



**Achieving
Success**

Ark Atwood Primary Academy
Amberley Road, London W9 2JY
www.arkatwoodprimary.org

Newsletter, Friday 1st February

Message from Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week and we suddenly find ourselves in February! It was lovely to be at the O2 Arena on Monday evening to see our children taking part in the Young Voices event along with 8,000 children from other schools across the country. The children spent the afternoon practising before the performance in the evening and they did themselves and the school proud. A big well done to them along with the team of teachers and parent volunteers who helped to ensure everything ran smoothly.

We are now in the process of recruiting a new Parent Governor to join our governing body. Please read on to find out more about the role including details of how to apply.

Enjoy the weekend.

James Evelyn
Head of School, Ark Atwood



Reception Cycling

Mexico class have thoroughly enjoyed their week of Balance Bike training. Each day the trainers have seen Mexico class progress their handling skills as well as their knowledge and understanding of the bikes. Many children have progressed to gliding which demonstrates their bike control. Many thanks to the trainers who have done a great job-especially fitting it around our busy schedule!



Friends of Atwood

Unfortunately, due to illness, the Friends of Atwood meeting yesterday had to be postponed. We are hoping to reschedule this before half term and will be in touch with the new date.

Children: Have your say!

Pupil voice is an important part of helping to continually improve our school. A new display has gone up outside Mr Evelyn's office where children can share their thoughts on what is great about Atwood and what could make the school even better. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about this and to share their views.



Italy Class Assembly

Italy class took to the stage last week to showcase their class assembly on their current topic, 'The Great Fire of London'. Here, they took us back in time to 1666 to tell us the story of the great fire through drama, music and dance. Italy class have worked incredibly hard over the past two weeks learning lines, songs and actions and they should be very proud of their achievement. Well done Italy class!



Karate starts at Atwood

Thursday saw the start of the new Karate sessions in Year 4. The children started practising their moves with our new Karate teacher, Mr Vidal.



Can you be our Parent governor?

We are looking to appoint a parent of a child currently attending the school to join our Local Governing Body (LGB). Please read on to find out more!

Role of the Local Governing Body: From overseeing what your children learn in class to making sure that building projects are delivered, governors are at the heart of our school's journey. Governors work together to support the school to ensure that the pupils are able to achieve to the best of their ability. A successful and effective LGB will:

- Monitor implementation of the school development plan and school finances effectively
- Act as a critical friend, developing a strong and supportive relationship with the Principal
- Not be involved in the day-to-day management of the school
- Consult and respond to the views and concerns of parents and pupils
- Be knowledgeable about the school
- Use the skills of all members.

All governors are expected to attend LGB meetings, which are held four times a year in school. In addition, you might be expected to join a committee or take on a 'link' role to understand a particular area of the school's activity, such as how it keeps children safe, provides for children with special educational needs and disabilities, or manages the school's finances.

Expectations of Parent Governors As a governor, you will need to commit time to prepare for and attend LGB meetings, to take a share of tasks within the LGB and to take part in training. You will also be expected to visit the school as a governor – this can be a very different experience to visiting as a parent! As a Parent Governor:

- You will bring your parental perspective to the LGB and, through your children, you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum.
- You are helping to ensure that the school meets the needs of all its pupils, not representing individual parents or their concerns.
- Other parents may approach you with concerns but you should not become personally involved in individual concerns, as this may jeopardise formal procedures. You should guide parents about appropriate lines of action and procedures.
- You do not need to express opinions or vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by other parents.
- You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but of all children.
- Objectivity is essential.

Like all Ark governors, you will need to be loyal to the decisions made by the LGB and respect the confidentiality – even if you personally voted against a decision you must support the decision making process and take responsibility for the outcome.

The appointment process: All parents, carers and guardians of children at the school are eligible to be candidates. If you would like to be considered, please complete the online form at <http://arkonline.tfaforms.net/2> by **Friday 22nd February**. If you would like any support completing this online form or would like to use a computer in school to complete it, please contact the school office. Please make sure that when you complete the form, you add your personal statement in support of your nomination.

Applications will be considered by the Head of Governance in consultation with the Chair and Principal of the school and are likely to include a meeting with each candidate. Like all Ark governors, the parent governor will be formally appointed by the Head of Governance.