



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

20th April 2020

Important dates for your diary

Date	Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week Beginning 20th April• Friday 24th April• Wednesday 29th April• Friday 1st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start of Ramadan – Wishing you all the best for the start of Ramadan this week.• National Skipping Day• Stop Food Waste Day• National Share a Story Month

SCHOOL UPDATES:

CHECK SCHOOL GATEWAY AND SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR REGULAR UPDATES.

Due to the low update of in school provision, we will only be opening the school when supervision has been booked in advance. If you wish to send your child in to school, you must qualify for this provision by meeting one of the following criteria:

- Families where **all** adults in the household are Key workers, they are required in work during school hours and the children are **not** old enough to take care of themselves. In line with new guidance we will be asking parents to provide evidence that they are key workers providing their services at the time that childcare provision is being requested.
- EHCP students
- Children who would be considered vulnerable due to Social services involvement.

As you can imagine, we need to keep these numbers as low as possible to protect the children attending and the staff required on site to oversee this provision. Please can you therefore think carefully before requesting provision.

If you require provision **between Wednesday 22nd April – Friday 1st May** please contact enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk leaving a contact telephone number and the specific supervision requirements (days, times, reasons support is required). It is essential that the provision is requested at least **48 hours** in advance so that we can ensure the correct level of staffing.

If you require provision **between Monday 4th May and Friday 29th May**, please can you complete the survey below by 3pm on Friday 27th April.

[Survey](#)



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COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL – The school office is now closed. You can contact us by contacting the enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk email.

Please include information in the subject box so that the most appropriate person responds to your query. Some of our staff may be unable to respond due to illness and while we will be trying our best, we will not be able to respond in the usual manner.

Parents/Carers should not be coming onto the school site.

A reminder to all parents/carers who have not yet logged on to School Gateway: please note all school related communication, particularly regarding the current school closure, will be accessible via School Gateway. If you cannot use School Gateway for any reason, please contact the school on enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk

You can download the School Gateway App via your app store for free. Please visit <https://schoolgateway.co.uk> for further details.

Ofqual: On the 15th April Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) launched a consultation to gather views on the Exceptional arrangements for exam grading and assessment in 2020. Parents/Carers and students have the opportunity to respond to the proposals if they wish to do so. Further information on the consultation can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020>

The deadline for submitting responses is 11:45pm on 29th April 2020.

FSM update:

For the last two weeks, pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals have received two £15 vouchers via email with a cheque and voucher code; this scheme was accompanied with instructions entitled 'Free School Meals Guidebook Digital Supermarket Vouchers'. These vouchers remain valid if you have not yet used them. However, a company called Edenred is now sending vouchers in a scheme coordinated by the government. You should now receive an email which includes a 16-digit ecode each week; details are included in this information guide:

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf.

School staff have worked to ensure that we have the correct email details for the family contact who will be able to redeem the ecode; if your daughter is eligible for Free School Meals and you do not receive an email from Edenred, please contact enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk. Please check your inbox, clutter, and junk for the emails from Edenred. We expect these to be sent to parents each Monday during the period of school closure.



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Please note that there is a huge national demand to access the Free School Meals information as per the information guide; the government is working to upgrade systems to increase capacity and you may have to wait in an online queue. If you are unable to access the relevant information, please contact school on enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk.

PACT: noun (with somebody) (to do something) a formal agreement between two or more people, groups or countries, especially one in which they agree to help each other.
(ref: Oxford English Dictionary)

The Hodge Hill Girls' School Community is proposing to have a **PACT** to share good news with each other while we are working away from school. If you have any photos of work, things that you are doing and that you are prepared to share, please send them to the following address: enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk with PACT in the subject box.

These should cover any of the following areas:

P	Physical - e.g. ways that you are keeping fit.
A	Academic - a recent piece of work that you are proud of.
C	Creative - something where you have shown creativity.
T	Teamwork - something where you have worked as part of a team e.g. doing chores around the house, supporting someone in the community.

- **Value of the month – 'Optimism'** Please discuss this value with your daughter. To support please use the following link. [Optimism poster](#).
- **Thought for the week: 'Perseverance'** see [PowerPoint](#) presentation and [video](#).
- **Careers and Work-related learning at home:** Please complete your STEPs Careers booklets. Make sure you are taking advantage of the Kudos website, please email Ms Nazish if you are having trouble logging on. You can also access many resources on the schools X drive, students should check their emails for direct access for careers resources. There are several websites which are streaming live talks of different speakers talking about their careers, some of which include a polar explorer, author, business entrepreneur, professional footballer, TV host and many more. The links are as follows:
 - <https://learn.springpod.co.uk/> register for each talk and then watch live.
 - <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers> - new career each week.



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- **Say 'Thank you' to a teacher today:** Click on the following link showing you how to say thank you to a teacher <https://thankateacher.co.uk/>

Additional Resources:

We will look to share with you some additional sites that may be useful each week. There are so many wonderful websites to assist learning at home.

- **Success at School:** have made electronic versions of all their Career Subject Guides available free of charge. For further information and to access the guides please click on the following link: [Subject Guides](#)
- **Several new resources have been released that you might find useful:**
Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>
BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>
Audible: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
- **'Make a mug, make a difference' competition:** Use your creative skills to celebrate the NHS and design a new mug in this fabulous competition.
www.royalcrownderby.co.uk/makeadifference
- **Inspire Art Competition now open:** This year the competition is called **What I Can See**, designed to help us all think about things in our homes, gardens, skies, views, and even in our imaginations and thoughts. Click on this link for further details:
<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blog/posts/inspire-20-now-open> Entries must be received by **5pm on Sunday 14 June 2020**.
- **BBC Bitesize:** are providing daily lessons online for Primary, Secondary and Post 16. Plan your home schooling with Bitesize Daily: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- **The Week Junior:** 'The Week Junior' magazine is currently being made available digitally. The most recent edition can be read by clicking on this [link](#)



Blue Peter Badge:

While you are away from school take the opportunity to work towards one or more of the Blue Peter badges. Whatever your skills or talents you will find a badge to suit you. These badges will allow you free entry into numerous attractions locally and around the UK in the future. Click on the badge to see how you can earn yours.

TCDT: The Creative Dimension Trust has been busy organising an exciting range of online workshops, including Puppet Making, Mask Making and Architectural Paper Folding, that will start from Friday 3rd April 2020. [Get Creative](#)



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Pearson free e-books: For parents and children free e-book access to textbooks, no password or login required. [Click online for further details.](#)

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

We are aware that this may be a worrying time for adults and children. We have therefore extended the resources on our website around Safeguarding and Wellbeing.

[Kooth.com](#) the award winning and innovative online counselling and support service is now available to all young people aged 11-25 across Birmingham. It is a safe, confidential and anonymous way for young people to access emotional wellbeing and early intervention mental health support. Kooth is widely used across the country and is well rated by young people.

We have updated the school website to include support for pupils and families around Safeguarding and Wellbeing <https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/safeguarding>. This includes a link to local food banks. [Food Bank link.](#)

[Mental health support offer - Birmingham and Solihull CCG](#)

A range of new, easily accessible mental health support is now available for patients in Birmingham and Solihull, based around four groups: 0-18-year olds in Birmingham www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk

Across the past few weeks our family and working lives have changed. Much is now different for us all, but hopefully only for a while. Adjustment takes time, so be mindful of how your feeling. Please read the attached document from Barnardo's offering advice: [Read me](#)

- **How to manage anxiety:** Please read the following attachment to give you tips and guidance with coping with anxiety while going through COVID-19. [Document](#)

Parents/Carers tips for helping your child manage their emotions and behaviour at home: [open me](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you will be aware through news coverage the Government is frequently updating their response to the global issue of Coronavirus. Keep up to date and follow the latest guidance during this period at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

- **Advice for keeping healthy and well:**
These links give practical help and advice if self-isolating or you need further support at this time. [Helpful link.](#)



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- **Maintaining Good Health:** [Advice link](#)
- **Handwashing advice:** Watch this short NHS film for guidance [video](#)

BE AWARE OF SCAMS: [Be-vigilant-against-coronavirus-scams](#) Not everyone is out to help. Please be alert to fraudulent activity and scams.

Birmingham Educational Psychology Service is providing a telephone helpline for any parent or carers of children, who feel they would benefit from a consultation with a psychologist to support them with any concerns arising at this time, for them or their families. [Helpline information](#)

Staying Safe Online:

While your daughter is away from school take particular care to monitor her online and social media usage. Do you know who she is contacting? Are the platforms she is using appropriate for her age? Are you aware of the content/images that she is posting? Further guidance can be found on our website at this link <https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/parents/online-safety>