

8th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the final week of this half-term. Having a whole half-term without all of the pupils in school has been sad and unusual, but I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you through emails, online events, visits and calls.

I hope you have a restful half-term planned. Below I have a few brief updates for you to be aware of this week.

1. School Closure

The school will be completely closed next week for the half-term holiday.

2. Remote Learning

Pupils continue to do an excellent job with remote learning and more rewards, certificates and prizes are being posted home this week.

Some parents have asked for more information about how to support pupils in achieving improved quiz scores and assignment grades. This [video clip](#) from the pupil and parent information event last week is a useful place to start.

In addition to the steps outlined in the video, my top three pieces of advice would be the following:

- Check your child's exercise books; there should be detailed notes from every online lesson
- Review the quizzes your child has taken each day by clicking on them to see the score
- Make sure your child follows the timetable between 8.30am and 2.00pm each day

If your child needs a new exercise book for any subjects, these are available for collection from reception at the school any time between 8am and 3pm each day.

3. Assessment Week

Your child will be completing an assessment for every subject that they study this week and I will share with you all of their scores at the end of the week on Friday afternoon.

In order to prepare, I recommend that pupils do the following:

- Review the notes in their exercise books from lessons in January
- Re-watch the recorded lessons in subjects where they have had low quiz scores
- Eat healthily and get plenty of sleep

4. End of Half-term Assignments

On Friday morning, you and your child will receive an email from their Head of Year launching end of half-term assignments.

These extended assignments are tasks set by each subject which your child can complete on Friday, during the half-term break or on Monday 22nd February.

The deadline for these assignments will be 2pm on Monday 22nd February and it will be important that pupils spend time this Friday when they first receive them planning for how they will manage their time to meet that deadline.



A reminder that Monday 22nd February will be a teacher training day (with the school continuing to be closed to pupils) and that remote learning will begin again on Tuesday 23rd February.

Vouchers for those families eligible for Free-school Meals will continue to be available through the week-long school holiday.

5. Community Classrooms

A reminder that a small number of pupils continue to complete their remote learning on computers at the school.

These are pupils who are the children of keyworkers, or who have been identified as vulnerable or who unable to study at home for whatever reason.

Spaces in the community classroom are limited and cannot be guaranteed, but if you would like to discuss the possibility of your child studying in school after the half-term break, please do email info@arkstalbans.org.

6. Digital Devices

We were able to distribute a laptop to every family on our waiting list last week.

If you were expecting to be able to receive a school laptop but you haven't been contacted by the school to come and collect one, please email info@arkstalbans.org as soon as possible.

7. School Re-Opening

It is expected that there will be a national announcement on Monday 22nd February about the national lockdown and any upcoming changes to current restrictions.

It is hoped that this will include an announcement about when schools are likely to reopen.

I will provide any further update that I can that week in our next Pupil and Parent Information Event, a [live event](#) at 5pm on Wednesday 24th February.

8. Keeping In Touch

Even though we do not have as many opportunities to meet in-person as we would like to have, I really do enjoy hearing from parents and being able to answer their questions and getting their feedback about the school.

If you would like to arrangement an appointment to speak with me on the phone, that can be organised by email jayne.hooper@arkstalbans.org.

Kind regards,

Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy



Shortlisted
Secondary school
of the year

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