



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 5th June

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to begin our phased return to school starting with our Nursery children this week – feels like the first step on the road back to normality. The children have been organised into bubbles and have been enjoying getting back into a school routine.

One of the most important aspects of school return is timings. We know that our site is small with limited access points and this is why we have introduced the staggered start and end of the day. As we welcome more years back over the coming weeks, it is absolutely essential that these specific timings are adhered to – there is no capacity for late collection and this will also compromise the integrity of the bubble system.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our Reception children from Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

James Evelyn

Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

Book Collection

Mr Evelyn and Fiona Dalu-Chandu, the school librarian, have been discussing ways to facilitate library books going home given the need to keep the site clean and to stop any cross contamination.

Next Tuesday (9th June), from 10.30am to 12.00pm, we will be providing an opportunity for children to return old library books and sign out new ones. This will be done outside the back gates (weather depending) and will require hand sanitizing before any books are touched. We will also require any attending parents and children to line up at an appropriate distance.

We will also be offering exercise books for collection and parents of children in Y1, Y3 and Y4 will be able to collect a Humanities workbook that accompanies the home learning in this area. (Year One parents who will be sending their children to school from 15th June will receive these resources at school).

We look forward to seeing families there (at a social distance!).

Teaching and Learning about Equality at Atwood

The shocking events of the last week in America and around the world remind us as a school community of the crucial role we play in educating children about the importance of tackling racism and promoting equality. This work is never done and as educators, we have the power and responsibility to shape young minds about how they view the world and those around them. We know already that our curriculum will be changing in the future to take account of the disruption due to COVID 19; please be reassured that we will be thinking carefully about how we can further incorporate themes around equality and diversity into our curriculum going forward.

Keeping our site safe

As you know, we have made a number of changes to our site to ensure we are doing all we can to provide a safe transition back to school over the coming weeks and months. So that children have some idea of what it will be like when they return, we thought it would be nice to share some photos and description:



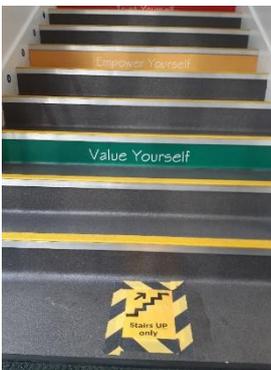
Corridors have been demarcated so that an appropriate distance is observed as people transition round the building.



Touch free hand sanitizer stations have been installed at the main entrance, the back gate and at the bottom of the main stairs. This will ensure a smoother transition into the building and no requirement for unnecessary touching.



Sadly, we have had to cordon off some of our resources such as the climbing equipment in the playground which are high touch surfaces. When bubbles of children go out to play, they will take a box of resources



We have created a one way system around the school so that there is less risk of the bubbles mixing. The main stairs is up and the back stairs is down. Each corridor is one way heading towards the hall end of the school.



Classrooms have been adapted to support distancing requirements.



To support with increased handwashing and cleaning of surfaces, all classrooms and other spaces have been equipped with cleaning chemicals



We have put signs and road markings up outside the school to support with lining up and distancing. Sadly we are not permitted to have parents on site during this time. Parents should contact the office via email or phone if needed.

Traffic on Amberley Road

We have been in touch with Westminster local authority regarding measures to reduce traffic and emissions around the school site at the start and end of the school day. A parking enforcement officer is once again being provided in line with the start and end of day timings. We were also approached about introducing a temporary School Street Scheme but there were a number of challenges around introducing this such as storage, staffing and the length of our staggered school day timings. The permanent solution, which we were hoping would be introduced in the spring, has been postponed because of the disruption but we are hopeful that this will be introduced in the not too distant future. Westminster are also supporting the school in providing social distancing signs.