meet lots of new Reception families visiting the school this week. We are looking forward to welcoming all Nursery and Reception children back to school later this month. Key dates:

Nursery	Reception
<p>w/c 14th Sept: new families will be given an individual dedicated time slot to come and meet the Early Years team and for their child to familiarise themselves with the setting. This will be also be the time for parents to bring necessary documents to the office (eg proof of address and birth certificate) if not done already.</p> <p>Monday 21st Sept: children with surnames A – G attend from 10.00am to 12.00pm</p> <p>Monday 21st Sept: children with surname H – Z attend from 1.00pm to 3.00pm</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd Sept: children with surname A – G from 8.50am (revised Nursery start time for the autumn term) until 3.15pm</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd Sept: children with surname H – Z from 10.00am until 3.15pm</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd Sept: all children attend from 8.50am until 3.15pm</p>	<p>w/c 14th Sept: new families will be given an individual dedicated time slot to come and meet the Early Years team and for their child to familiarise themselves with the setting. This will be also be the time for parents to bring necessary documents to the office (eg proof of address and birth certificate)</p> <p>By Friday 19th Sept: having met everybody, we will have allocated which class your child is in and will inform you by letter and confirm start times</p> <p>Monday 21st Sept: children who attended Atwood nursery attend for the morning session</p> <p>Monday 21st Sept: children who did not attend Atwood nursery attend for the afternoon session</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd Sept: children who attended Atwood nursery from 8.50am (revised Reception start time for the autumn term) until 3.20pm</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd September: children who did not attend the Atwood nursery attend from 10.00am until 3.20pm</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd September: all children attend from 8.50am until 3.20pm</p>