



Ark St Alban's Academy

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term. I hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and joyful break during the school holidays.

Below I have included some information and updates to guide you through the first week of term. There is big focus on Covid as we look to make a safe start to the school year.

1. Pupils Return – Wednesday 5th January (tomorrow)

A reminder that pupils will be attending school for around one hour and fifteen minutes tomorrow. Each year group will arrive at a separate time.

Please remind yourself of the timings for each year group by checking the table below carefully.

Year Group	Arrival Time
Year 7	11.15am
Year 8	10.45am
Year 9	11.45am
Year 10	10.15am
Year 11	8.45am
Sixth Form	9.15am

During their time in school, pupils will take part in an assembly, receive their Autumn term reports and have the opportunity to take a lateral-flow device test.

2. Autumn Term Reports

As well as giving pupils a paper copy of their report from the Autumn term to take home tomorrow, their report will also be emailed to parents tomorrow afternoon.

3. Covid Vaccinations

Getting the vaccine is the best way for pupils to keep themselves and others safe. We do not know yet if the local vaccination team will be visiting the school this term to offer the Covid vaccine, but just in case, we will give each child a copy of the consent form to bring home to you tomorrow.

Please complete this form indicating either 'yes' or 'no' in regard to providing consent for the vaccine and have your child hand it to their form tutor on Thursday morning.

You can also book your own appointment at a local vaccine centre for your child to receive the vaccine using the link below. Any absences from school required for pupils to receive the vaccine will be authorised.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

4. Flu Vaccine

Your child will also bring home a copy of the consent form for the Flu Vaccine which is administered via a nasal spray. The local immunisation team will be visiting the school this term to administer the Flu Vaccine.

Again, please return the form regardless of your willingness to provide consent or otherwise.

5. Consent Forms

If your child loses their consent forms you need a new copy for any reason, please visit (or have your child visit) the school reception desks to request one.

6. Covid-safe School – Testing At Home

We are taking a number of steps to reduce the risk of children catching Covid in the school.

The most important of these is testing-at-home. Pupils should complete lateral-flow device tests (LFDs) at home at least twice each week. Pupils will receive a new set of test kits tomorrow which they can bring home to use.

Pupils will be given new test kits throughout the half-term ahead, but if you ever feel that you do not have enough, again please either ask yourself, or ask your child to request more via the school reception.

When testing-at-home, please report the results by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

7. Covid-safe School – Face Coverings

Another way in which we will seek to stop the spread of Covid is by asking pupils to wear face coverings in classrooms and corridors. Please make sure your child has a face-covering with them at school each day.

8. Pupil Absence

School attendance remains critically important as we seek to make sure children make as much progress in all of their subjects as possible.

However, there will be times where pupils need to isolate as a result of Covid and I have tried to be as clear as possible below about the different circumstances:

- If your child has [Covid symptoms](#) they should stay at home and they should have a [PCR test](#); if the PCR test is negative and the symptoms stop, they can then return to school
- If your child tests positive on a lateral-flow device (LFD) test, they should stay at home and schedule a PCR test; if this PCR test result is then negative (and there are no symptoms), they can then return to school. However, if it is positive, they must isolate for ten days
- This ten day isolation can end after seven days if the child completes two negative LFD tests

If you are ever unsure (I know it is complicated), please do get in touch with Ms Begg who will be able to provide further guidance.

If a pupil in your child's class tests positive on a PCR test, we will do two things:

1. Email you to let you know
2. Arrange for the whole class to complete an LFD Test in school each day for seven days

9. Parent Consultation

I am very keen to organise events this term to meet with parents and to consult with you about a number of matters, including the school's Ofsted report which will be published shortly.

I will share some dates for these events next week once we know more about the impact of Covid.

10. Keeping-in-touch

There is a lot to keep on top of and it promises to be a busy term. If you would like to book a meeting or to arrange a call with me, please do get in touch via elaine.kerr@arkstalbans.org

Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal