

12th October 2020

Dear Parents,

There are two weeks remaining of this half-term. Today, we await further government announcements around local lockdowns and actions planned to stop the spread of coronavirus. As ever, if there is anything that needs our urgent action as a school community in relation to Covid-19, I will write to you immediately with an update.

Below, I have included updates about school training days, steps being taken to keep the school Covid-safe and about keeping pupils safe in the community.

1. School Training Days

The school will be closed to pupils next Friday (23rd October) for a teacher training day. This will be day where teachers in school will be focussed on planning and preparing for the next half-term, including plans for remote learning so that we are fully prepared for any future school closures.

Looking ahead, please also note that there are two planned training days after the half-term holiday. One on Friday 20th November and one on Friday 4th December.

2. Covid Updates

We are continuing to do everything we can to stop the spread of the virus at school. Birmingham remains on the national watch-list and our area specifically has an above average rate of infection compared the rest of the city and to the country as a whole.

Key Actions:

1. Keep your child at home if they have symptoms of the virus and call to let us know urgently
2. Make sure that your child brings a face mask with them to school every day
3. Have your child bring their own pack of tissues to school to use if experiencing cold symptoms
4. Make sure that your child wears a warm, water-proof coat to and from school every day

3. Darker Nights

I have attached a letter signed by myself and the Chief Superintendents of the West Midlands Police Force about the importance of keeping children safe around Halloween and bonfire nights which take place later this month and early next month. Please read this carefully and share its messages with your child.

A reminder also as nights get darker that it is very important that pupils go straight home when they leave school. If you have any worries about our arrangements for the end of the school day or if you are not sure when you should expect your child home, please do get in touch as the relevant head of year would be happy to provide support and guidance.

As ever, if you do have any questions or concerns about any of the above, then please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Rimmer', with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Guy Rimmer
Principal



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint-approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

Sadly, this year's Halloween, Bonfire night and the half term break will look very different due to COVID-19, so please be aware of the legislation and rules in place linked to this. Remember it is now a legal requirement to wear a mask on all public transport and within communal areas such as shops, cafes, restaurants and bars and we must maintain social distancing, ensure we abide by the the rule of six, and the bespoke rules for Birmingham regarding entering other people's homes: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice | <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In partnership with the police, we would also like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ARW'.

Head/Principal Name
Headteacher/Principal
Ark St Alban's Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mat Shaer'.

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU
West Midlands Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stephen Graham'.

Stephen Graham
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police