



Dear All,

Firstly may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope you were all able to enjoy the break despite the restrictions and have stayed safe and well. Obviously, our return to school is not as we would want it to be but, we are determined that our children will not be at a disadvantage through having to work at home. Our dedicated teachers are committed to ensuring that every child has access to lessons be that recorded, live or in a paper pack. If you are struggling with access to work please e-mail your year group lead or call the office between 9am-3pm Monday—Friday.

### **Computers**

We have been very fortunate to be in the position of being able to provide every child in year 5 or 6 with their own laptop to enable them to access their work. We have ordered more devices for year four but as yet, have no timeline for being able to deliver these. We have also been able to support families where there is no suitable device in the home across the school and we have been delighted to see the engagement they have had with their work.

### **Going Live**

During the first lockdown, we provided pupils with workpacks. As we have had more time to think about our remote learning since then, our approach has changed for this third national lockdown. Pupils access their learning each day through Seesaw, where they will find a morning message and a minimum of five lessons each day. This week saw the start of our live touchpoints which have been enjoyed by staff and pupils alike. We also had our very first live assembly which was attended by 117 families—a great achievement. It was wonderful to see so many children; we are now looking at ensuring pupils are able to verbally join in!

### **Community Classroom**

We have had a lot of interest in our Community Classroom during this lockdown. The classroom is there to support families where parents are critical workers. Children in school are able to access the learning to stay up-to-date with their peers and we run as normal a school day as possible. The children have worked very hard and it has been great to hear them in and around the building.

### **The Moseley Exchange**

We have been given the exciting opportunity to display the artwork of our pupils at the Moseley Exchange. If your child is a budding artist and would like to have their work displayed, please post it to us here at the school. We would like paintings or drawings linked to our values which gives a wide scope for your child to let their imagination run wild.

### **Continuing Work**

It is exceptionally important that your child is accessing work. Our expectation is that every child will access lessons each day. If your child doesn't access their work please expect a text or phone call from the school to discuss the reasons for this and if we can offer any additional support. If you would like additional resources, please go to the 'Remote Learning' tab of the school website. Mrs Bains has also been busy updating the Inclusion page, which can be accessed here: <https://arktindalprimary.org/page-strips/inclusion>

### **School Meals**

The Edenred voucher scheme that was used in the previous lockdown will begin again from next week. The scheme is available to those who are entitled to free school meals through means testing—it is not available to all pupils who receive Universal Infant Free School Meals in Reception, years 1 and 2. Please look out for an e-mail appearing soon. It is important that you ensure that the e-mail address that you provide to the school is correct as this is the only way for you to access vouchers.

### **Photos on Social Media**

We would love to be able to share screenshots of the work we do with the children especially images from the live touchpoints. If you previously refused these permissions please ensure that your child's camera is turned off so that we can share photos of pupils where parents are happy for this to happen.

### **A Sad Goodbye**

It is with a heavy heart that we let you know that Mr Mann will shortly be leaving us. After a long career here at Ark Tindal, Mr Mann leaves us to progress his career at a large secondary school where I am sure he will rise to many new and exciting challenges. It will be impossible to replace the knowledge that Mr Mann has of our wonderful school and I cannot imagine anyone else showing the same dedication to keeping our site so wonderful. We wish him all the best and hope that he stays in touch.

As always, if you have any queries or worries please do get in touch.