



## Hall Green School An Academy

10 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Lockdown drill**

Following the communication from Mrs Paxton-Gault regarding the run through of our lockdown policy, I can confirm the drill carried out this week was carried out smoothly and as expected. Pupils must be congratulated on their conduct which was superb with real maturity being shown to what could potentially be a very frightening situation. Although these types of circumstances are incredibly rare, we do of course have to ensure our whole school community is prepared for them and I am pleased to say this element of our school systems is of a very high standard.

As a reminder for parents/carers, during drills and evacuations for real events, it is vital that our communication channels remain open and so we ask parents/carers not to contact school for updates. Parents/carers also should never contact pupils via mobile phones during the school day, particularly including during an evacuation. Please do ensure the full guidance is followed during a real evacuation:

- *Do not contact the school as calling the school could tie up telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency service providers;*
- *Do not come to the school as you could interfere with access by emergency service providers and may even put yourselves and others in danger*
- *Wait for the school to contact you about when it is safe to come to collect your child, and where this will be from.*

### **Road safety**

As many of you will know, our entrance to school can be congested for the dismissal of over 900 pupils. Some of our pupils also require transport which needs to come onto the school grounds. For this reason, it is vital that pupils who do not need these adaptations ensure they are collected a couple of roads away if being picked up/dropped off. This eases the congestion and makes the road area far safer for all of our pupils.

It is also important to respect our neighbours and I urge parents/carers not to park on or across the drives of local residents, even if just for a short time. Please also ensure engines are not left running.

### **Good attendance matters**

Good attendance in school is vital for pupils to make good progress. As a school, our attendance figures have exceeded the national average and I would like to thank all parents for your efforts this year in ensuring that your child attends school every day that they possibly can. I do need to make you aware of a few points regarding attendance following new statutory guidance from the DFE.

- The school is no longer allowed to authorise absence for visits to the optician. Such appointments should be made outside of school time, as should any other routine medical appointments where it is possible to do so.
- If your child has had to come out of school to attend a medical appointment, we would expect them to return later that day, if at all possible.

- Up to now, our morning register has "closed" at 9.45 am and any lateness after that point has to be counted as half a day of unauthorised absence. From the start of the New Year, the cut-off point will be no later than 30 minutes into the school day, and so any pupil arriving after 9.15 am, unless there is good reason for their absence, will be coded as having half a day of unauthorised absence.
- The school is no longer allowed to authorise any holiday leave in term time. Such an absence would only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances (and coded as C "other circumstances".)

## Newsletter

Please look out for our end of term newsletter that is filled with stories of positivity! Our pupils and staff have worked exceptionally hard this term for which I am grateful and proud in equal measure.

## Last week of term (15-19 July)

There are a number of exciting activities planned for the last week of term.

Monday 15 July – Year 8 Science Fair.

Tuesday 16 July – Year 7 & 8 Sports Day. Years 7 & 8 to wear PE kit.

Wednesday 17 July – Year 9 Sports Day. Year 9 to wear PE kit.

Thursday 18 July – End of Year trips. For those not on the trips, we have a range of exciting activities planned: Pizza making, Warwickshire Cricket Coaching, Art Animations, Drumming Workshops, Artificial Intelligence activities and a Film session. Please note, the school day will finish at **3.00 pm** for those pupils attending school on this day. Pupils in school to wear PE kit or uniform with trainers.

Friday 19 July – Ice creams and ‘Soak the Staff’ through the morning. Pupils will have the opportunity to throw wet sponges at staff volunteers, including myself. This will be a fund raising event, so pupils will need to bring some coin money in to take part.

These activities will culminate on the last day (**Friday 19 July**) with a prize draw for the pupils who have exchanged praise points for the X-Box! In order to claim the prize if their name is drawn out, the pupil must be in school (unless they are a Year 10 on work experience). There will also be a draw for any pupil who attends every day in the last week of term (including attendance on trips) for a £50 Amazon voucher.

On the last day, pupils may wear non-school uniform if they so wish (voluntary donations to House charities through Parent Pay as usual), and will be dismissed at **12.05 pm**.

## Key Dates

Friday 19 July – Break up 12.05 pm for summer holiday

Monday 2 September – INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 3 September – Year 7 begin school at 8.40 am (finish at 3.15 pm)

Wednesday 4 September – Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 return to school at 10.45 am

You will have also received a letter from myself and the Police with reminders about staying safe over the holiday period. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a safe and enjoyable summer break when we break up on **Friday 19 July at 12.05 pm**.

Yours faithfully,



Miss K Slater  
Headteacher

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