



## HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Brake Lane, Hagley, Worcestershire DY8 2XL

Phone: 01562 883193 Fax: 01562 881820

Website: [www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk)

Principal: Mr J Hodgson



Archdiocese of Birmingham

“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,” says the Lord. (Jeremiah 30:17)

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you strength.”  
(Matthew 11:28)

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to yesterday’s letter I write to confirm arrangements from Monday onwards in response to the Government announcement last night that provided clarity on who key workers are and therefore can, should they wish to, send their children to school.

The Government has confirmed that children whose parents fall into the following categories can if they need to send their children to school:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

More detailed guidance and clarity can be found via this link:

[Specific Guidance on Key Worker Groups and Educational Provision](#)

In addition we are open to “*children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).*” (DfE 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

However, the Government has also made clear that “*Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.***” (DfE 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

Therefore, please do not send your child in if you really don’t need to.

However, if your child falls into anyone of these categories and you would like to send your child to school on Monday onwards then please contact school on [attendance@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk) or call school on 01562 883193 and choose the option for reception.

It is imperative that you do this so that we can ensure we have enough staffing resources to provide the care, supervision and education required.

From Monday the school day will run from 9am (although the site will be open from 8am) until 2.40pm. This earlier finish is due to current train timetables suggesting a reduced hourly service and our desire to

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ensure children get a train home before 3pm, rather than risk the approximately 4pm trains being cancelled and then having to wait till approximately 5pm.

Sadly, on Monday there will not be a bus service from Thandi. However, we are working closely with Thandi to establish what provision might be possible on a reduced service basis for those who still need it.

Again, specific queries should go directly to Thandi. Please understand that they are a small business who like everyone else is doing there best in very difficult circumstances.

Students attending school from Monday should still come in uniform but should always bring their PE kit and trainers with them in a separate bag. We plan to be able to offer students access to some sport or exercise each day. Students who are in school will continue to follow the work that has been set on ClassCharts but we will look to offer additional experiences so that they are not sat at a computer all day.

There will be catering in school from Monday, but this will be reduced, and students will need money on their biometric accounts to pay for this. Students are, of course, welcome to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks too. Children who qualify for Free School Meals will be provided for in school.

For those families who qualify for Free School Meals but are not in school we are working hard to ensure that meal vouchers, as promised by Government are available to us and you, and we shall get these to you as soon as possible.

A reminder that we will still continue to offer safeguarding provision and should any parent/carer or student have any safeguarding or welfare concern they can email [saferefuge@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:saferefuge@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk) and the safeguarding team will pick this up and support you as the need requires. We are also developing mental health, safeguarding and home learning planning resources for all students and these will go on to the website by Monday in the Hagley Wellbeing Hub section.

Please be reassured that School remains a safe place for those **limited number** of staff and students that are here, and we will continue to operate sensible and guided measures to ensure this remains the case.

Do stay in touch, be safe and considered, and together we will get through this.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing to you and all your families.

Yours sincerely



J Hodgson  
Principal

### Lockdown by Brother Richard:

Yes, there is fear. Yes, there is isolation.  
Yes, there is panic buying. Yes, there is sickness. Yes, there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.

So, we pray, and we remember that  
Yes, there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes, there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes, there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes, there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes, there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing