



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 8th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have found the first few days of remote learning on the See Saw platform productive and engaging for the children. The staff team spent a lot of time last term planning for possible school/bubble closure and were keen to create a model that would reflect much of our normal classroom teaching strategies but would also, crucially, be responsive and allow feedback between school staff and children. Hopefully you are all confident in accessing and using the platform now but if not, do reach out to school leaders or class teachers with any questions you may have.

As I mentioned in my letter to parents this morning, this term we are providing regular on site COVID testing for staff. We know that approximately 1/3 of COVID cases present no symptoms so being able to test asymptomatic staff members is hugely important in reducing potential transmissions.

Finally, it was lovely to have some children back in school over the past few days at the Community Classroom. It is a long way from business as usual but lovely all the same.

Have a great weekend.

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

FSM vouchers

Similar to the school closure last year, Free School Meal vouchers are being sent out to eligible families. These vouchers are worth £2.30 per day so eligible families will receive a weekly voucher to the value of £11.50 per child each Friday. The vouchers are automatically generated from a Wonde account so please look out for an email from this company.

Bike Racks

Those of you who have been down Amberley Road recently will have seen the new bike racks which have been recently installed. Thank you so much to Westminster Council for installing these – additional racks were definitely needed!



Message to Nursery Parents

A reminder that the deadline for applications for your child to attend Atwood Reception is Wednesday 15th January. **Please note that you MUST apply as children do not transition automatically from our Nursery to Reception.** Please click on this link to apply (applications are managed by Westminster local authority):

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

If you have any final questions, please contact Mr Evelyn or Miss Thomson.

See Saw and Devices

We chose the See Saw learning platform for a number of reasons including that it was designed for phone/tablet use. We have seen so much lovely work coming in so a big thank you for your support.

We are aware that some families are not able to access remote learning as they do not have a phone, tablet or other device for their child/children to use. The Department for Education is providing a limited number of devices for Key Stage Two children who are at risk of missing education due to this.

We have given out over 25 devices this week and will distribute more next week when they arrive. If you are unable to access home learning due to connectivity, please click on this link and complete the survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBTLADSljUaCn2NuzjLCTNsN54d3ox9GgCyFZJT0ufZUQVA5MIQ5VkuWnVA4WE9ZSjRPMkFMNTdXRS4u>

New Parent Governor

Last term, we advertised for a new parent governor following Alisa Hall and her family leaving Atwood to return to Australia. I am delighted that Jess Lipson has joined the governing body as our second parent governor alongside Vipul Bhargava. Here are some introductory words from Jess:

I've been part of the Atwood community for the last 8 years. I have 2 boys, Isaac who left this year and Jacob in year 4. I work as a web designer at the Ministry of Justice and am passionate about technology and creativity in education. I'm so excited to be the new parent governor and to be representing the views of the Atwood parent community.

In ordinary times I would have arranged a coffee morning and made myself visible at the gate to say hi and chat about things, but as these are not normal times I will set up a zoom call to introduce myself, in a few weeks when we've all settled into home schooling a bit more.