

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear parent/carer

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Thank you for your ongoing support this half-term. We have been very impressed with the participation and engagement of all our pupils and thank you for your support in ensuring this happens. We have also been very pleased and touched to receive messages of thanks from parents/carers for the work we are doing. We understand this is a challenging time for parents/carers and appreciate all that you are doing to support your child's education and keep them in their learning routines.

### **February Half-term**

The DfE has announced that schools will close as planned for the half-term break. **Ark Victoria Academy will close to those currently attending school at 1pm in secondary phase and 3pm in primary phase on Friday, 12 February** and re-open to keyworker and other eligible pupils on Monday, 22 February 2021.

The government free school meal voucher scheme will not run over half-term, but vouchers issued through the school will resume following the half-term break. Birmingham City Council are planning to offer a voucher scheme through Sodexo and we will update eligible parents as we receive more information. If you have any concerns regarding hardship in this difficult period please contact [info@arkvictoria.org](mailto:info@arkvictoria.org)

We are still required to continue contact tracing for positive Covid-19 cases through the half term. Please can you inform school if any household member tests positive during half term at [info@arkvictoria.org](mailto:info@arkvictoria.org)

### **Wider re-opening**

The Prime Minister recently announced that he hopes to re-open schools from Monday, 8 March 2021, provided the rates of infection and hospital admissions are low enough to do so. The information regarding this re-opening has not yet been released. We will update you as soon as we are able to and very much look forward to welcoming all our pupils back into school.

### **Well-being**

We have provided access for all our pupils to the Edukit app which contains strategies and resources to support mental well-being but also gives pupils access to their tutor if they need to talk or seek any advice. There are also many resources and links on our **school website:** <https://arkvictoria.org/> to support mental well-being.

We are also providing a menu of activities for our secondary pupils on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and for our primary pupils on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, which are all offline, to give pupils a welcome break from their screens. The activities encourage a healthy body and mind and are a combination of creative and physical challenges as well as some time and space to read for pleasure and to undertake small acts of kindness.

All our pupils are also taking part Mental Health Awareness Week this week, under the theme of 'it's okay to...', there are creative writing and arts competitions and pupils will talk with their tutors about mental well-being.

We will write to you shortly after the half-term break with hopefully further news of a wider re-opening. Until then, please stay safe and well and please do make contact if you need any support or help or would like to talk, please contact the school via [info@arkvictoria.org](mailto:info@arkvictoria.org)

Yours sincerely,



Ms Ela McSorley  
**Principal All-Through**