



Hodge Hill Girls' School Weekly Parent Bulletin

30th March 2020

Important dates for your diary

Date	Information
Monday 6 th April – Friday 17 th April	• Easter Break

SCHOOL UPDATES:

CHECK SCHOOL GATEWAY AND SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR REGULAR UPDATES.

Between Thursday 2nd April and Monday 20th April Hodge Hill Girls School will be fully closed to all students. If you wish to send your child to school during this time. 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 do require provision **DURING** the Easter holidays, please email 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 **AFTER** the Easter holidays, please can you complete the survey below by the 3pm on Friday 10th April:

Survey

Please note: At present we are unsure whether the childcare provision will be provided at our school or whether it will be at a local school as part of a collaborative hub. As soon as we have more information, we will contact the parents who have requested the provision.

Easter Holidays: Pupils will not be set any extra work during the holidays. We will look to update Classcharts from Monday 20th April. Pupils can complete any work that has been set previously, but also take some time to try our holiday challenge.



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H	Help around the house e.g. tidy your room, clean the car, make a snack for someone else.
O	Outside, get outside in the fresh air for your daily exercise, tidy the garden.
L	Laugh, have some family time and watch a comedy film, tell jokes, share fun memories.
I	Improve yourself by learning a new skill or taking on a new hobby e.g. learn British sign language, do the couch to 5k as part of your exercise plan, develop your first aid skills.
D	Dream about what you are going to do when the lockdown is over, create a list of 5 things.
A	Attempt to teach an adult in your life a new skill, how to use a certain app, a Tik Tok dance.
Y	You should try and connect with someone you haven't seen for a while, online, by phone, write them a letter. It is always nice to let someone know that you are thinking of them.

Keep up with your reading and our online independent learning platforms are always available e.g. Tassomai, GCSE pod, Hegarty Maths and Maths Whizz. This learning section is available via <https://www.hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk/pupils>

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 in regards to 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.

FSM update:

If your daughter is in receipt of Free School Meals, you should have received a cheque and voucher code along with instructions entitled 'Free School Meals Guidebook Digital Supermarket Vouchers'. If you have not received this information, please email enquiry@hodgehgs.bham.sch.uk

Please read the link for details on how this will work [FSM](#).



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Changing circumstances: If your circumstances have changed and you now think that you are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) you can apply through our online link.

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.



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.

Aim Higher: Aim Higher tips for KS4 - There may be no exams in May and June, but many of you will need to keep up your knowledge base for your future college course, apprenticeship etc. The organization Aim Higher have put this useful sheet together to help you with your preparation. [Aim higher working from home.](#)

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](#)

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

Amazon Audible: While schools are closed Amazon has a collection of books to stream for free. Just go to audible.com/stories to access audiobooks for pre-schoolers through to teens.

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.

We have updated the school website to include support for pupils and families around Safeguarding and Wellbeing <https://www.hodgehqs.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



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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](#).

Maintaining Good Health: [Advice link](#)

Get Coronavirus support as an extremely vulnerable person: [see 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>

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