



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Year Six** Today not only marks the end of the summer term but also the final day at primary school for our Year 6 children. Clearly it hasn't been the second half of the academic year that we wanted them to have and it is so sad that we haven't been able to celebrate what would have been excellent SATs results and a traditional end to their time at primary school. When the school reopened in June, I felt very strongly that we had to do all we could to have our Year 6s back in school so at least they could spend just a little more time at Atwood before they moved on and it has been lovely to have a large number of them back in school. It has also been lovely to see them working so hard right up until the last day!

I know that the Year 6 staff have worked extremely hard all year to help the children not only with their academic studies but also to grow as young people. And, having seen the progress they have made first hand, I know that they are ready for secondary school and all the opportunities that will come their way. On behalf of the whole Atwood team, I wish them all the very best at their new schools. It is an exciting time in their lives and I am sure that great things await them. We hope to welcome them back for a proper send off at some point during the autumn term – fingers crossed.

**September Return** We are continuing our planning for full opening in September. At present, based on government guidance as it stands today, I can confirm the following:

- All children in KS1 and KS2 will return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a phased return/start for children in Reception and Nursery over the subsequent format – these timings have been shared with families. This is to accommodate home visits and to support children as they transition into a new school.



Congratulations to the winners of the Upfield Trophy for being superb role models and epitomising the Atwood values



- In line with our risk assessment, we have to continue with a staggered start/end of the school day to ensure the bubble system, which will be extended to a whole year group, can work. We have brought the times closer together – it is absolutely essential that children are dropped off and collected on time otherwise the system will not work and we will need to extend end of day timings over a longer period which I know will cause inconvenience particularly for families with children in different year groups.

Start of Day		
Time	Year Group	Location
8.30am	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	<b>Back Gates</b> Children will enter the site and line up in their classes before transitioning inside. Parents remain off site.
8.40am	Years 1 & 2	
8.50am	Reception	
8.50am	Nursery	<b>Front Entrance</b> Children line up along the wall towards Harrow Road. Parents remain off site.

End of Day		
Time	Year Group	Location
3.15pm	Nursery	<b>Front Entrance</b> Parents should line up on the side specified for their child's class
3.20pm	Reception	
3.20pm	Year 6	<b>Back Gate</b> Parents should line up on the side specified for their child's class.
3.25pm	Year 5	
3.30pm	Year 4	
3.35pm	Year 3	
3.40pm	Year 2	
3.45pm	Year 1	

Sadly, parents are still not permitted onto the site. Children will therefore come onto the site at the allocated time and line up on the playground in their respective year groups before transitioning upstairs. At the end of the day, year groups will be released at the back gate – we

will advise which side parents should line up on to facilitate an orderly and safe departure. Nursery and Reception children will leave through the front entrance. Again, we will advise in September which side parents should line up on.

- Breakfast Club and After School Club will not be running until the second half of term at the absolute earliest as this would require mixing of year groups thereby compromising our bubble system
- We will still be running parent facing sessions during the Autumn term as usual but these will be delivered through Zoom. I plan to run a Zoom session early in the Autumn term so that parents have the opportunity to ask any questions and share any concerns.
- Attendance will be compulsory again from September and we are expecting all children to return as significant measures have been put in place to ensure our site is safe for staff and children. I will share with families an amended version of the Attendance Policy in September that reflects the new arrangements
- The Bubble system is crucial to ensuring that in the event of a future positive COVID case, it means that we can easily identify who has been in close contact with the affected person. In the event of a bubble requiring to isolate, we will switch to a home learning model for these children. This home learning model will be different to our existing approach; details will be shared with families in September – there will also be a virtual parent meeting providing families with an opportunity to ask questions.
- We will be returning to relatively normal lunch arrangements from September. This will mean that children in KS2 will be able to choose a packed lunch. The lunch timetable at school will be spaced out further to allow for cleaning of surfaces between year groups.
- Distancing requirements will remain in place for staff and enhanced hand washing and cleaning requirements will remain in place.

- We will advise about timings for PE in September – please remember that children should come to school in their PE kit on their PE day. We will be making greater use of the local pitch so that more PE can take place outdoors.
- Confirming teacher allocations for next academic year:

Year Group & Class	Teacher	2019/20 Cohort
Nursery	Vanessa Otero	
Reception: India	Carmen Alcazar	
Reception: Mexico	Jacqueline Stewart	
Year One: Italy	Hannah Schofield	Mexico
Year One: France	Yeli Gbeworo	India
Year Two: Barbados	Ellie Harris	France
Year Two: China	Natalie Sew	Italy
Year Three: Norway	Kelly Bernstein	China
Year Three: Belgium	Sinead McLoughlin	Barbados
Year Four: Brazil	Jane Noonan	Belgium
Year Four: Ghana	Amelia Buchanan	Norway
Year Five: Spain	Puja Nair	Brazil
Year Five: Greece	Laura Johnson	Ghana
Year Six: Canada	Emma Helliwell	Spain
Year Six: Australia	Lara Brown	Greece

Since the phased reopening in June, we have put in place a lot of measures to ensure the safety of our site. This has been risk assessed and approved by Ark Schools. I am confident that the measures we have put in place and continue to follow will enable us to get things back to something approaching normality in September and am very much looking forward to having all our children back at school.

Finally, I would like to mention the Atwood staff. Switching from normal school operations in March to home learning and then helping the school in its phased reopening has asked a lot. I have had to ask staff to work in unfamiliar phases performing roles they may not have done before in order for us to comply with the guidance we follow. They have stepped up at a challenging and shown, once again, how lucky we are to have a great team dedicated to doing their very best for our children.

On behalf of the Atwood team, an enormous thank you to the Atwood parents. It has been a year like no other and we are all immensely grateful for your support. Have a wonderful summer holidays and we will be in touch again at the start of September with final details for the start of term.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
 Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

## Lunchtime Staff Needed

We are looking to recruit additional staff to join our lunchtime team. This is an important role in helping to ensure our lunchtimes run smoothly and safely. The role involves supervising children in the lunch hall, on the playground and at the local pitch. The hours are from 11.15am to 2.00pm during term time.

If you are interested in joining the lunchtime team, please complete the application form on our website. This can be found [here](#).

## Parent Governor Update

Following the final Local Governors Board (LGB) Meeting for the school year which was held on 2nd July we wanted to provide a brief update.

A significant focus of the discussion was on how the school is currently managing. It was re-assuring to hear following a positive test from a staff member in week 2 of the school re-opening (and subsequent bubble closure and testing of those in contact) that there have been no other confirmed cases with staff or students. Atwood continues to strictly follow strategies to ensure the safety of both staff and students. A combination of at school and home based learning continues – at the time of writing, there are a total of 155 students (out of a total 450) onsite across Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 5, 6 and the Community Classroom. Staff wellbeing, upcoming staffing changes and plans for September school return were discussed. Further communication will be provided to parents before the school breaks for the summer holidays outlining a September return including how all school years will be accommodated; confirmation of calendar dates and how start and finish times will be managed.

The Black Lives Matter Movement was also a focus of discussions. It was good to hear that many staff have spoken up about the importance of tackling racism and promoting inequality within the school context. The staff group are meeting regularly to progress strategies such as curriculum and policy changes; ensuring resources are representative of the community and staff development days focusing on diversity and equality. The intention is that the whole of the Atwood Community is engaged in these discussions moving forward including parents.

As our focus is to advocate for the issues that are important to parents please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you would like to raise or discuss anything at all [p.governor@arkatwoodprimary.org](mailto:p.governor@arkatwoodprimary.org).

## Ark Soca Medley

Thank you to all who took part in the #ArkSocaMedley challenge set by Ark Music.

Overall, the Ark Music team had over 350 pupils from 31 schools take part in different ways, whether at home or in their bubbles and community classrooms. All the audio recordings they were sent have been mixed into the final track, and they have tried to feature as many videos and students as possible. Please check out all the fantastic creativity and brilliant performances shown in the video link: You might see some familiar faces. 😊 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XT7WgMeEMhM&feature=youtu.be>

## Appointments

Our Premises Manager, Vitor Gomes, is leaving us at the end of term. Vitor is moving to Lincolnshire where he is starting a new business. We thank Vitor for all his hard work and contribution to Atwood both as David Venters' assistant and as Premises Manager. Congratulations to Kemar Cumberbatch who will become Premises Manager in August.

I can also confirm that Sherina Sinclair will take over as Office Manager from the start of August. Sherina is joining us from another Westminster primary school and we look forward to welcoming her to the team.

## Parent Survey

Next year we will be continuing to develop the Atwood curriculum and offer to our children. We would love to hear your views about what worked well this year so we can continue to offer an engaging curriculum that your children enjoy.

Please click [here](#) for the parent survey