



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Thursday 17th December

Dear Parents and Carers

We have made it to the end of term and a year we will all never forget. Having the children back in school following the disruption earlier in the year was so important and I am very pleased with how everything has gone this term. I know for the children and staff, it is still not 'back to normal' and some of the requirements don't provide any joy but these are the price we pay for staying open. The children, of course, have responded like they always do – with enthusiasm and energy – and we are so proud of them.

Sadly, we are still not in a position to return fully to normal in January as the restrictions look set to be with us well into the Spring term and quite possibly beyond. I can therefore confirm that we will still not be running after school clubs or breakfast club next term – we will review this decision again at half term. We will also have to continue accessing the Amberley Estate pitch for some PE and lunch time breaks. We are in discussions with the Rhythm Studio regarding Year 5 Music sessions starting there next term – this will be risk assessed before any final decisions are made.

One area we will be tweaking is the end of day timings with the Y5s and Y6s changing to a slightly later time and location.

- Y6 will now finish at 3.45pm and leave by the main entrance
- Y5 will now finish at 3.40pm and leave by the main entrance

All that remains is for me to say a big thank you to the Atwood parents. We have had to make numerous changes to your school experience including significantly less time with your child's teacher. We all know the reasons for this but I am very grateful for your understanding and support. I will run a parent forum again next term where you will be able to ask any questions and I can update you on how everything is going.

Finally, I want to say an enormous thank you to the Atwood team. I feel very privileged to work with such a great group of colleagues whose commitment to Atwood and the children is second to none. They have taken everything that has come their way in their stride and even though you are not able to see it right now, trust me when I say that the teaching and learning culture in the school is very strong.

January may well present more challenges but for now, have a lovely holiday, rest up and enjoy time with your families.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

COVID Holiday Guidance

Even though school will be closed after today, you do need to be aware of the process that must be followed should your child have a positive COVID test over the holidays. 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.

- 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 as soon as possible: 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.

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Shows



Yesterday, we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch – the full works! A big thank you to the kitchen team for all their hard work preparing everything.

Tomorrow, we will be sending out links to the Christmas performances which have been taking place this week. Lookout for these in your Inbox!



Friends of Ark Atwood - Update

Thank you to everyone who supported our virtual bake sale! We sold 500 cupcakes and raised £625!

All the profits will contribute towards to green wall, which we are aiming to install in the beginning of the year. A big thank you to Sabine, Ana and Dani for their support. It was a massive team effort!

New committee members

A Welcome to Manjaree (Mother of Avanti, Italy class) who has just joined our committee. If anyone else is interested please get in touch with us on atwoodfriends@gmail.com

Coming up

We have the Following activities planned in the New Year:

- Valentiness day cards
- Tea Towels for Mother's day
- Easter Bake sale



[Mr Evelyn: Thank you to everyone involved with the Friends of Atwood for all their hard work and support of the school. We know you give us your time for nothing and your commitment is truly appreciative. Who would of thought that we'd be doing virtual bake sales by the end of the year!]

Thank you for your support and we wish you a Happy and Restful break. Happy Holidays

Reading Challenge

The Reading Agency (organisers of the annual Summer Reading Challenge), have created a Winter Mini Challenge. This is a smaller-scale version with the challenge being to read three rather than six books and is completed online. The Challenge finishes on Friday 15 January.

To take part in the Mini Challenge, children read three books of their choice, then rate and review them online at www.wintermini.org.uk



Boxing

You may not be aware that our Y5 and Y6 children have been learning how to box on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Here are some pictures of our Y6 boxers in action this week.

