

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that the news about all children returning to school on 8th March has now sunk in and your child is looking forward to it. Certainly the staff can't wait to see all the children in real life instead of on a screen and have their classrooms full again. I will write to you again next week with the final arrangements for how we will be operating and all the safety precautions that will be in place, but it will be very similar to the original January plan, just with better weather (hopefully)! ABC/XYZ will also be operating their usual hours, so please get in touch with them if you haven't already and require a place for your child.

Of course, mixed with the excitement, some children may experience some level of anxiety or apprehension about returning which is completely natural if they haven't been to school since before Christmas. Miss Lord has put together a short survey for you to tell us how your child is feeling so that we can plan to have the right support in place for them. Please use this link to access the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=D9tQmsgQUU2sdW4O5I5J8ZZNcgVyD8JFk2CPR94vwY5UOVgwSOZHS0Q5VEZCNTFWN0NaNzc1RUo2RS4u>

She has also created a return to school calendar on the wellbeing area of our website that you may like to use with your child to help them to prepare for when they come back to reduce their levels of anxiety. <https://albancityschool.org.uk/download/back-to-school-calendar-3/>

It would be great to have everyone looking smart on their first day back with the correct uniform and footwear, so if you are able to source school uniform, black school shoes etc online or in a supermarket that would be much appreciated. The children will also need their PE kits for the first day back, so please don't forget that too!

World Book Day Thursday 4th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Google Classroom as most children are still at home. This year, rather than inviting the children to dress up themselves, we are inviting them to dress up their Alban City bear as a book character and show them in an online class parade. More information specific to your child's class will be posted in their classroom. We will be emailing World Book Day vouchers for you to pick up a free or discounted book for your child from the shops that are participating.

Help needed!

Do you have a background in marketing? We would like to develop our marketing strategy to ensure that we are doing everything we can to attract new families to our amazing school. If you can spare any of your time and expertise to help us out, please let me know!

The teachers will still be planning and teaching the full week of lessons next week, so they are looking forward to seeing maximum participation and one last big final effort from the children to join the live lessons AND do the work that is set for them to bring their online learning to successful conclusion. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and next week is the very last week of home schooling you will ever have to do!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray