

4th May 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you were able to enjoy the extended weekend despite the wet weather. Below you will find useful links and key updates to keep you up to date with what is happening in school over the next couple of weeks.

1. Key Dates

A reminder about the upcoming days when the school will be closed:

- Monday 24th May – Ark Schools Regional Training Day
- Week beginning Monday 31st May – Half-term Holiday
- Monday 7th June – Teacher Training Day (with the next half-term beginning Tuesday 8th June)

2. Two Live Events – This Week

In addition to our regular information event on Wednesday evening at 5.30pm, this afternoon at 4.30pm I will also be hosting an information event for pupils and parents who will be joining Year 7 in September.

- [Click Here](#) shortly before 4.30pm this afternoon to join the event for Year 6 pupils
- [Click Here](#) shortly before 5.30pm on Wednesday to join the regular pupil and parent information event

Please do encourage fellow parents in the community to join if you are aware that they do not always receive these written updates each week.

3. Homework

Pupils continue to do an excellent job at completing homework every evening. Starting today, pupils will have a new challenge. In addition to English or maths homework, they will also have homework from one or two of their other subjects to complete

You can see the homework timetables on our [website](#), alongside further information around how to support your child when completing homework.

Also, we have created a new email address that pupils and parents can use if they have any questions about homework, including problems with accessing the online resources that are required.

homework@arkstalbans.org will be checked daily, every morning, with colleagues about to address any concerns as they arise.

4. Celebrating Eid

I know that next week many families will be celebrating Eid, most likely on either Wednesday or Thursday.

While I know it is not possible at the moment to confirm exactly which day Eid will be celebrated by families in the community, it would be helpful to know if you plan for your child to miss school for one day next week.

Having this information will allow the school to plan carefully around food and resources, but also around how to plan a purposeful day of learning for those who will be in school.

If you do intend to keep your child at home for one day next week to celebrate Eid, please complete this very short [form](#) to let us know.

Please also remember that only one day of absence is permitted and any further absence, or absence that the school is not notified about in advance, will not be authorised.

5. Covid Testing

After a recent delay with deliveries, we are expecting to be able to provide pupils with a new set of test-at-home kits to complete on Friday afternoon.

In April, there was a reduction in the number of results being reported. This is a cause for concern because without confirmation of negative test results the whole community cannot be confident that the school is Covid-safe.

When your child brings home their new set of testing kits, please make sure that the following steps are taken:

- The tests are completed every Monday and Thursday following the instructions on the information leaflet.
- When the tests are completed it is very important that the results are recorded on the **two** following sites: [NHS Track & Trace Site](#) and [ASTA Student COVID reporting](#) .

6. Keeping in touch

As ever, if you would like to discuss any of the matters above with me in more detail, please do contact jayne.hooper@arkstalbars.org who will be able to arrange an opportunity for you and I to speak on the phone.

Kind regards,



Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy