



9 March 2021

Laptops - Support with your child's homework and learning

Dear Parent/Carer,

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the whole country and our school how important it is for all children to access their learning, at school and at home. The best way to access online learning is through a suitable device (eg laptop), of exclusive use for your child (not shared with other siblings), and a secure broadband (wifi) internet connection at home.

A Chromebook on loan (until the end of your studies at Ark Academy)

Your child is eligible for a Chromebook, for their exclusive use. This device is to be kept at home for homework and revision. Your child should not bring the device into school, as we don't usually use devices in lessons, and travelling frequently with the device increases the chance of damage.

There is no charge to borrow this device. However, you may be asked to pay some damages if the Chromebook is stolen, lost or damaged (please read the Home-School Agreement carefully). You will be required to sign a document to this effect, which is attached to this letter.

Safeguarding arrangements are in place so that your child has controlled access to the device (6.30am-11pm) and inappropriate websites are locked. The Chromebook uses the Ark Network, it can be shut down by the Ark Network, and it has no value to anyone using it outside the Ark Network.

Your child may pick up their Chromebook on Friday 12 March.

Please complete the slip below if you would like your child to pick up a school laptop. If your child does not have exclusive access to their own laptop, **we strongly encourage your child** to pick up a laptop on Friday.

Supporting learning at home - wifi connection

To help your child, your child will, in particular, need to be able to access -

- Microsoft Teams - resources and live lessons
- SMHW
- Other online resources – eg MHLG, Hegarty Maths

To best access these, a wifi connection is important. If you would like a voucher for wifi through BT, please let us know. In addition, we can arrange for a phone in your household to have a data top up for free, to help with your child online access to education. Please indicate if either of these schemes are of interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Sawbridge

Vice Principal, Ark Academy

Please cut _____

Childs Name..... Tutor group.....

(Please tick)

- I would like my child to pick up a laptop on **Friday 12 March. (Please bring a carrier bag with you)**
- I would not like my child to pick up a laptop on Friday 12 March.
- I would like to receive a free BT Wifi voucher (these work well if you live close to a BT Hotspot)
- I would like to apply for the Government Phone Data Top Up scheme through Ark Academy