

Monday 1st February 2021

Dear Parents,

I continue to be incredibly proud of the efforts of pupils, staff and parents to make remote learning a success.

In response to the report cards that I shared last week, I received a huge number of messages and notes back from parents sharing their appreciation for the work teachers at Ark St Alban's Academy are doing at the moment to support, motivate and teach all pupils. It continues to be a huge team effort and we can all be pleased with how successfully we are working together to make the best of a very challenging situation.

Below you will find a number of updates around different topics. Please do take time to read each update carefully, and as ever, if you wish to speak to me directly about any matter, please email jayne.hopper@arkstalbans.org and an appointment can be made for you and I to speak on the phone.

1. Live Events

I will continue to host live Pupil and Parent Information Events each Wednesday evening at 5pm.

The recording from last week can be found [here](#). This week, detailed guidance will be shared around how best to support your child to make the most of online learning and to improve their assessment scores.

There will also be an opportunity for questions about any topic to be raised and to be answered.

Please click on this [link](#) shortly before 5pm on Wednesday afternoon to join us.

2. Report Cards

On Friday afternoon, you should have received an email from me containing a report card summarising the effort your child made in remote learning last week.

These report cards will be shared every Friday afternoon. If you did not receive one, please email info@arkstalbans.org to let us know.

I am excited to share with you our [quiz-score leader board](#) which celebrates some of our highest-scoring pupils who are working the hardest at remote learning. These pupils should look-out for celebration notes in the post this week.

3. Remote Learning

A reminder that you and your child will receive an email each morning at 8.30am containing their timetable for the day and that the deadline for all work to be submitted is 2pm each afternoon.

As well as reviewing your child's report card each week, you should also be able to see class notes in their exercise books for each of their lessons. I know that some pupils are starting to run out of room in their exercise books and new books can be collected from the school reception.

I have received a small number of requests to change the remote learning timetable on Fridays so that pupils can attend mosque on Friday afternoons. I have decided not to change the timetable for two reasons: Firstly, it is term time and pupils are expected to follow a full timetable each day. Secondly, reducing the amount of lessons and learning on Fridays would lead to increased workload for pupils and staff on other days in the week.

4. Digital Devices

We are expecting a delivery of laptops imminently, so if you are on the waiting list for a device or a dongle please do expect a call from the school this week.

5. Onsite Provision

The school continues to be open for the children of key workers, vulnerable children and children who are struggling to access remote learning at home.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of your child coming into school to complete their learning, please do get in touch.

6. Key Dates

A reminder that the half-term holiday begins on Friday 12th February.

On Friday 12th February, pupils will be set extended assignments which they can begin completing at home that day and which they can continue with over the half-term holiday.

These assignments will then be checked on the afternoon of Monday 22nd February, with the new half-term's remote learning formally beginning on Tuesday 23rd February.

7. School Re-opening

You may have seen in the news speculation around schools re-opening again on Monday 8th March. This has not yet been confirmed and I believe is very likely to change over the weeks ahead.

It is not possible to predict when school will properly return and that is why we must all continue to invest in and maintain the success of remote learning.

Thank you for all of your support so far,



Guy Rimmer
Principal