



**THANK YOU**

I think most people would agree that the past couple of weeks since my return to school have kept me quite busy. Whilst I have the very good fortune of being supported by a wonderful staff, it strikes me that there are not many head teachers who are supported so thoughtfully by so many parents in so many ways. Thank you to all of you who have asked after my health, reminded me to take care, emailed me to show your support of and trust in the school. Thank you also to those of you who have just quietly kept going, knowing that we are doing our best and will always place the safety and welfare of our children above anything else.

Given various circumstances, much of this newsletter may seem a little negative. Please understand that the last thing I want to do is just moan, but there are some things that I feel are important for all parents to be clear about.

**COMIC RELIEF**



Thank you for supporting the various fund-raising events which have taken place over the last two weeks and for understanding when they have been postponed because some year group bubbles were isolated. Mrs Collins will be sure to let you know how much we raised when she has totalled all the money raised from the activities which were postponed.

**AN EASTER GIFT FOR ALL CHILDREN**

Before the end of term your child will come home with a crème egg. This is an incredibly thoughtful and generous gift from a parent who wants to recognise that while this has been an incredibly sad year for adults, children have also endured an awful a lot. This parent wishes to remain anonymous, but funding an egg for over 460 children is incredibly generous and I would like to thank her on behalf of all of us at Hall Green.



**SWEARING & FOUL LANGUAGE**

It is not acceptable for anyone to swear or use any type of language that is offensive to others. Whilst there are few people who can honestly say that they never use foul language, it is never acceptable in front of children.

If I hear such language on the playground, I will ask that you stop. Repeated occurrences will result in a warning letter and potentially a ban from the school site.

Please understand that foul language cannot be tolerated under any circumstances, whether as part of light-hearted banter, whether spoken to someone else on the phone, or obviously if in anger or frustration.

Please remain mindful of this at all times and, should you slip, consider apologising to those around you, remembering that slips don't happen more than once if you really are trying!

**HOME TESTING KITS**

Adults in Sandwell who live with school-aged children can get free rapid COVID-19 Home Testing Kits. Follow this link for more information

[Rapid Covid-19 home tests for adults who live with school age children | Sandwell Council](#)

## **POSITIVE COVID TESTS & SYMPTOMATIC CHILDREN**

Having to close more year group bubbles over the last 2 weeks than in the whole of the last 12 months has been incredibly disappointing. Sending children and staff home to endure yet more remote learning, knowing that they have only just returned and have hardly begun to catch up with lost learning, is so worrying.

I have no doubt that the majority of our burst bubbles have been unavoidable. Parents have contacted us as soon as their child or someone in their household has become symptomatic and have let us know of positive test results immediately, meaning that we can close the year group promptly and therefore stop the spread of infection.

However, I have been made aware of at least one case when a family member had a positive result but children were sent to school. In this case, 2 members of staff and one other child have since tested positive. Please remember that by taking the risk of sending children into school under these circumstances or if they are displaying symptoms themselves, you are risking the health and ultimately the lives of all children and staff in that year group and also that of their families.

### **PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF:**

- they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive
- they are showing any of the main symptoms

### **PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IF EITHER OF THE ABOVE ARE TRUE AND IF**

- your child has tested positive. Use school email addresses to contact staff if the result comes during the weekend. Please ensure that you contact us up to and including Good Friday as this will mean that we can continue to stop the spread of infection by informing other families that their children need to isolate.

Email contacts: [kim.heng@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:kim.heng@hallgreenprimary.co.uk)

[alison.gilbert@hallgreenprimary.co.uk](mailto:alison.gilbert@hallgreenprimary.co.uk)

Remember that this is government guidance and failure to comply may result in a fine of £1000 upwards. The longer people break the rules, the longer it will be before we can get some normality back! (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>)

## **HOME LEARNING- THANK YOU**

This lockdown was very different from last summer. The pressure was on us all.

As teachers, we had to learn how best to deliver the curriculum to our children, adapting as we went to try to reach out to everyone including those who loved live lessons; those who refused to take part; those who could access the technology and those who couldn't. Staff worked hard to find different ways to engage and focus children remotely. Unlike most other schools, there were no rotas - all staff came to work every day in order to ensure that provision for those children who came in as well as those who were learning remotely, was able to keep developing and getting better.

However, the challenges faced were not just ours. As parents you were faced with children under lockdown again. This in itself can be challenging enough, but then you were asked to support your children with daily learning, doing the best that you could to help them access a curriculum which is radically different from the one you would have known when you were at school. I cannot thank you enough for the time and effort you have dedicated to your children's home learning. I have no doubt that it was truly challenging at times, but I hope that there were also times when you enjoyed finding inventive ways of getting through the "school day". Thank you.

I also hope that you enjoyed taking part in Mr Turton's daily workouts (I didn't, but my excuse is that I wasn't well!!)

## CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING

I am aware there have been some recent public posts on social media that have caused parents to seek reassurance about safeguarding procedures in the school. I understand that some of you have expressed concern that the school is not sharing information in relation to this, and that this may actually indicate that risks exist in school. The truth is actually the polar opposite and I would like to briefly explain why this is and also what processes are in place to ensure the safety of all children if, for example, there should be the very unusual circumstance of there being an allegation made against an adult in school.

We are instructed by the police, by Sandwell LA and by Children's Services that we must not, under any circumstances, share information about child protection allegations. Once the allegations are being investigated, this includes not discussing the case with those who are making the allegation or those who the allegation is about. Sharing any information could threaten the integrity of an investigation and mean that the police cannot proceed even if there could have been a significant concern. Ultimately, the risks which could result from this are frightening to say the least and the potential harm so great that I/we will never shift on maintaining the stance of complete confidentiality, regardless of how awkward that may seem.

Our policy is on our website. It is updated regularly to ensure that it reflects all safeguarding guidelines. However, I thought it may help to reassure you if I summarise the actions taken following any allegation made by a child against an adult in school. This is a list of actions which has been in place for many years and which is always followed when the allegation indicates that there could be any danger to children. Some of the following actions take place at the same time as each other so that everything is in place without delay:

- If parents were not present when a child makes an allegation, they are called into school and all information is shared as quickly as possible.
- If the allegations are made during school time, the adult is removed from any contact with children immediately. This remains the case until we are instructed otherwise by those agencies involved in investigating the allegations. If allegations are made after the adult has left, the same action takes place.
- A referral to the LADO is made on the same day that the allegations are made. The LADO is the Local Authority Designated Officer responsible for investigating allegations about adults working with children in Sandwell. It is their role not only to co-ordinate an investigation of the adult, but also consider how robust and fit for purpose the school's policies and protocols are.

A referral to the LADO is always made on the day the allegations are made, regardless of the time of day or day of the week.

- If circumstances are such that it is appropriate, the school will contact the police to inform them and/or seek their support. However, if it not appropriate for this to happen, the LADO investigation will automatically involve them.
- Within 24 hours a MASH referral is made for any child making an allegation. MASH is Sandwell's Multi-Agency Sandwell Hub. Referring a child to them means that any action, intervention or support needed can be sought and initiated as quickly as possible

## CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING(Continued)

After these actions have been taken, the school steps back and is led by those agencies investigating. As with any issue concerning children's safety and welfare, should we feel that there is delay, resistance or that support cannot be accessed, we will always prompt other agencies. For example, should it not be possible to access support for a family via the route planned at first we can/will make a second referral to ensure the family is offered what is needed.

Please be assured that we continue to ensure that all checks, policies and protocols are in place to protect your children and, equally importantly, staff are trained to remain vigilant and regularly reminded that this vigilance includes being aware of the behaviour of colleagues or even friends. Some years ago we even installed permanent signs around school providing contact details for the LADO in case anyone preferred to make a private or anonymous referral because they are concerned.

### CALENDAR DATES

After just returning from a lockdown I seem to be just providing you with dates when children will not be in school. I hope that you will understand that dates are set the previous year so that, for example training can be booked. It is very unlikely that we will be able to hold whole school assemblies or to invite parents to school events. If this changes I will of course let you know any important dates as soon as possible.

Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term for pupils
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Training Day – School closed to pupils
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return to school
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Y2, Y5 & Y6 class photos
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Polling Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Training Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents' Evening (virtual or phone calls)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Pupils break up for half term.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Half Term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	The Great British Clean Up week
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Y5/6 Sports Day
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS Sports Day
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3/4 Sports Day
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Y1/2 Sports Day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' assembly & Leavers' party
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Parents' Evening (virtual or phone calls)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Break up for summer holidays
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July to Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Summer Holidays