

Friday 17th February

Dear Parents,

Next week is half-term and the school will be closed. This half-term has been both a busy and successful one and I would encourage you to catch-up with the news of recent trips and activities on our [website](#).

Below I have shared some brief information and updates.

1. Strike Action

Except for a small number of children in Years 11 and Years 13, and vulnerable children from different year groups, the school will be closed on Wednesday 1st March as a result of the strike action.

If your child is expected to attend school on Wednesday 1st March, you will be contacted directly to confirm arrangements.

For pupils not in school, details regarding remote learning opportunities will be shared on the first day back after the half-term holiday.

2. Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Thank you for the donations that have been received today. The money raised will be shared with the [Disasters Emergency Committee](#) appeal later today.

3. Half-term Four

A reminder that after the half-term holiday, school will resume on Monday 27th February.

4. Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to complete the parent survey. It will remain open to responses until the end of next week: <https://edurio.com/poll/TSaFdx>

5. Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams

Pupils have now completed their mock exams and parents can look forward to receiving the results in the week commencing Monday 13th March.

6. Thank You

Finally, I wanted to say thank you for your support this half-term and to remind you that you can get in touch with me or with colleagues directly if you ever have a matter that you wish to discuss.

The contact details for each Head of Year can be found online and meetings or calls with me can be arranged by emailing elaine.kerr@arkstalbans.org.

Below I have included information again our community groups and I encourage participation in that.

7. Parent and Community Group

Our parent & community group is open at the moment to any parent with a child in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). Our group is informal and an opportunity to get to know other parents and learn more about your child's school experience.

There will be staff members present to answer any questions you may have, and we aim to have staff members who can translate for parents where Arabic, Urdu and Somali are their main language.

Session Topics

No.	Date	Session
1	12/01/2023	What does your child's school life look like?
2	26/01/2023	How to keep your child safe online
3	09/02/2023	Understanding young people's emotions and how we support your children at school
4	02/03/2023	Our Police School Partnership and how we work together to promote positive relationships with local police.
5	16/03/2023	Our Approach to Tackling Bullying at Ark St Albans Academy
6	20/04/2023	Supporting children to stay healthy
7	04/05/2023	Understanding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and what school does to support these pupils.
8	18/05/2023	Why is school attendance important?
9	08/06/2023	How do we work with other services to support children and families?
10	22/06/2023	Understanding our school behaviour system and why it is important
11	29/06/2023	End of Year Celebration

What To Expect

Please aim to arrive for 09:15 where we will ask you to sign in at reception and a member of staff will show you to our community room. At around 09:30 we will introduce the topic of the week and open up the discussion with parents – answering any questions you may have.

The main session will end around 10:00 with the last 30 minutes available for discussions with staff and building new links with other parents.

8. Useful Links

- [Term Dates](#)
- [Exam Boards](#)
- [Curriculum Maps](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Contact Us](#)



Guy Rimmer
Principal