

19.2.20

Dear Parent/Carer

School Closure

Hall Green School will be closed from the end of today, Friday 20th March, for an unspecified period of time. As has been stated by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education, this is to ensure the transmission of coronavirus is slowed so that the burden on the NHS is significantly reduced. As we have learnt over the past few months of watching the news from abroad and at home, coronavirus spreads quickly and hits the elderly and those with underlying health conditions very hard. Whilst young people don't appear to suffer too much from coronavirus, they can catch it and spread it quickly and that is why Governments all over the world have shut schools and are enforcing lockdowns of entire towns, cities, regions and countries.

Staying Safe

It is important that everyone in our community follows the guidance of the UK Government and the World Health Organisation during this period. The Government are currently televising live briefings every day at 5.00 pm with important updates. Further advice can be found [here](#). World Health Organisation advice can be found at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public> and a further leaflet has been included with this letter that clarifies what is currently safe and un-safe. The most important advice for all of us is to practise social distancing and wash our hands more frequently for at least 20 seconds.

The government has issued this advice for the parents of school children during school closures:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Children of key workers

As the Secretary of State for Education has made clear, from Monday 23 March 2020 school will only remain open for the children of key workers who are unable to make alternative childcare arrangements during this period, and vulnerable pupils. During this period, the school day will continue to start at 8.30 am and end at 2.45 pm. The normal timings for the school day will begin again once the coronavirus crisis has passed.

It is imperative that we make sure that only the children of these groups attend school to keep numbers manageable and to keep staff and pupils safe. The list of key workers can be found [here](#). If

you are a key worker and need your child to attend school, or you are the parent of a vulnerable child and need your child to attend school, then please contact the school as soon as possible on 01216288787 or email keyworker@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk so that we can discuss your needs. Please let us know by the end of school on Monday 23 March 2020.

Yr 11 and GCSEs

For Year 11, this has been a very difficult few weeks, but it is now clear that there will be no GCSEs examinations in 2020. There will be college, sixth form and apprenticeship places available in September for our Year 11 pupils to progress to, but it is not yet clear how these will be allocated. It is possible the Government may set online tests later in the year so it is therefore important Year 11 pupils continue to log onto Class Charts (www.classcharts.com) and complete all work set. This will enable them to complete all of their GCSE syllabuses in advance of starting college in September 2020.

Setting work

We will continue to set work for all pupils through Class Charts and it is important your child/children continue to complete this work. We recommend that during this period, all pupils retain an element of structure in their lives and devote a period of each day to completing school work. The school has set up an account with online resource platform Seneca Learning. In order for your child to access the appropriate course for their year group, they should go to either of the following links:

[KS3 \(Year 7/8/9\)](#)

[KS4 \(Year 10/11\)](#)

Once the link is accessed, you will be able to choose from a vast range of subjects offered. Some may apply to your child, and some may not so it will require them to look carefully at their options. Pupils in KS4 should also be aware of the tier they are following in Science, Maths and MFL to ensure they are studying the appropriate material. When a “course” (or subject) is accessed, the menu bar situated at the left-hand side of the screen will show all of the topic areas covered and allows pupils to click and begin accessing information and/or questions. All pupils will be set a homework on ClassCharts, with a link attached allowing them to access the appropriate Seneca Learning page for their Key Stage. This homework will have a due date of 17th July 2020, in case they need to search for it. In addition, teachers will continue to set work and tasks for their groups on Class Charts. If you have not logged on to your Class Charts account and need the log in details, please email Mr Slattery, Assistant Headteacher, directly on r.slattery@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk.

Pupils should submit completed work to Class Charts by uploading their work to the site. Teachers will monitor work. Work that is completed and submitted to a good standard will be marked ‘Submitted’; work not completed to a good standard or not uploaded on time will be marked ‘Not submitted’. Parents can monitor their children’s work in this way.

If pupils wish to contact their teachers by email, they can do this using their personal Hall Green email account. Emails from other addresses will not be responded to. If a pupil wants to email their subject teacher, they should use the email format subject@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. If, for example, a pupil wants to share some work or has a question for his or her teacher in English, the email address to use is English@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. The teacher should be able to pick the email up and respond to it. Be aware, though, that if a member of staff is unwell themselves, or having to care for a poorly member of the family, they may not be able to respond to the email. During any school

closure, the school will continue to communicate with pupils and parents via Class Charts, emails, texts and the school website. Please check regularly for updated messages.

If schools are closed for the remainder of this academic year we will also look to set end of year exams for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 pupils that will be marked by staff. When we return after the coronavirus outbreak, we will be look to allocate pupils to their new teaching groups for the coming year, so will be following their progress closely over the coming weeks and months. Details of these exams will follow as the national picture becomes clearer.

Free School Meals

During this period of enforced closure, Hall Green School will continue to offer a free school meal to pupils who are eligible. If you are the parent of a pupil who is eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office before 10.30 am on 0212 628 8787 to inform reception staff that you would like a free meal. They will be available to pick up from school from 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm.

Pupil and Family Welfare

This period of enforced closure and social distancing will be a strain on all of us, but especially our children. It is very helpful if families maintain a regular routine to the day so that children are kept busy and active. Some good advice in this regard can be found [here](#).

In addition, I am asking staff to maintain regular contact with pupils via Class Charts to check on their wellbeing and progress. In particular, staff will be alert to any pupils who do not engage with the Class Charts work set by teachers. Our pastoral support team, Heads of House and Senior team will continue to work with Birmingham Safeguarding teams if we have concerns about the wellbeing of any of our school community. If children have any concerns they can also contact www.childline.org.uk, a national helpline for children. Families that are struggling to find enough food may want to use www.findfoodbanksbrum.org.uk. A national website supporting people's mental health and wellbeing is www.the-waitingroom.org.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us at Hall Green to do our part.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Adams
Headteacher