



The start of this year has been a challenge to families on so many levels. As parents and carers, you have had to adapt again to life with children learning at home, supporting them both in their work and with their mental health, as they come to terms with another extended period of lockdown and more time away from school. Additional concerns around matters like employment and finances, as well as remaining safe and well have all added to the stresses and strains of current life. As a school, we would like to thank you all for your support in helping your children to continue learning at home, which is the best place for them to be at present. Our staff continue to work extremely hard to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your children, but this would not be of any benefit without your support.

### **Inset days this week**

Please note that tomorrow and Friday (11th and 12th February) will be staff training days when the school will be closed to all pupils, including Community Classroom. Pupils are not expected to complete any online work, but they will be able to access a Wellbeing Bingo game through Seesaw, giving them suggestions for a range of fun activities to take part in which they can record and post on Seesaw to share with their teachers. Term dates and staff training dates are available on the website.

### **Half term holiday**

Next week is the half term holiday and the school will be closed to **all** pupils. At the end of a difficult few weeks where the children have all worked hard with their online learning, please encourage them to have a rest next week, to get away from their screens, get some fresh air have some lovely family time with you sharing a book, painting or drawing, or perhaps cooking something. Please remember that the whole country remains in lockdown, so unless you are leaving your house for permitted reasons, you must stay at home. You should not be visiting any other households, or inviting anyone into your home, including family members.



### **Returning to school**

For the first two weeks after the half term holiday, the country will still be lockdown, which means that school will only be open to pupils eligible for places in our Community Classroom. As yet, we have no further information about when schools will return to full opening, or how this will be organised, and we await further information on this, which we will communicate to you as soon as possible.

### **Your support**

Thank you for all of the kind and supportive e-mails that we have received over the past few weeks from parents and carers. We recognise that what suits one family may not suit another but, as a team, we always put the needs of the children first with the aim of delivering an exemplary curriculum offer. In these difficult times, whenever we receive a thank you or well done message it really does lift our spirits and means such a lot to us!



### **Face coverings**

Please remember that we ask that all adults coming onto site now wear a suitable face covering to help us to keep our school community safe. This will be in effect until further notice.



### **Safeguarding Information**

Our Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils. We believe that everyone has an important part to play in child protection. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing or safety of any child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Miss Francis, Mrs Mockbil, Mrs Vigers or Miss Saboor. For your information, our Safeguarding Governor is Daniel Richards and the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) are Nora Malik, Salma Shabir and Tracey Johnson. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the Academy website.



## Good News Feed

### Helping to make online learning possible

We are delighted to confirm that so far this year we have been able to loan or gift approximately 130 devices to families to assist with online learning. This is thanks in part to an extremely generous donation of 30 refurbished chromebooks from the Al-Khair Foundation, which we have been able to pass along to our pupils. This has made a huge difference to families who were not previously able to access online learning, helping children to keep up with their learning while at home.



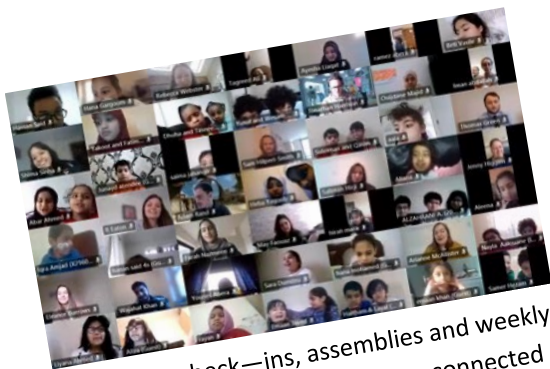
### Food vouchers and parcels

This half term, pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals have received vouchers from the Government Edenred system to cover the cost of children's lunches during lockdown, if they are not attending Community Classroom. We have not yet heard whether these will continue after half term, but all eligible families (including those where children are attending Community Classroom) will also receive a voucher for food shopping over the half term holiday within the next few days, through a different system used by Birmingham City Council. Please read the information and instructions you are sent carefully to ensure you can collect your vouchers.

Thanks to generous donations from families and staff before Christmas, we have also been able to provide additional food parcels for some of the most at need members of our community. If you are in need of extra support in this way, please call the Office and ask to speak to Mrs Mockbil or Mrs Vigers.

### Moseley Exchange is showcasing our art!

We were happy to be invited to display some of our pupils' artwork in the outdoor gallery at Moseley Exchange, next to the Post Office in Moseley Village and the first batch of artwork is now on display. If your daily walk takes you in the direction of Moseley, please do stop by and appreciate the lovely pictures and positive messages our pupils have produced. We have the space for a few more weeks, so if you have some artwork you would like us to include in the display, please either post it to school or take a picture and send it to us at [info@arktindalprimary.org](mailto:info@arktindalprimary.org)



Our live check-ins, assemblies and weekly workouts have enabled us to stay connected as a school community, even though we are apart.

While Nursery pupils get to experience life in the Reception classrooms, we are making some exciting changes to the Nursery classroom, which we cannot wait to reveal in the near future!



Reception created some amazing Matisse inspired collages.



The Early Years Community Classroom bubble had fun exploring and playing in the snow.

