



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

**Achieving
Success**

Newsletter, Friday 19th July 2019

Message from Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the school year is upon us. I hope you have had an enjoyable year. I have very much enjoyed my first six months or so at the school – getting to know the school, the community and all of our children. Whilst we know school is so much more than academic attainment, the outcomes that have been achieved are excellent and testament to the hard work of our children and the excellent teaching staff. I thank them all.

You know from previous newsletters that we are saying goodbye to a number of teachers/teaching assistants this term. We are also saying goodbye to two ‘Atwood legends’ – Jo Rees and Steph Lester. On behalf of the whole team, I thank them both for their enormous contributions and everything they have achieved - they are big shoes to fill. We wish them both all the very best in their new roles. They have kindly written a few lines below for the newsletter:

A couple of reminders:

- **School finishes for the term next Tuesday at 2pm.** There is no P3 Club on Tuesday so all children must be collected on Tuesday
- **Children return for the autumn term on Wednesday 4th September.** Gates open at 8.25am.

Have a lovely weekend and a wonderful summer holiday.

James Evelyn

Head of School, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

Jo Rees

It has been such a joy, whirlwind and pleasure being the SENCo and Assistant Head at Atwood over the last 5 years! Thank you for being open to all my ideas about how to be the happiest we can be and being so supportive of this! The kids are just brilliant (and brave!) at trying whatever ideas we have brought their way: bouncing in the corridors, pedals under tables, Raff Dog, meditating, doing much more yoga than they may well wish to.....it has been so fun and I adore how open these kids are to being the happiest and best version of themselves, whatever they are asked to try! I often go home laughing and smiling about the day we have had and the magic of the Atwood pupils.

The team at Atwood, staff team and parent community, is so special and I feel incredibly lucky to have been a part of this for so long. I have never worked with a team that puts so much heart and energy into every day and go so far above and beyond what can be expected; the support from the parents and carers to achieve this really has and does mean so so much! Book club I shall miss you and plan to crash these meets still! Parent Yoga team, there is a plan in formation for you! I will miss the morning and home time smiles, catch ups and hugs at the gate, this really is one of the best bits of my day. I am off to do more yoga, amongst other things and am so happy to leave with a team in place that make me ridiculously proud. I will miss the complete wonderfulness of the Atwood parents, staff team and kids. Thank you, very very much!

Wishing you all the happiest Atwood adventures,
Miss Rees :)

Steph Lester

I can't tell you what a privilege it has been to work at this truly unique and wonderful school for the past seven years. The journey from NQT to Assistant Headteacher has been transformational and it's safe to say Atwood has captured my heart.

The pupils at the school are the most talented, impressive and well-rounded individuals a teacher could ask for. The staff are dedicated, passionate and hardworking. It is a team who I have been unbelievably proud to be a part of and have shared many happy memories with. The community spirit which surrounds our school opens its arms and its heart to all; it embodies the values that we work so hard to instil in our children and ensures everybody strives to be their best self.

It is with a heavy heart that I am leaving, but I know that the school will continue to shine bright like a diamond and I look forward to hearing about how you are all getting on.

Atwood scholars, go for it. You have got this and you can be anything you want to be. Make us proud.



Love
Miss Lester

**REMINDER: School finishes at 2pm on Tuesday.
There is no P3 after school club on Tuesday.
School returns on Wednesday 4th September, 8.25am**

Atwood Attendance

It is important that children are at school every day. Every lesson and every session matters and children should only be off school in exceptional circumstances. Our attendance target is to **exceed 96%**. Below are the attendance figures for this week.

The whole school attendance figure for this week is: **93.7%**

The Key Stage **One** class with the highest attendance this week is: **BARBADOS**

The Key Stage **Two** class with the highest attendance this week is: **BELGIUM**



Year group attendance numbers for this week:



Reception International Afternoon

On Tuesday, Reception held their annual International Afternoon. It was fantastic to celebrate all our cultures and countries. Thank you so much to all the parents who kindly volunteered; the children loved hearing about different countries, eating delicious food and trying fun national outfits.



Parent Survey

Thank you to parents for taking the time to complete the recent parent survey. Lots of useful reflections and feedback for us to consider as we strive to be the best we can be. Below are the statistics from the survey:

Please tick the appropriate box	Agree	Disagree
My child is happy at school	98%	2%
My child is making good progress at school	95%	5%
My child feels safe at school	95%	5%
My child is well taught at school	93%	7%
I believe that behaviour is good at school	95%	5%
I feel that staff are approachable	97%	3%
The school is well led	93%	7%
Communication between school and home is good	88%	12%
I would recommend Ark Atwood	98%	2%

Parents identified a number of areas of concern. An update on some of those areas:

- The process for recruiting parent governors followed the Ark School guidance. This does not require the school to hold elections and it is Ark Schools that makes the final decision on appointments following interviews and recommendations from the Headteacher and Chair.
- Westminster Academy has this week agreed to us using their sports facilities for clubs and some PE next term. This is great news and will mean that the amount of sport we are offering will increase.
- There have been too many events crammed at the end of term. This will be reviewed for next year.
- We are hoping to proceed with RE teaching across the school from next term. This will be in the form of a RE themed day each term. Details will be confirmed in due course.
- Traffic in the local area remains a concern. The Headteacher and a parent visited another Westminster school earlier in the term who have introduced a traffic controlling scheme. This involved temporary bollards being introduced at the start and end of the day. Westminster Local Authority are looking into introducing something similar around our school. This would go to local consultation first. Unfortunately, the time scale for this is not clear at the moment.

Atwood Curriculum – Help Needed

You will be aware that we are currently reviewing the Atwood curriculum. One of the changes that we are keen to make is to introduce a local component to the curriculum so that children know more about where they live and can become champions for the area. The local component will be formed of 6 areas: (i) key figures (ii) architecture and places (iii) transport (iv) performance and sport (v) culture and food (vi) significant events.

If any parents or carers have any local knowledge around the six areas above that they would like to share, we would love to hear from you. We are in the 'research' phase so are keen to get as much information as possible before moving forward. Please contact James Evelyn.

Performances

Our end of term performances continued this week with the Salsa performance. Y2 children and those who attend the Salsa club performed to parents in the playground showcasing all the moves they have learned.



I Can be Assembly

The Y3 'I Can Be' Project came to an end with an assembly where children showcased the many visits they have had, the questions they have asked and they also shared their latest career aspirations.

There has been a lot of visits as part of this project including to St Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, John Soane Museum, Soho Fire Station, Southwark Playhouse and the Hungarian Embassy. Thank you to all these organisations for being so generous with their time.



Shakespeare Rocks!

The Year 6 children have once again stolen the show with their superb production of Shakespeare Rocks. The singing and acting were of a superb standard. This was even more impressive given the limited rehearsal time the children had. An enormous thank you to Paddington Academy for letting us use their hall for the day.



School Meals

Payment We are changing how we charge for school lunches from September. Payment for school lunches will need to be paid weekly or monthly in advance. The office team will continue to send out lunch statements and these should be either paid by cash to the office or via WisePay.

The reason for the change is because the school is currently owed in excess of £8,000 in unpaid lunches. These are losses we cannot continue to sustain.

Lunch Choices Children from Year 3 to Year 6 may have a packed lunch from home. The office must be informed of this choice. If your child does have a packed lunch, they cannot then make changes on a day by day basis. This is to allow for the kitchen to have accurate information when placing orders.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please speak to the school office or the Headteacher.

Sports Day

The children braved the elements over the last two days to enjoy the annual sports days. Whilst the weather stopped us enjoying the traditional picnic, the events took place as usual.



Olympic Stadium visit

Some Year 5 children went to the London Olympic Stadium and ran in a 4x100 relay race in the Under 11 category against schools from across the London. They ran like the wind and had the best time.



Friends of Atwood: Update

What an incredible year it's been, we've had tons of events that have helped fundraise £8,130. The events are also about bringing together our amazing community and having FUN! We hope you enjoyed them.



In September, we will be focusing on improving the playground and equipment, we've already received some ideas from the school council and we will be asking more children to get involved with ideas. In the first term, you can expect a Wacky Hair day, an international day, a games night and yes...we will begin planning the Christmas fair already!

Thank you to everyone involved, parents/carers, class reps, school staff and the FoAA committee members. No event would be possible without your kind support.

A final bake sale will take place on Monday 22nd July, we'd love to have some of your yummy cakes to sell! We will also be selling ice cream, given it's been so popular!

We've had great feedback/ideas to help us improve our events and we'd love to hear more, please feel free to email: atwoodfriends@gmail.com

Have a fun and relaxing break,

Your friends of Ark Atwood Team



Summer Holidays Art Exhibitions

There are numerous art exhibitions on that appeal to children over the summer holidays, some of which are free:

Firstly, the **Ship of Tolerance**, a collaboration between the artists Ilya and Emilia Kabakov and local London children, including our own Year 2 children who have painted sails for the Ship, will be exhibited at the Royal Docks by The Crystal, E16 1GB, from Saturday 3rd to Saturday 31st August. A mass photo is being organised at 5pm on Friday 30th August - so if your child participated, do consider taking them! (The Ship is then moving to outside the Tate Modern in September, and we hope to do a school trip.) This exhibition is free.

There is also a concert to celebrate the opening of the **Ship of Tolerance** on Thursday the 5th September at St. John's, Smith Square featuring talent from around the world. The concert is free - if you would like to go, please email rsvp@artactionchange.org

The Serpentine Gallery is hosting an exhibition of the ground breaking works of **Faith Ringgold**, her first in a European institution. Focussing on different series that Ringgold has created over the past 50 years, the exhibition includes paintings, story quilts and political posters made during the Black Power movement. This exhibition is also free.

The Tate Modern is hosting a huge exhibition by the artist and environmentalist **Olafur Eliason**. Within the exhibition is a rainbow that the children can touch, a tunnel of fog to walk through and numerous other works. While children under 12 are free, the exhibition is £18 for adults. However a tonne of white Lego bricks are being scattered across the Turbine Hall - it arrives on the 26th July - allowing anyone who visits to unleash their inner architect, and this element of the exhibition is free.

At the Whitechapel Gallery is an exhibition by **Michael Rakowitz** - the artist whose work is currently filling the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square - which is fascinating, thought-provoking and full of visual surprises. The exhibitions deals with dreams of utopianism, from architectural projects to the Beatles' dream to have played a concert in Jerusalem - and questions past history, such as who owns which ancient artefacts, and who should own them? Tickets are £12.95 for an adult, children under 16 are free.

P3 ARK ATWOOD HOLIDAY PLAY CENTRE

Summer Holiday Dates

We are opening from Wednesday 24th July to 16th August

Opening times: 8:am to 6:pm

Prices: £28.00 Per Child Per Day (Includes light breakfast and healthy afternoon snack)

Please bring a pack lunch

Book online by 17th July to get 20% DISCOUNT

ALL PRE-PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERABLE!!!

Activities include:- Arts & Crafts, Jewellery Making, Parachute games, Hall Games, Dodge Ball, Obstacle Courses, Dance Games, Sports activities, Off-site Trips (May incur an extra cost) , Face Painting plus so much more...

**Registration and bookings <https://p3charity.magicbooking.co.uk>
For more information or holiday plan of daily activities please email:-
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