

October 2020

Ref: ESB/HLD

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst it has been positive to welcome our children back to education, and to have the school reopen in September despite the increasing prevalence of the Covid-19 virus, I know that this half term has been both a time of anxiety and frustration with some pupils having to self-isolate at home.

As you will be aware, there are constant changes to the guidance and advice been provided to schools and the wider community. We continue to work closely with Public Health England, Birmingham City Council and the Department for Education in order to keep everyone as safe as possible within school and the wider community. We will continue to communicate our current procedures and policies to you through letters, texts and the school website (www.yardleys-vle.com).

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

The school's up to date Covid-19 Risk Assessment is available on the VLE: www.yardleys-vle.com.

Face Masks

Due to local restrictions in Birmingham, after half term all pupils will be expected to wear a face mask in communal areas such as corridors, stairways and when queuing for lunch. Whilst pupils will not be required to wear a face mask in lessons, they have the option to wear one if they wish. Please ensure your child has at least one face mask with them every day.

Remote Learning

Homework and the development of the school's VLE has been of great importance and the school has worked hard to improve the home learning experience for its pupils. Pupils in all year groups are able to access weekly homework quizzes, recorded lessons explaining key concepts and instructions and additional resources produced by the school, as well as external providers such as the Oak Academy or BBC. Yardleys has also distributed free text and revision books in English, Mathematics and Science to support pupils with their homework, ensuring both electronic and paper resources are available.

Homework

All pupils should access online lessons via the links available on the VLE: www.yardleys-vle.com. It is important that pupils complete all of their weekly homework tasks on FrogPlay and IXL Maths.

FrogPlay: Students will have 1 quiz per week for each of their subjects. They should try and achieve the highest score they can.

IXL Maths: Students have 4 Maths exercises to do each week (the codes will be listed on the Maths subject page). They should try and achieve above 75% to prove they can do each skill proficiently.

The deadline for completion of homework is on Monday at 9:00 pm every week.

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Year 10/11 Exams and Assessment Week

Year 10 and 11 will start examinations from Friday 4th December. Other year groups (Year 7-9) will all have exams during assessment week between Monday 14th and Thursday 17th December. All pupils will be expected to revise and prepare for these exams and tests both in school and at home.

Parking

Parents are to be reminded that they should not infringe parking regulations or block any neighbouring house entrances whilst waiting to collect children from the school. Police have also been in attendance and issuing fines if and where necessary.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that our school policy states that pupils' mobile phones are completely banned and shall be confiscated if seen or used. In such an event, the school will write to parents or carers in order to collect the device.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 2 nd November 2020	All students return to school
Friday 4 th December – Thursday 17 th December 2020	Year 11 and Year 10 examinations
Monday 14 th December – Thursday 17 th December 2020	Assessment Week for Year 7-9
Thursday 17 th December 2020	Last day of term for students. Dismissal times (following the end of exams and assessment week) are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Year 7 – 12:10➤ Year 8 – 12:00➤ Year 9 – 11:50➤ Year 10 – 11:40➤ Year 11 – 11:30
Monday 4 th January 2021	Training day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	All students return back to school

Thank you for continued support for the school and its pupils. Please do not hesitate to contact the school by telephone on: 0121 464 6821 or email at: enquiry@yardleys.bham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely



MR BRYNLEY EVANS
Headteacher

October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

With the darker nights fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint-approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students, and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

Sadly, this year's Halloween, Bonfire night and the half term break will look very different due to COVID-19, so please be aware of the legislation and rules in place linked to this. Remember it is now a legal requirement to wear a mask on all public transport and within communal areas such as shops, cafes, restaurants and bars and we must maintain social distancing, ensure we abide by the the rule of six, and the bespoke rules for Birmingham regarding entering other people's homes: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice | <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In partnership with the police, we would also like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at their door. Think about how your actions and behaviour affect others; elderly and vulnerable people may be frightened by 'trick or treat' so look out for signs in windows that people do not want callers at their door.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death!
 - West Midlands Fire Service recommends that you go to an organised display; it's the smart way to stay safe. You'll see a lot more fireworks and it's a lot cheaper. Information about firework safety is available at www.saferfireworks.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying a knife will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

Yours sincerely

Brynley Evans
Headteacher
Yardleys School

Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU
West Midlands Police

Stephen Graham
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police

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