



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents and Carers,

Having settled everyone back into the routine of school last week, this week has focussed on assessment – assessing where children are in their learning following the disruption over the last couple of months. These assessments are crucial as we look to carefully map out learning across the summer term ensuring that we are teaching the correct content and giving children a really strong end to the academic year.

I mentioned in last week's newsletter that I will be holding Parent Forums next week. At these sessions, I will update you on school developments and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. If you would like to submit a question in advance, please email Jess Lipson, Parent Governor, at [p.governor@arkatwoodprimary.org](mailto:p.governor@arkatwoodprimary.org). Links to the Zoom sessions are here:

**Early Years/KS1: Wednesday 24th March (9.30am)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89378675030?pwd=T05lQXdrQnV6eklTQWlXaVFHRHc3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 893 7867 5030

Passcode: 050362

**KS2: Thursday 25th March (9.30am)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82133154811?pwd=WGttRlhwNGU5MGlSZmtTbFREOFVVUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 3315 4811

Passcode: 805527

We will then follow the Parent Forums early next term with Parents Evening sessions. These will again take place on Zoom on these dates:

- Tuesday 4th May: 3.00pm – 6.30pm (children leave one hour earlier)
- Thursday 6th May: 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Information on how to book your slot will be shared by the office shortly. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to speak to your child's teacher, discuss their learning and how they are getting on at school.

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

### Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone for going red today and donating to Comic Relief. A fantastic £291 was raised by the Atwood community.

## School Photos

The dates for school photos have changed and are now at these times:

- KS2 and Nursery - Wednesday 19th May
- KS1 and Reception- Thursday 20th May

Children with siblings in different phases should come in full uniform (as opposed to PE kit) on both days.



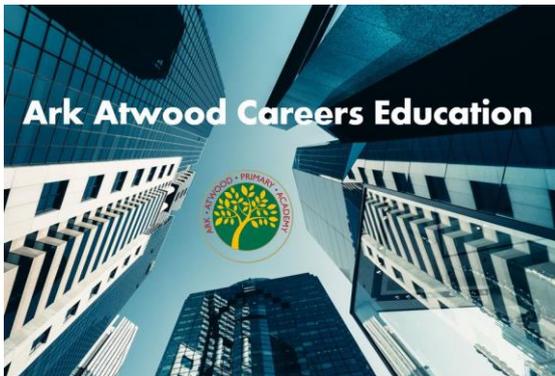
## Year Six Residential

The Year Six Residential to the Isle of Wight in June is not too far away now. **A reminder to parents of children attending that you need to keep making regular payments.** The residential is heavily subsidised by the school and is budgeted on the need for parents to pay the specific amount required for their child (set out in the letters sent out).

The residential provides a fantastic opportunity for children to develop both socially and physically and will help ahead of the next big step from primary into secondary school. It also provides a lovely ending to their time at Ark Atwood – particularly important this year given the disruption we have all experienced.

The price is fully inclusive of accommodation, all meals, a full programme of tutored activities, insurance and coach travel to and from the centre. As mentioned previously, please be reassured that if the residential does end up being cancelled we will, of course, refund all the payments you have made.

## Careers



Thank you so much to all the parents who have contributed information about their careers to the work we are doing on developing this aspect of our curriculum. We now have over 40 profiles that the children can study and reflect on – ranging from midwives to chefs, surveyors to company CEOs – it really is the range we were hoping for. What has also been nice is the pathways parents have followed which will help the children appreciate more about the career journeys we all take including apprenticeships, adult learning, retraining and career breaks. Really important for the children to understand that it is not always linear!

This piece of work will launch next term and forms the Summer 1 component of our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) curriculum. Learning across years one to six will focus around three central themes:

1. Developing the softer skills children need to develop inner confidence and readiness for the workplace
2. Increase children's financial literacy and responsibility
3. Build up children's knowledge of the options and pathways available whilst also debunking myths and stereotypes that may limit their ambitions

## Ark Easter Music Camp

Ark Music is offering an online camp for passionate young musicians who would like to take part in this three day holiday activity. This three-day camp will give students the chance to connect with like-minded young creatives, develop their musical skills and have fun through a series of musical workshops and creative activities led by their team of Artists in Residence.

**Dates:** Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th April  
**Times:** 10:30am – 12:30pm and 2:00pm -3:00pm (3 hrs per day)  
**Cost:** Free!



**Who is it for?** All students are invited (most suited to Year 4 and above) – no choir/ensemble experience necessary! This opportunity is for students who love making music – instrumental or vocal – and who would like the opportunity to work with professional musicians in a focused but fun way. We are looking for students who are ready to commit to the three days, and who will really thrive from the experience. If you are interested in signing up, please email Miss Schofield on [h.schofield-newton@arkatwoodprimary.org](mailto:h.schofield-newton@arkatwoodprimary.org)

## Internet Safety

As part of our ongoing Online Safety newsletters for Parents please see information below about an online Video Chat website called **Omegle**. Their tagline is '**Omegle; Talk to Strangers! The internet is full of cool people; Omegle lets you meet them.**'

This could present safeguarding concerns as it is unrestricted and largely unmonitored as to who is using it. Please see the information below from National Online Safety and as ever remain vigilant about the websites your child may be accessing on their devices.

Miss Thomson

Deputy Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to [Omegle.com](http://Omegle.com) and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



# What parents need to know about OMEGLE




**NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES**

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.

**RISK OF CYBERBULLYING**

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.

**UNMODERATED CHAT**

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful' it also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable'.

**PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK**

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.

**RISK OF EXPLOITATION**

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).

**ADULT THEMED CONTENT**

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



## Safety Tips For Parents



**DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD**

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.

**PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it is important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.

**REPORT CONCERNS**

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.

**DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT**

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% fail-safe.

**TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF**

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.

**USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add [www.omegle.com](http://www.omegle.com) to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.