

Wednesday 16th November

Dear Parents,

1. Key Dates

A reminder that school will be closed on Friday this week (19th November) for an Ark Schools teacher training day.

When pupils return to school on Monday (22nd November) there will be four more school weeks until the school breaks-up for the Christmas holidays on the afternoon of Thursday 16th December.

Remember also to save the date – Wednesday 5th January – this will be a Progress Day; an opportunity for parents to come into school, meet with the teachers of their child and review their progress so far this year.

2. Appointments

Please remember to let the school know in advance if you need to collect your child during the day for a medical appointment. I understand that parents themselves often have short notice for some emergency appointments but arriving at school and expecting your child to be available to leave immediately is very challenging as there is not always someone available to collect them from class.

In addition, please continue to do everything that you can to arrange appointments for late-afternoons (after school has finished) or for during the holidays.

3. Remembrance Day

Ms O'Connor and I enjoyed leading assemblies with all year groups to reflect on the theme of remembrance and the whole school community took part in the two-minutes of silence at 11am last Thursday. Father Gerry also led pupils in collective worship around remembrance and the highlight of all the activities was Martin having his piano performance broadcast live to all classrooms across the school.



4. Anti-bullying Week

This week is anti-bullying week across the UK and this will be theme of assemblies with all year groups during the rest of this month. Pupils will also reflect on this topic through collective worship.

A key message that we are seeking to share with pupils is that unkindness, harassment or bullying linked to protected characteristics (i.e. race, gender or sexuality) must be eradicated from the school community.

If you have any concerns relating to bullying in our community, please email safeguarding@arkstalbens.org.

5. Covid Vaccinations

You will remember that last half-term the immunisation service visited the school and provided Covid vaccinations to those pupils who had parent consent to receive the vaccination. Many of you have asked me if the vaccination team will be returning and I have had confirmation that they will come back in December.

I will share more detailed information about this (including around providing consent) when I write you next week.

6. Keeping in touch

Ms Hooper continues to be away from school. If you wish to contact me directly or to request a meeting with me please email Elaine Kerr (receptionist) elaine.kerr@arkstalbans.org.

Kind regards,



Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal

Ark St Alban's Academy