



Hall Green School An Academy

21 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are all well, and managing to cope under lockdown.

On Sunday 10 May the Prime Minister announced that he wanted to start relaxing the national lockdown. He informed the nation that he is asking secondary schools to open up to Year 10 pupils before the end of the summer term. I wanted to let you know how the school is responding to that request.

Throughout the lockdown, we at Hall Green have been hard at work doing what we can for our families: we have been

- providing online work for pupils through Class Charts
- providing paper copies of work for the many pupils who do not have access to a computer at home
- keeping school open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children
- carrying out regular phone calls to all our families to check on the wellbeing of our pupils
- and arranging for the families of pupils on free school meals to receive vouchers.

We remained open over the Easter holidays in case key worker families needed to send their children to school. No family did, so currently we have no plans to open the school for next week's holiday, from 25 May to 29 May. If that creates a problem for any family, please contact the school on keyworker@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk.

We know that the lockdown has been difficult for many of our families. Some have lost a loved one to the virus; very few children have attended school through this time, even though they could have come to school; and large numbers of pupils studying at home have not engaged fully with the online work. The government is right to try to open schools as soon as it is possible and safe enough to do so, so that pupils can return to their learning and not fall behind.

To this end, the government has published a roadmap to show the way out of lockdown.

- [Our Plan to rebuild: The Government's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy](#)

This roadmap outlines some of the difficulties that schools will face when we come out of lockdown. It shows that the government has not yet reviewed how people's race, their sex or their weight affect what happens to people who get Covid-19. They say that it is possible that the virus could be spread by people who have the virus but are not showing any symptoms, and they say that not everybody's or every group's risk is the same.

So at the moment, we do not know exactly what the risk is in having pupils return to school. This is recognised by the government. In their guidance to parents ([Guidance for parents and carers](#)), they say 'We will only do this [open schools] provided that the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the recovery strategy are operating effectively.' They have set the date of 28 May to consider the risks, and if they decide that the risks have fallen to an acceptably low level, they have set June 1 as the date that schools start to consider their options.

This is also recognised by Birmingham City Council (BCC). I have provided you with copies of letters from BCC sent to schools and families, and sent to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP.

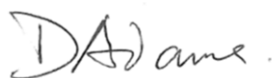
As yet, our plans for opening the school for Year 10 pupils are not fixed, but are subject to change as the scientific evidence and government guidelines change. They will depend on how many pupils we can expect in school. Therefore, we have set up a survey to find out if you will be sending your Year 10 child into school when we open. We also want to know, if you are the parent of a vulnerable child, or you are a key worker, if you plan to send your child into school as well. This information will help us plan for a safe return of pupils to school. Please understand that if we do open to pupils, we will not be able to offer lessons as normal. Once we have a clearer understanding of the risks, and know how many pupils we can expect, we will be able to provide you with more details on how we plan to open.

The school will not be opening for any other year groups, so if you are the parent of a child in Years 7, 8 and 9, please continue to support them with their school work on Class Charts or paper. We hope that we will be able to welcome them back to school in September to resume their studies. In the meantime, please continue to support your child's school work at home, and encourage them to read as much as possible.

To sum up, please read and take note of these messages:

- Respond to our survey: do you intend to send your child back to school? (Year 10, vulnerable pupils & children of key workers only)
- Please answer the phone call from your child's form tutor or pastoral leader. It may come up as 'No Caller ID' on your phone. We just want to know your child is safe and well and getting on with the work. We can also direct you to any support you or your family may need at this time.
- If you are finding things difficult, contact the school welfare team on welfareandinclusion@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk who may be able to direct you to appropriate support, including if you need to apply for free school meals.
- Keep your child working on their school work as much as possible. Keep a clear routine for your child at home, making sure they are logging on to Class Charts and completing their work. And keep reading.
- Keep following the government's advice on staying safe through this pandemic: if anyone in your household shows symptoms of coronavirus, the whole household must self-isolate for 14 days.
- Keep two metres away from others in public places; wear a face mask when you can't; wash hands frequently for 20 seconds.
- As many of our families celebrate Eid over the coming weekend, please remember to follow the government's advice on staying safe. Read the attached letters from Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Adams
Headteacher

Hall Green School is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales. Registered Number 7892732.
Registered Office: Southam Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0AA Head Teacher: Mr D Adams Tel: 0121 628 8787
Fax: 0121 702 2182 Email: enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk www.hallgreen.bham.sch.uk

Survey questions. Please read ALL questions and only provide ONE response

**For parents/carers of children classed as vulnerable
(to check if your child is in this group see [Supporting Vulnerable Young People During the Coronavirus Outbreak](#))**

I WILL be sending my child back to school in June
I WILL NOT be sending my child back to school in June
I MAY send my child back to school in June.

**For parents/carers who are key workers
(to check if your family is in this group see [Critical Workers who can access Schools](#))**

I WILL be sending my child back to school in June
I WILL NOT be sending my child back to school in June
I MAY send my child back to school in June.

For parents/carers of Year 10 pupils

I WILL be sending my child back to school in June
I WILL NOT be sending my child back to school in June
I MAY send my child back to school in June.

For all other parents

My child does not fall into any of the categories above, and so my child is expected to return to school in September if schools are open as normal.