

ARK Atwood Primary Academy

Newsletter



Achieving Success

The Ark Atwood Christmas Market promises to be a wonderful community event of festive family fun to be enjoyed by all. The Friends of Ark Atwood are busy making preparations and what they really need at this stage is offers of help. Without volunteers stalls will not open. Please consider whether you can spare some time on the day – there will be plenty of fun as we raise much needed funds for our school. The Friends of Ark Atwood will be placing sign-up sheets in the playground from Monday – get signing-up and thank you in advance on behalf of the staff and children. Further details about the Christmas Market can be found within this newsletter so keep reading on!

Best regards,

Mr Upfield



JAMS
BOOKS
HENNA
CRAFTS
FESTIVE FUN
PHOTO BOOTH
SANTA'S GROTTTO
CAROLS AT 5 PM
CHRISTMAS GIFTS
DECORATIONS
HOOK THE BAUBLE
PIN THE RUDOLPH NOSE
HOT MULLED DRINKS
CINNAMON ROLLS & STREET FOOD
❖ **CHRISTMAS MARKET** ❖
FESTIVE SPIRIT AND MUCH MORE
JOIN US 3-6 PM **SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER**



**ARK ATWOOD
PRIMARY ACADEMY**
AMBERLEY ROAD W9 2JY



A FRIENDS OF ARK ATWOOD EVENT

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Achievement Assembly

Congratulations to these children who received their certificate on Friday 13th November 2015

Scholar of the Week Certificate

Donis	India Class
Franklyn	Mexico Class
Ali	France Class
Cairo	Italy Class
Lily A	Barbados Class
Jake	China Class
Paris	Belgium Class
Imtenan	Norway Class
Tyler	Brazil Class
Taha	Ghana Class

Values Certificate: Integrity

Astrid	India Class
Shaker	Mexico Class
Rijja	France Class
Mustafa	Italy Class
Daniel	Barbados Class
Alex	China Class
Trinity	Belgium Class
Arthur	Norway Class
Tomas	Brazil Class
Milo	Ghana Class

Next Week @ Atwood

Trips and curriculum activities CLUBS RESUME THIS WEEK



Monday 16th November
Italy Class change – no PE today. Come to school in normal uniform

Tuesday 17th November

8.45 Friends of Ark Atwood Coffee Morning

19th Nov

9.15 Open Morning for Year R prospective entry 2016

20th Nov

9.30 – Midday Maida Vale Library Take Over
6 x Y4

House Points

House	Points This Week	Total Points (Term)
Aspiration & Achievement	84	84
Scholarship	85	85
Perseverance	113	113
Integrity	101	101
Respect & Responsibility	97	97
Enthusiasm	140	140

Congratulations to Enthusiasm House

Transition Trophy



Congratulations to Belgium Class for winning the transition trophy this week with 35 points.



Christmas Cards

Deadline for all Christmas Card orders, they must be submitted no later than **Monday 16th November**

Friends of Ark Atwood

CHRISTMAS MARKET: SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 3-6 PM

The Christmas Market is only three weeks away! The whole program is really coming together now, how exciting! There will be (in no particular order): Swedish Cinnamon Buns, Carols (5 pm), Santa, Olaf Hot Chocolate, Jewellery, Textiles, Gifts Galore, Drop the Coin on Rudolph, Festive Photo Booth, Hook the Bauble, Mulled Apple Juice, Hot Dogs and much much more

The flyer comes courtesy of talented Dawn (Ruby's mum) and our sponsor, Coo Social is an incredible new app that helps busy parents from the same schools, clubs and classes connect. They will be at the Christmas Market to show you what it can do, but you can also download it here: <http://coo.social>

There is still lots to prepare for the big day and we need HEAPS more help! As always, you can guarantee that there will be lots of fun whilst we raise money for our school. So to make it easier for everyone to join in, sign-up sheets will be up in the playground on Monday.

We are also looking for donations of various kinds, as well as things you probably already have at home.

* Make a chocolate/biscuits jar for the Snowy Jar Stall: fill a clean empty jar with chocolates, biscuits, or small toys and seal with a lid. Remember no nuts! You can make more than one, your child can help you by decorating the jar if you like. Bring these into school from 23/11.

* Declutter your child's room and find some good condition puzzles, toys and games that we can use for the Knock'em Down stall. Bring these into school from 23/11.

*Save a lot of coins for the big day! 20p are always good... And can buy lots of fun!

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 17 November: School Nurse @ Coffee Morning. She will be talking to us about how to handle the various illnesses which always crop up during the winter months, when to call the doctor, when to keep a child home from school, etc.

International Day – November 27th

It's time to start planning what your child will wear for International Day! It can be something traditional, the kit from their favourite country team, or simply their flag's colours. We would welcome your favourite 'dish from home' for the international buffet, which will take place at the end of the day. Volunteers will be needed to help with the buffet; please contact Friends of Ark Atwood if you are available to help set up, serve, or tidy up.

Minutes of the last FofAA meeting will be done shortly and available on the school website. Friends of ARK Atwood comprises all parents and carers of ARK Atwood Primary Academy and coordinates fundraising and social events for the school.

<https://www.facebook.com/AtwoodFriends>
<https://twitter.com/FofArkAtwood>

This Week's Attendance

Reception

India 100%
Mexico 100%

Year 1

France 94.2%
Italy 99.2%

Year 2

Barbados 97.9%
China 100%

Year 3

Belgium 98.2%
Norway 96.3%

Year 4

Brazil 99.6%
Ghana 92.1%

Whole school
attendance this
week
97.75%

Congratulations to India, Mexico and China classes this week for 100% attendance

Late Arrivals

The gates open at 8.25am and are closed at 8.35am. Thank you for the huge effort you are making to get into the school before the gates close. The register in class is taken at 8.40 so children not in the classroom then will be entered as late.

Class	Rank	Points
India	=1	10
Mexico	=1	10
France	=9	0
Italy	4	0
Barbados	4	0
China	4	0
Belgium	4	0
Norway	3	2
Brazil	4	0
Ghana	=9	0

Atwood in the top 5% of schools in the country for phonics

Last week we received a congratulatory letter from Nick Gibb MP for our performance in the 2015 Year 1 phonics screening check.

97% of our pupils achieved the expected standard, up 7% on our performance in 2014. The national result in 2015 was 77% which means we are far exceeding (+20%) the national picture. This is a superb result and further verification of how well the pupils are doing at Atwood!

Well done to all the children, this result is a reflection of their commitment and hard work. Congratulations are also due to all of the teachers and TAs that have taught the children reading/phonics during Reception and Year 1 as well as your continued support from home.

Mr Upfield



Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Reform

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mr Daniel Upfield
Ark Atwood Primary Academy
Amberley Road
Westminster
London
W9 2JY

2 November 2015

Dear Mr Upfield,

I am writing to convey my warmest congratulations to you, your staff and your pupils for the very high standard of achievement in the 2015 phonics screening check.

We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics which is why I so was delighted to see your results. With at least 95% of pupils at Ark Atwood Primary Academy reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 5% of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 99% pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in Key Stage 1 Reading, which underlines the value of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

I am pleased to learn that you have ensured that your Year 1 children have a firm foundation in reading, from which they can develop further and become increasingly fluent readers.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for your hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP

International Day



On Friday 27th November we have International Day.

Children can come to school wearing national dress/national team strip/famous person/colours of flag from their country of origin or cultural background. This can be a full outfit or a small accessory.

We would like to hold a 'food from around the world' sharing event at the end of the school day. If you are able to provide a typical dish of food from your country to share with the school community that will be great! Ideally we'd like finger food or food that is easy to serve and eat standing-up! We would welcome some help setting up from 3.30pm.

Dishes will need to be brought along during set-up. We can't store food during the school day – sorry!

If you prepare a dish please complete the slip overleaf to display alongside. Thank you.

Food will be set up in the studio. We will operate a queuing system through the studio to collect food which can then be taken into the playground for eating.

The school will provide paper plates, cutlery, napkins etc. We will not be charging for this event as it will just be nice to 'bring and share' with each other.

Ark Lajpat Nagar

Ark has recently opened their first school in Delhi, India: Ark Lajpat Nagar. Ark is planning on setting-up a formal twinning arrangement with Atwood. This follows the summer break where Miss Evans and Miss Lester went over with other colleagues from the network to help the school in its first month. On international day we're planning on having a live link during our assembly to Lajpat Nagar's assembly! There are many other activities planned in the coming months!

You can see what the school have been up to by following them on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/arklajpatnagar>



We'd like as many children as possible to start work on a home learning project:

'My life in London'

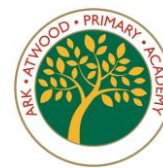
The project can take any form you like and can be as simple as a named picture (maybe family, home etc.) for our youngest children up to a full information text with images for our oldest. The project can be completed using IT or by hand. The plan is to send our projects to Ark Lajpat Nagar. In return we will receive some projects from them entitled **'My life in Delhi'**. This promises to be an exciting sharing of information!

Completed (and named) projects should be handed into the school office by Friday 4th December.

Can you be our next Parent Governor?

ARK ATWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Amberley Road, London, W9 2JY
020 7266 7070



Headteacher: Mr Daniel Upfield

Achieving Success

Dear Parents and Carers,

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY – ARK ATWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

I am writing to let you know that there is currently a vacancy for a Parent Governor on the Local Governing Body (LGB) of Ark Atwood Primary Academy and an election will take place shortly. The vacancy arises as Clair Dobbin's term finishes at the end of November. Clair has served the school in so many ways during her two terms in office and I am eternally grateful for her contributions.

All parents, carers and guardians of children at the school are eligible to stand as candidates, and vote in the election. If there are more candidates than vacancies a ballot will be held and each parent/guardian will have one vote for every parent governor vacancy.

Governors do not need to be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of the pupils as well as the time and willingness to get involved. At the moment the Local Governing Body is particularly keen to develop its skills in finance and premises management - if you are someone that could bring these to the Local Governing Body, perhaps you would consider applying?

I attach a short leaflet to help you decide whether to stand. Once you have read this information, if you would like to stand as a Parent Governor, you should complete the online form at <http://arkonline.tfaforms.net/2> by **Friday 27th November 2015 at noon**. If you would like any support completing this online form or would like to use a computer in school please contact me.

Parent governors are very important in the life of the school, and I hope you will consider being a candidate. We hosted a coffee morning (as previously advertised) on 16th October where we explained more about the role and answered questions. If you were unable to attend, or if you would like more information about the role, please speak with me or Clair Dobbin (clair.dobbin@3rblaw.com).

Yours sincerely

Daniel Upfield
Headteacher

Can you be our next Parent Governor?

Information Leaflet

You don't have to be an expert in education to be a school governor - you need an interest in the school and in the welfare of the pupils as well as the time and willingness to get involved. As a parent, you will bring a particularly important perspective to the local governing body.

Parent governors will be a parent or carer of a pupil at the School and are elected by parents (and those with parental responsibilities) at the School.

About Ark

Ark is an education charity and one of the country's top-performing academy operators with 31 schools in our network. Our aim is to create outstanding schools that give every Ark pupil the opportunity to go to university or pursue the career of their choice.

The Ark board of trustees oversees the central organisation and is the legal governing body for all Ark academies. The board of trustees delegates many of its functions to each academy's local governing body (LGB).

Each LGB consists of 6 to 15 governors and will be made up from several stakeholder groups which includes parents, staff, the Local Authority, Ark and, for schools in our network with a Church of England affiliation, the Diocese.

What do school governors do?

Governors work collectively to support the school to ensure that the pupils are able to achieve to the best of their ability. The core job of the LGB is monitoring the implementation of the Academy's educational and financial plans. It works with the Headteacher/Principal and senior leadership team to monitor and evaluate progress. Its focus should be on the achievement of high standards, establishing and maintaining high expectations and promoting effective teaching and learning.

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
- Consult and respond to the views and concerns of parents and students
- Be knowledgeable about the academy
- Use the skills of all members.

Whilst the LGB will support the Headteacher/Principal and staff and exists to promote the interests of the academy and its pupils, it can only be effective if it asks challenging questions and seeks sufficient information to make sound decisions.

Although governors are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school, the Headteacher/Principal should discuss the main aspects of school life with the LGB and provide it with sufficient information to make decisions and fulfil its responsibilities to parents and to Ark.

All governors are expected to attend LGB meetings, which are held six times a year in school and do not last more than two hours. In addition, you may be expected to join a committee or take on a 'link' role to understand a particular area of the school's activity.

As a parent governor, what will I be expected to do?

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, to visit the school including during school hours, and to take part in training.

As a parent governor, you will bring your parental viewpoint to the LGB. Through your children you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from a parents' perspective. Parent governors are elected by other parents and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected you, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

Can you be our next Parent Governor?

Information Leaflet Continued

As a Parent Governor:

- You will not be representing individual parents or their concerns; you are helping to ensure that the school meets the needs of all its pupils.
- 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.

Ark will provide a structured induction, provide information and guidance on the role and we will provide ongoing support and training. Like all governors, you will be a volunteer but there is an Expenses Policy in place for governors.

Parent Governors are elected for a two year term of office. You can complete your term of office if your child leaves the Academy. You may resign at any time by giving notice to the Clerk to the LGB. Being a Parent Governor does not disqualify you from your usual rights as a parent including making a complaint.

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

You will be required to undergo an enhanced disclosure DBS check and must agree to adhere to the Ark governors' Code of Conduct. You will also be required to declare an interest and may need to withdraw from specific discussions where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain or where you are so close to a matter being discussed that it will be difficult for you to be impartial.

What skills do I need?

You do not need any specific skills or experience to be a parent governor. Governors do not need to be experts in the field of education; what they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of the pupils as well as the time and willingness to get involved. And you must be confident in reading the documents that will be sent to you before each meeting.

Each LGB undertakes a regular skills audit. When the Headteacher/ Principal write to you with full details of the election process for the Parent Governor role, they will highlight any specific skills or experience that the LGB is keen to bring on board at the moment. However, this list will not be exhaustive so if you bring other skills please do consider standing.

What is the election process?

All parents (and those with parental responsibilities) at the School are eligible to stand as candidates, and vote in the election. If there are more candidates than vacancies then an election will be held. Each parent will have one vote for every parent governor vacancy. Similarly to all governor positions in the Ark network, the Parent Governor will be formally appointed by the Ark Governance Manager.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND PLACE ALONGSIDE YOUR DISH

Name of dish: _____

Country: _____

Contribution from: _____
Parent's name/child's name

Suitable for vegetarians Yes/No

Halal (if applicable) Yes/No

Contains nuts: Yes/No

Contains gluten: Yes/No

Contains dairy: Yes/No

Contains eggs: Yes/No

Contains fish: Yes/No

Contains celery: Yes/No

Contains soya: Yes/No

