

26 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are doing well, and that you are managing to enjoy some of the small, new freedoms we have as the country eases out of lockdown. This is just an update of how the school is progressing under lockdown, with some key messages for pupils' future learning.

Like all schools and businesses across the country, we have had to close Hall Green school to help tackle the coronavirus outbreak. We have remained open for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children.

Our priority during lockdown has been our pupils' safety and welfare. Form tutors and the Pastoral and Special Needs teams have been in regular phone contact with you and your children. We are continuing to make these calls, so please keep a look out for these calls in the days ahead.

We have been providing supermarket vouchers for our families eligible for free school meals, and will continue to provide vouchers over the summer holidays. Following a request from one of our Year 11 pupils, we have contacted the Department for Education to ensure that we can continue to provide these vouchers for our Year 11 families.

We have also provided online lessons for pupils through Class Charts. Many pupils have engaged well with this work; other have struggled to keep motivated. Parents can keep track of how much work their children are doing by logging into Class Charts themselves. Please get in touch if you would like help in how to do this on ictsupport@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk

We continue to develop our online live lesson offer. Teachers are piloting the technology and rules for running online lessons with some of the classes they teach. When a teacher runs an online lesson, the link to access the lesson is sent by email to the pupil's school email address and posted on Class Charts so parents can see when the lessons are. Pupils can only join these lessons if parents have given their consent by returning a consent slip. The consent letter has been sent out along with this letter. We are in the early days of trialling this method of teaching, and so not all pupils may experience a lesson at this stage.

This week Year 10 pupils have started to return to school in increasing numbers for their lessons in English, Maths, Science and RE. These lessons continue next week from Monday 29 June, with Isengard expected on Monday, Shire on Tuesday, Lorien on Wednesday and Rivendell on Thursday. We encourage all Year 10 pupils to attend these really important lessons.

The government has announced that schools will open fully to all pupils in September. We have not yet seen the detail of this, but Hall Green fully supports measures that can bring all our pupils back into school as soon as possible to continue their studies safely. We have not yet finalised the dates for pupils to return to school, as we await government guidance on how they want schools to open. Please check the school <u>website</u> for updates.

In the meantime, we are preparing materials to help pupils continue their studies over the summer holidays. School will be closed to all pupils over the holidays, but we want to provide the resources to allow pupils to return to school in September as fully prepared as possible.

This is especially important for Year 10 pupils, who will be sitting their GCSE exams in the summer 2021. We know that the exams will be different next year to make up for the time Year 10 have missed in school, but again we do not yet have the details of how they will change. The more work pupils do now to prepare, the better.

Year 10 will have lessons in school in the week beginning Monday 6 July that will help them prepare for their work over the summer. Pupils in Years 7-9 will receive a phone call from their Form Tutor in the last weeks of term to go through the materials.

All the materials will be available on the school website. Amongst the materials will be:

- A survey on your child's experience of lockdown, so we at school are aware of and can offer support to any pupils who may need it.
- A video and PowerPoint on how pupils can continue their studies and best prepare for their return to school in September. The video also gives ideas on how parents can best support their child.
- A leaflet for parents and pupils on 'Maintaining good wellbeing whilst in social isolation'.
- An example of a daily routine. Children respond well to structure and routine in their day.
 Routines should also contain physical activities, fun time, time with friends and family and downtime.
- A summary/checklist of topics and work that each Year group has to cover.
- A list of resources and materials, online lessons and videos that pupils can use to stay on track with their work.

We hope you find these resource useful.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions. For ICT issues, please contact ictsupport@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. For general issues, contact enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. For questions related to subject work, contact the subject directly using the email address SUBJECT@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. For example, to contact the English department, use this email address: English@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. If you know the name of the teacher, put the teacher's name as the subject of the email.

Best regards

Mr D Adams Headteacher

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