

December 2020

Ref: ESB/HLD

Dear Parents and Carers

Whilst it has been extremely positive to see our children learning in school, I realise that this half term has continued to generate concern and anxiety regarding the safety and education of your children. I would like to thank you, as parents or carers and members of the community, for your understanding and support for the school during these difficult times and particularly during periods of self-isolation.

As you will be aware, there are constant changes to the guidance and advice being provided to schools and the wider community. We continue to work closely with Public Health England, Birmingham City Council and the Department for Education to prioritise and uphold the highest standards of safety for pupils, families and staff in line with government policy. The school will continue to communicate with you via letter, text and the VLE in order to keep you updated with any changes or important information.

Covid-19 Updates

School Risk Assessment

The school's most up to date risk assessment is available to read on the VLE at www.yardleys-vle.com.

Year Group 'Bubbles'

The school continues to be organised into 5 separate year group 'bubbles' including staggered start and finish times, breaks and lunchtimes, and separate facilities.

Contact Tracing

Parents and carers should continue to inform the school over the Christmas holiday if your child tests positive for Covid-19 by emailing enquiry@yardleys.bham.sch.uk. After you get a positive test result you may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Symptoms and Self-Isolation

The main symptoms of coronavirus are: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. If someone shows one or more of these symptoms they must get a test as soon as possible and remain at home for 10 days **or** until they have received a negative result. All members of the household must also self-isolate for 10 days if someone has the symptoms or receives a positive test. If the person with symptoms receives a negative test result then there is no requirement to continue to self-isolate. Pupils can return to school if someone in their household develops symptoms but their test comes back negative.

To check your symptoms please visit www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or visit the gov.uk website to book a test. The school continues to work meticulously to keep pupils, parents, staff and the community safe.

Whenever pupils are required to self-isolate as a whole year group, we provide home learning on the VLE which includes:

- A video lesson from your child's teacher in each subject, as well as other resources and activities
- Weekly homework assignments via the FrogPlay and IXL Maths online programmes
- Additional work using the textbooks and revision books provided by the school

Face Masks

As part of the school's precautionary safety measures and consistent with local tier 3 restrictions, face coverings must be worn by pupils and staff in communal areas where social distancing may be difficult to maintain, such as corridors, stairways and whilst queuing for lunch. Pupils are not required to wear a face mask in lessons but have the option to wear one during class if they wish. To ensure your child complies with government and school guidance, it is important that they follow the measures outlined above and have access to a face covering upon entering the school premises, until further notice.

Year 10 Assessment Week

Due to the self-isolation period having been shortened from 14 to 10 days, Year 10 pupils will sit the remainder of their mock exams upon returning to school after half term, between Tuesday 5th January and Wednesday 6th January 2021. It is important that pupils use the Christmas holiday to revise for exams by accessing the home learning links on the VLE, which include GCSEPod, FrogPlay and IXL Maths. Pupils should also complete work from the revision and textbooks provided by the school, as well as BBC Bitesize and the Oak Academy.

Parents and carers will be notified of exam results towards the end of January 2021.

Homework

Homework via FrogPlay and IXL Maths resumes from Tuesday 5th January 2021, with the first deadline being on Monday 11th January at 9:00pm.

Text Messaging

If you do not currently receive text message notifications and reminders from school, please contact Ms O'Donovan on 0121 675 2340 to add or update your contact details as soon as possible.

Uniform

A reminder that pupils must wear their full school uniform including shoes (no trainers). Black trousers or a skirt are required but pupils are not permitted to wear jeans or leggings.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that mobile phones are not allowed to be used in school, and devices will be confiscated if seen by a member of staff. In such an event, parents or carers will be requested to collect the device, after receiving a letter from the school.

Parking

Parents and carers are to be reminded that when collecting or dropping off their children they should not infringe parking regulations or block any neighbouring household entrances. West Midlands Police are aware of this issue and have also been in attendance to issue fines when and where necessary.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 4 th January 2021	STAFF TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	School reopens to all year groups Year 10 pupils start at 9:30am
Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2021	HALF TERM
Monday 22 nd February 2021	Pupils return back to school