

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will no doubt be aware of the decision taken by the Prime Minister last night for a national lockdown with immediate effect. This clearly affects our return to school plan as schools have been instructed to revert to online learning for all pupils with the exception of children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. Details of these categories can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision

If you wish to discuss the possibility of your child attending site, please contact us on 0121 628 8787 (between 8.15 am - 2.15 pm) or email keyworker@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk.

The government have announced remote learning for all year groups will continue at least until February half term. I very much hope we will be able to return pupils to on site learning after the half term break on 22 February but we will need to confirm this nearer the time. Please note that due to the rapidly changing situation, this arrangement could change.

To be clear, unless you have made contact with us and had confirmation, your child should be learning remotely at home until further notice.

Remote learning

From Wednesday 6 January, Year 9, 10, and 11 lessons will be delivered live through Teams. Year 7 and 8 teachers will either be setting work on Class Charts or teaching remotely through Teams. Pupils should first log onto Class Charts to establish the format of their lesson at the usual lesson time. We will follow the usual school timetable throughout which can be viewed on our home page on the website. From Monday 11 January, lessons for all year groups will be taught live through Teams. In extenuating circumstances, e.g. staff absence, work may be set via Class Charts.

It is important to us that pupils do not fall behind and thus we are expecting all pupils to engage fully with all online lessons. If there is any reason that this is not possible, please do get in touch. For technical problems or for issues accessing a device/internet, please get in touch via phone or email. If pupils are not engaging, it may be that we make contact via text or phone to support.

For all general queries regarding remote learning or other matters please contact us on 0121 628 8787 (between 8.15 am – 2.15 pm) or enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk.

Exams

It has been announced that the summer exams will not go ahead as planned. We are awaiting further information on how pupils will be assessed. In the meantime, it is vital that Year 11 pupils continue to attend lessons online and complete all work to ensure they achieve the best grades possible.

Whilst the BTEC exams this term are still going ahead, we have taken the decision to withdraw pupils who were due to sit the Sport Studies exam Monday 11 January. We will enter them for the exam later in the year instead when we are clearer what is going on with exams overall and to provide pupils with more time for preparation.

Support available for families

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals and you wish to receive a food hamper, please contact the school via email. Please include your child's name and form group. We will be in touch once the food hamper is ready to be collected from school.

Support

We understand this may be a difficult time for pupils. Whilst teaching staff will continue to support through lessons, we will also be developing an online form time programme for all pupils. In addition to this, parents/carers and pupils are able to email the welfare team on welfareandinclusion@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk for further support.

Stationery

The school has issued stationery to pupils throughout the year to support with home learning when needed. As this may be at school, please contact us if you wish to collect additional stationery (paper, pens etc.).

Support for families

We continue to signpost a number of different forms of support for families through what continues to be a difficult time emotionally and financially for many. The links can be found at: https://www.hallgreen.bham.sch.uk/covid-19-updates-and-support/

I was excited about meeting the pupils of Hall Green having started this week and am disappointed that in the majority of cases this won't be able to happen until half term. It is important, however, that we all remain as safe as possible by following the national guidance. For those pupils joining us on site for learning, it is vital that they remain at home if they are displaying any COVID symptoms.

I look forward to a time when I can meet pupils and parents/carers and feel the full warmth of the Hall Green community. Until that time, stay safe and stay learning!

Yours faithfully

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Miss K Slater Headteacher

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