

Dear Parents/Carers

The summer term officially restarts on Monday 20 April, but of course the lockdown rightly continues. I know that there are families in our community - staff, pupils and parents - who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus over the last few weeks, and our heart goes out to you and we wish you well. It is a difficult time for all of us, but even more so if you have suffered bereavement.

Just like before the holidays, school will only be open to the children of key workers and to vulnerable children. If you require your child to attend school, please use the keyworker@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk email address to let us know so we can make arrangements. See government guidance on which children can attend school here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Remember the government advice is that we should all stay at home if we are able to. We must do our best to protect our nearest and dearest.

For the majority of pupils, home learning continues as before the holidays. Teachers will again be setting work on Class Charts for children to complete. From the start of the new term onwards, teachers will be focusing on making the work as accessible as possible and also structuring it so that there is one post on Class Charts per week for each subject. If there are pieces of work from before the holidays that pupils have not completed, we would suggest that it is now more important that they focus on completing the work that has been set from the start of the summer term onwards.

From feedback we have received, for some families this can be a source of tension and stress, as some parents struggle to manage the home learning of their children. Parents do not need to be a replacement teacher, as children should be able to access the work themselves. If they have an issue with the work, they can email the teacher using the email address subject@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk with the name of the teacher in the subject line. For example, a pupil in my English group in Year 8 would email english@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk and put Mr Adams in the subject line. Make sure your child uses his/her Hall Green email account as teachers will not respond to any external account for safeguarding reasons.

The most important thing parents can provide at home during lockdown is a structure to the day. There is some very useful guidance on managing the home environment during lockdown. Please see the PDF document attached: 'Staying well under lockdown.' It suggests filling the day with a range of different activities for your children, and building the school work in as part of that routine. Activities can be chores around the house – making the bed, cleaning an area of the house, weeding the garden; doing some exercise – the PE department has provided daily workouts, or use one of the many online workouts; take time to relax – together as a family, read, watch TV, get creative; take time to get outside for a walk/run/bike ride. Remember the social distancing rule when outside, and children should avoid meeting up with friends. The local police have been in touch with us and are keen for us to reinforce the instruction that we should only be leaving our homes when it is absolutely necessary, and certainly not for teenage children to socialise with their friends.

We are asking pupils to submit work to Class Charts every so often so teachers can check that they are getting on with the work. As a parent, you too can check what work is expected to be uploaded yourself using the Class Charts app. If you don't have your log on details, or for help with passwords for Class Charts or email accounts please contact ictsupport@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk using the email address we have on record for you.

If you have difficulty accessing work online, please call the school switchboard on 0121 628 8787 and speak to a member of staff or leave a message. If you are able to send an email, use the school email address enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. We will be able to make up work packs for you to collect.

Phone calls from form tutors will continue at least every fortnight. These are safe and well checks, and so form tutors will ask to speak to you and also to your child. We also want to encourage pupils to access the work and submit work that they have completed.

There are many online supports for parents to help them through this difficult time: some of them are:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)
- [Let's Talk About It](#) (support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) (tips, advice, guides)
- <https://the-waitingroom.org/> (The Waiting Room – health and wellbeing support for families)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, then you should have received vouchers to allow you to buy food in local supermarkets. Please use the school contact details if you have not received these vouchers and you believe you are eligible - 0121 628 8787 or enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk.

For all families that may be struggling to provide food for all in the family, you can search online for local foodbanks at <https://www.findfoodbanksbrum.org.uk/about-us/directory/>

As things stand nationally, we do not know when this lockdown will end. When it does, as a school we will want to make sure it is done in a way that protects the health of staff and pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Take care and stay safe

David Adams
Headteacher