



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Half term starts today.

Schools starts again at the usual times on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**

Dear Parents and Carers

After seven weeks of term, half term has arrived. I know I have said this before but it really has been a term like no other. I am so thankful for everyone – children, staff and parents – for their support in ensuring our children can be in school after such a lengthy period of disruption. Everyone has quickly adapted to our new ways of working and whilst I know they are sometimes cumbersome (especially for the staff of years four to six, having to run break time at the pitch), we know these sacrifices are worth it if it means children are back in school.

The risk assessment that was completed in August is being reviewed and I am hopeful that we might be able to make some tweaks after half term to some of the procedures we have put in place. I will inform you of any changes after half term. I'm afraid that we are still not able to run breakfast and after school clubs; we will review this again at the end of term.

I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing half term even though there are conditions in place on what we are all able to do. **If, over the half term break, your child has a positive COVID test, please email me immediately and I will look to call you back as soon as possible (j.evelyn@arkatwoodprimary.org).**

Finally, I want to thank our wonderful staff team. These are certainly tough times for us all but you all need to be aware of their hard work, dedication and commitment to the children – they are a fantastic team and I know will enjoy a well-earned rest next week. A number of you have asked me about Miss Thomson and where she has been these past few weeks. She has had a foot operation and is currently at home resting but also working remotely. We all send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery and are hoping she will be back with us at some point in November.

Have a lovely half term. Please don't forget that the first day back is an Inset day so we will see you all on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the usual start times.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

### Parents Evening

We have decided to use our inset day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December as our Parents Evening session this term. As parents are still not permitted on the school site, these sessions will be virtual meaning that teachers will still be able to show the children's work.

The office will be in touch after half term with the opportunity to book your session.

#### End of Day Collection

There has been a rise in the number of children running around near the back gate after they have left school. This includes running onto the road. Clearly this is very dangerous. A reminder that once children have been collected, they should remain with their parent/carer and not be left to run around. We had an incident this week where a Reception age child had wandered off as far as the canal bridge prior to being dropped off which is a major concern.

#### Local Area Crime

Our local police officers visited school today and informed us that there has been an increase in robberies and muggings along the canal towpath – particularly the area heading west (the other side of Harrow Road). Please be vigilant and try to stay in areas that are well lit.



## Remote Learning

Whilst the Coronavirus pandemic is with us, we recognise that there might be disruption to normal school life with individual children, classes and year groups possibly required to self-isolate at home at different points. This has the potential to disrupt children's learning significantly and it is therefore crucial that we ensure that learning can continue remotely.

**Bubble Closure** As a school team, we have thought carefully about how we want to approach remote learning in the event of disruption and are keen to move forward from the approach we used during the spring and summer. To this end, we will be using the See Saw platform to facilitate our remote learning model. This is an online platform that is used in many schools to support remote learning and will enable us to:

- Provide learning in a similar format to normal including recorded teaching input
- Provide feedback on learning both individually and to the whole class
- Meet with the whole class

The platform can be accessed both on laptops/tablets and also on a mobile phone meaning that any potential issues around remote access should hopefully be reduced. Children will also be given an exercise book so that they can still record their work on paper. Children have been getting used to the See Saw app in Computing lessons so do ask your child about it.

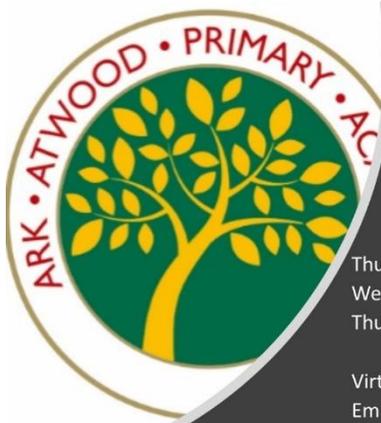
**Individual Absence** In the event of individual children being required to be isolate/quarantine/shield, teachers will be faced with the challenge of providing for children in school and those at home. In this instance, we will provide the objectives of the work being covered that week in class, some of the resources being used and links to the filmed lessons from Oak National Academy.

## Friends of Atwood

Thank you once again to the wonderful Friends of Atwood team who have raised £580 through their innovative virtual bake sale! We are extremely grateful to Viv, Ana and Sabine for their support (and to all of you for buying the cup cakes!). The money is going to be spent on improving the air quality in school through the purchase of a green wall!



## Reception Admissions September 2021 – Open Days



**Virtual Open Days**  
*for Reception Admissions*  
*September 2021*

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Virtual Open Days start at 9.30am  
Email to register: [info@arkatwoodprimary.org](mailto:info@arkatwoodprimary.org)

Nursery parents should be aware that the deadline for Reception applications is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – if you want your child to join Atwood Reception, you **MUST** apply (Nursery children do not automatically move into Reception).

We are running Open Days over the coming months – please email the office to sign up.

## Library News

It is so wonderful to have the library open again for children in Years 1 and 6 every week, the children coming down in their class groups to choose a book of their choice. Year 6 have also been discussing and sharing reading recommendations during their library time which has been inspiring everyone to try books they wouldn't normally pick up. Most of the other year groups have access to the library via boxes of books that are sent up to class and changed over once a fortnight. The remaining two year groups will get their first boxes after half term.



### SPONSORED READ

Normally at this time of year we would be preparing to hold an Usborne Book Fair with lots of ideas for Christmas and holiday presents. Sadly, we are unable to hold our normal event, so we are running a Sponsored Read with Jane Ireland, our Usborne representative instead. A sponsored read is a fun way to encourage the children to read more over half term and it doesn't matter what they read! We have included a Just Giving link for the first time to make sponsoring simpler.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/quackquackbooksarkatwood>

In conjunction you can still order books for your children by browsing Jane's website <https://org.usbornebooksathome.co.uk/janeelizbooks>, sending her an email with your order to [jane@quackquackbooks.co.uk](mailto:jane@quackquackbooks.co.uk). Any orders placed this way will still count as a bookfair order and we will receive our normal commission.

Full details of the sponsored read and more information on ordering and links for new titles have been sent home via parentmail and letter. Any questions please email me.



### Year 2 on the Roof Garden

The Year 2 children have managed to find a gap between the rain showers this week to enjoy some sketching on the Roof Garden.



## Fundraising

Sholto Steel (Year 6, Australia) finally finished his treatment for cancer this summer, he was diagnosed with leukaemia when he was in Year 2. Since finishing, he and his sister Esmeralda (Year 4, Brazil) have been climbing mountains to raise money for Children with Cancer UK, which has long been supported by our Atwood community - Miss Schofield, Miss Lester and Mr. Bowden have all run the London Marathon for the charity, which funds vital research into finding and improving the cure for childhood cancer. Sholto and Esmeralda have already climbed the Yorkshire 3 Peaks, finishing with Ingleborough on our last Inset day - next come the National 3 Peaks, Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scarfell Pike. Should anyone wish to add to their sponsorship, the link to the fundraising page is here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FionaMcKenzieJohnston>

