



Hodge Hill Girls' School

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Ref: sad/bha

9th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Half- term Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2021

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. School will be closed to all pupils during the half term holiday. No work will be set during this week, so we hope that you enjoy a change to your normal school day routine and get out in the fresh air for your daily exercise or take up the opportunity to participate in some of the opportunities shared in the bulletin in recent weeks.

Back to school

Remote learning will continue after the half term holiday until at least 5th March. We await further information about any return to school from 8th March and will share this with you when we can.

Critical worker and vulnerable pupils

School will resume on **Monday 22nd February**. Please ensure that you have completed this by Monday 15th February so that we can plan our staffing in school. We have reduced staffing in school during this time as per government guidance.

- [Parent Survey for in school provision](#)

Free School Meals (FSM)

Free School Meals' vouchers for February half-term will be emailed to parents via School Gateway, along with information on how to redeem these; Birmingham City Council is coordinating the provision for the half-term break and vouchers will come from Sodexo. The voucher value will be £15 for one week. After half-term, Edenred will again be distributing vouchers via email; we had hoped to be able to order these vouchers before half-term but have had recent updates from the DFE and will not now be able to place any orders until after the half-term break. This may mean that vouchers to cover the week commencing 22nd February may not arrive until later that week; we hope that vouchers for week commencing 1st March will arrive on that day or shortly afterwards. We are unable to order vouchers unless your daughter is eligible for Free School Meals and would continue to urge you to check eligibility via the school website particularly if your circumstances have changed recently. The use of different systems for the distribution of Free School Meals' vouchers is beyond the control of the school. As always, we will try and support where we can but please be aware that we will not be able to deal with any queries regarding Free School Meals over the half-term break.

Additional Support

If circumstances at home have changed with regards to access to laptops or other suitable devices for home learning, please ensure that you contact your daughter's Pastoral Manager so that school is aware and we are able to identify if and how we can provide additional support. If you require help with

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increasing data allowances at home, please complete this [survey form](#) and we can request data; please note that completing the form does not guarantee eligibility.

Approachable Parenting

Parents of our school are able to take part in online sessions with a parenting specialist around parenting teenagers. This starts on Thursday 11th February and places can be booked at [approachable parenting](#).

Remote Learning

We are very proud of the very high proportion of students logging on to Class Charts every day. Over the last 7 days 97% of our student population have been regularly accessing their remote learning via Class Charts. We are regularly collecting feedback from students, parents and staff, as we continue to adapt our provision.

In order for your daughter to make progress we set challenging work. We fully appreciate that this means that students will sometimes require some additional support. Student voice last week identified that only 50% of students were contacting their teachers when they needed additional help. If your daughter cannot complete the work set please can you encourage her to email her teachers, who will endeavour to support. Teachers are still in school supporting vulnerable students and children of critical workers so they may not reply straight away, but they will reply as soon as they can.

If you want to monitor how your daughter is progressing with her remote learning - please make use of the Class Charts Parent App. On this you will be able to see positive points awarded for work completed. You will also be able to see the work you daughter has submitted and has been checked by a member of staff. If you have misplaced your parental code, please contact the school office who will be able to help.

If your daughter is unable to continue with her remote learning, - for example, due to ill health - please ensure that you contact school by **8.25am**, or as soon as practically possible, and leave a message with the pupil's name and when you expect that she will be able to resume her learning. This will enable us to ensure that school staff are aware if learning has not been completed.

Thank you again for your continued support throughout this half term as we work together as a community to achieve the best for our students.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Adu
Headteacher