



Despite the closure of 3 of our year group bubbles over the past two weeks, including Year 3 yesterday, it has been wonderful to see our pupils coming in to school each day ready to learn! Although at present we cannot foresee what will come in the next few weeks and months, as a Headteacher it is reassuring to know that our pupils are making the best of the educational opportunities they have, both when working in school and when having to learn at home. Thank you to all of our parents and carers who are supporting their child through these difficult times. Please continue to be watchful for any symptoms of COVID-19 and ensure that if anyone in your home has symptoms, everyone stays home and is tested for coronavirus as soon as possible. This will help to keep the Academy community safe.

Respect Week

During Respect week, children learned about what 'respect' means to them. They discussed how to be respectful to others at home and in school. In Early Years and Key Stage One, children were able to implement what they had learned through simple activities such as turn taking and sharing. In Key Stage Two, children began articulating why 'respect' is one of our school values and such an important one, too. We also learned about why we should respect our environment and animals too.



Translated information letters from the Department for Education

An information letter from the DfE about school attendance during the pandemic is now available on the website in a number of other languages, including Arabic, Urdu, Bengali and French. Please visit <https://arktindalprimary.org/page-strips/school-closure-updates> to view these.



Reception 2021 entry

Having only just welcomed our new Reception pupils to the Academy, it seems strange to be thinking ahead to next September, but if you or anyone you know has a child who will start Reception next year, you will need to make your application for a school place via Birmingham City Council, even if your child attends our Nursery. Applications can be made from 1st October and usually must be made by January and must be made online. If you need any support with making your application, please contact Mrs Vigers.



We love to show visitors around our wonderful school, but at the moment it is obviously not possible to have Open Days while the children are in, so we will be holding virtual open days in November (including sessions with Arabic and Urdu translation) and a small number of tours of Early Years after school, which can be booked in advance. Further information on these will follow.

Secondary school applications for September 2021

If your child is currently in Year 6, you will now need to apply for a secondary school place for them for September 2021. Applications are made through Birmingham City Council and must be made online - please visit https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1 for more information. The closing date for applications is 31st October. If you need advice on the application procedure, please speak to Mrs Vigers.

All children who attend Ark Tindal are guaranteed a place at Ark St Albans Academy, but you must put St Albans as your first choice school when making your application to secure a place. Visit <https://arkstalbans.org/> for more information about the Academy.

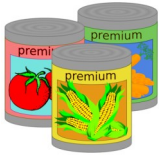


Cold weather

As the colder weather sets in for the Autumn, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school with them each day, as children do go out to play on cooler days. Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled clearly with your child's name.



Harvest Festival



This year, as you may know, our local food banks are sadly seeing more and more people coming to them for help and provision of food during these difficult times. Whilst we cannot have our usual harvest festival assembly in school, we would like to show support for members of our community by asking everyone to bring in a donation of food to be passed along to the local food bank. Every day next week, we will have food collection boxes on the gates and we ask, if possible, for each child to bring in some non-perishable food (tinned food, rice, pasta, cereals, longlife milk etc.) and pop it in the box, which we can pass along to those in need. Every item will help, so even a small donation will be gratefully accepted.



Flu Busters!

Your child will be coming home today with a consent form and further information for the nasal flu vaccination, which will be available to all children from Reception to Year 6 this year. Please complete the form to say **whether you do or do not wish** your child to have the nasal flu vaccination and return it with your child as soon as possible. The vaccinations will be delivered in school after the October half term by NHS staff.



Coffee mornings on Zoom

We would like to invite you to join us for coffee mornings on zoom. There will be 4 sessions taking place between now and October half term. After school drop off, head home, make a brew and come and join us for a catch up. An invitation will be sent out by text on a Monday. The sessions will be as follows:

Tuesday 29th September (9.45am) - COVID-19 Q&A with Mrs. Eaton and Dr. Smith
Tuesday 6th October (9.15am) - attendance with Mr. Harrison
Tuesday 13th October (9.15am) - maths with Mrs. Hirji
Tuesday 20th October (9.15am) - reading with Mrs. Khan and Miss Burrows



Mrs Bains' SEND spotlight

The department of education identifies four broad areas of need which cover a wide range of special educational needs. The four broad areas are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional mental health
- Sensory and/or physical



A pupil may be on the SEND register at school because they have needs that fit into one or more of these categories. Identifying the need or where the difficulties lie for a pupil is key. Once identified the right support and provision can be put in place and the pupil will be able to thrive and make progress. Identifying the difficulties or needs a pupil may have is a lengthy process, which is done with care. I, as SENCo, will do several observations and work closely with the class teacher. Sometimes professionals and outside agencies may be called upon to share their expert knowledge. Working together, a need can be identified, and a pupil can be added to the SEND register so that they receive the support they require.

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.