



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a good week and that See Saw is becoming easier as each day passes. As I have mentioned previously, this is new to all of us and as we go on, we are making some tweaks as well as doing our best to ensure that parents are fully aware of how everything is working.

Even though school is technically closed, in the working week, teachers still have normal planning time to prepare lessons as well as professional commitments such as training or development. Therefore, there will be times that teachers are not able to provide marking and feedback. Of course, teachers try their very best to catch up over time, but realistically there will be moments where this is not always sustainable. The home learning activities are designed to offer a broad curriculum and enable students to access a lot of what they would in school – it is important to build over time a routine in completing these, with a primary focus upon the core subjects Literacy, Reading, Phonics and Maths. Teachers are responding to activity submissions from students to build upon learning and plan ahead. In order to help with this core subject responses should ideally be submitted before 5pm each day. Beyond this point it is challenging for teachers to integrate into the next day's lessons.

**Wellbeing Wednesday** We also recognise that our remote learning offer, like most schools, requires children to spend a significant amount of time each day in front of a screen. To help mitigate this, we will shortly be introducing 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' where the tasks set for Wednesday afternoons will be non-screen based. They will either be linked to existing curriculum topics or will be other engaging activities to be completed away from a screen.

**Friday Review** A number of parents have been in touch to say that they are struggling to get through the content that has been planned every day. We are therefore going to tweak Fridays so that there is some capacity for catch up if children are behind; work will still be set but it will be a lighter load with teachers freed up to reach out to specific children who have had some struggles over the course of the week.

**Staff COVID Testing** From next week, primary school staff are able to access twice weekly COVID tests through the government. These are for asymptomatic people, recognising that one third of people with COVID do not display any symptoms. This measure will continue to help ensure we are doing all we can to keep our site as safe as possible. Up to this point, Ark Schools has kindly been providing staff with COVID tests.



**Virtual Achievement Assemblies** Today, Miss Thomson, Mr Townsend and I ran Achievement Assemblies for each year group. Congratulations to all our superb scholars!

	Scholar of the Week	Headteacher's Values		Scholar of the Week	Headteacher's Values
India	Jannah	Talia	Belgium	Samira	Kareem
Mexico	Hudson	Ayah	Ghana	Yusuf	Keira
Italy	Eisah	Leena	Brazil	Saja	Sofia
France	Raseel	Alex	Greece	Persie	Edie
China	Safa	Joud	Spain	Isabella	Nathan
Barbados	Malak	Iason	Canada	Adam M	Aimra
Norway	Chase	Adam	Australia	Joel	Reina

## Parent Forums – Next Week

I will be running two Parent Forums next week – one for Key Stage Two and one for Key Stage One/Early Years. Dates and times as follows:

- **Key Stage Two:** 9.00am, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- **Key Stage One & Early Years:** 9.00am, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

You are very welcome to submit feedback in advance of the sessions and this should be through our parent governor email address, [p.governor@arkatwoodprimary.org](mailto:p.governor@arkatwoodprimary.org). Please structure this feedback around these two points: (i) what are we doing well and (ii) what could we do to be more effective/helpful? Please indicate your child’s year group when submitting feedback.

Zoom links to the sessions will be sent on Monday.

## Atwood Careers Curriculum

We are currently working on the Careers part of our PSHE curriculum and are keen to involve our parent community in its development.

One of the areas we will be focusing on is children’s awareness of the multiple career pathways available to them. This is really important not least because we know that children start to form often quite limiting perspectives on careers from an early age. As part of this, I want to create a bank of career profiles that children can see and use in class that show not only specific occupations but also the pathways people have followed to take them to where they are.

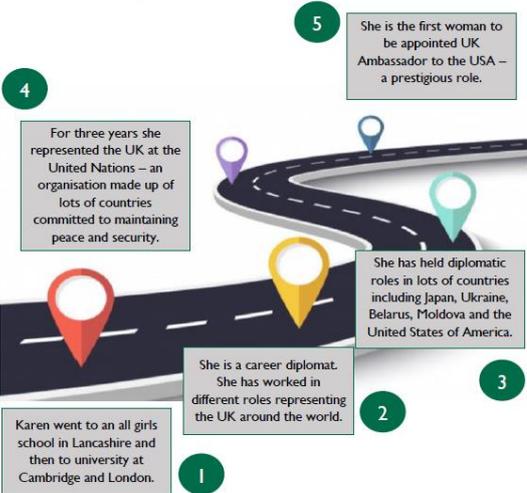
Attached to this email are a couple of examples – these are both higher profile jobs simply to exemplify what I am aiming for. The table in the top right is linked to a matrix (not attached) that will help children in distinguishing between different jobs – for example, whether they are technology based, have workplace flexibility, require qualifications etc. Please do not worry about this for now.

**Karen Pierce**  
United Kingdom Ambassador to the United States of America



An Ambassador is a person representing the government in another foreign country. They would be based in the foreign country working in an Embassy.

Workplace	Locations
Professional	Progression
Public	



- Karen went to an all girls school in Lancashire and then to university at Cambridge and London.
- She is a career diplomat. She has worked in different roles representing the UK around the world.
- She has held diplomatic roles in lots of countries including Japan, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the United States of America.
- For three years she represented the UK at the United Nations – an organisation made up of lots of countries committed to maintaining peace and security.
- She is the first woman to be appointed UK Ambassador to the USA – a prestigious role.

It would be great if you are able to contribute an example relating to your career and the pathway you have followed. Please complete the survey through the link below and send me a photo you’re your workplace uniform). I would like the profiles to cover a wide range of jobs and pathways

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBTLADSLjUaCn2NuzjLCTNsN54d3ox9GgCyFZJT0uFZUQTRJUEVNTg1SKIUUE9KVUcwMTZFQU4lVy4u>

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy