

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support in making our first week of a new approach to homework a success.

Over 90% of pupils have completed their homework successfully this week and I know that continued high rates of homework completion will lead to higher test scores and better grades for all pupils in the future.

Below I have provided you with some important updates as we plan for a successful end to the term.

1. Parent Survey

Please take the time to complete this short [survey](#) about your experiences of remote learning.

Ark Schools is taking part in a national survey with an organisation called Edurio to gather information from families across the country about their experiences of remote learning.

2. I-Pay Impact System and Non-uniform Day

It is our intention to become a cash free school. Doing so will mean that our pupils are safer, the school is more hygienic and there is less waste.

We have attempted to launch this cashless system previously this year; however, the pandemic and school closures have meant that progress has been slow.

We need every parent to register for an account on the online payment system as soon as possible.

Today, your child will bring home a letter containing the unique log-in information you need to set up an account.

To encourage sign-up and to allow all families to practice using the system, the school will be holding a non-uniform day for all pupils next Thursday (Thursday 1st April), with a small cost of just £1 that will need to be paid using the online payment system. All proceeds will go to charity.

3. Important Updates

In the Live Event this week, I will share detailed information around the following:

- GCSE subjects for Year 9 pupils
- Changes to the curriculum for Year 10 pupils
- Plans for assessment in the summer term of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils

Please do [click here](#) shortly before 5pm on Wednesday to join me at the Live Event and to find out more.

4. Testing-at-Home

On Friday, your child would have brought home two boxes of Covid testing kits.

I am asking that you use these kits and the guidance provided, to test your child twice a week (preferably on a Monday and on a Thursday). Having tested your child, you need to record the result [here](#).

If your child tests positive for the virus, in addition to filling in the online form, you must also call (0121 446 1300) the school immediately to let us know.

You can find out more by watching this [video](#) on our website.

5. Key Dates

A reminder of the key dates coming up in the weeks ahead:

Date	Activity
Thursday 25 th March	Deadline for non-uniform day online payment
Friday 26 th March	Ark Schools Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 1 st April	Final day of term and non-uniform day (pupils dismissed at 12.15pm)
Monday 19 th April	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 20 th April	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 21 st April	Start of Summer Term (all pupils return to school)

6. Keeping In Touch

As ever, If you have any questions or concerns, please do email Ms Hooper (jayne.hooper@arkstalbans.org) to arrange a time to talk.

Kind regards,



Guy Rimmer
Principal