



Dear Parents/Guardians

16 June 2020

### **Correspondence with School**

During this unprecedented time, we would like to reassure our school community that we are aware of the struggles and pressures that parents and children are facing whilst school is not open to all pupils. It certainly is a very frustrating situation for us all.

Mrs Kenny and I are receiving regular updates and guidance from the Government and the Department for Education, on the re-opening of schools. We also take into consideration the essential guidance from Unions and Birmingham City Council, which in turn help to inform us of the decision making and planning required in relation to our school provision. We liaise with Governors and the Chair of Governors regularly, as well as meeting with our Senior Leadership team and Head teachers from other local schools. All plans that we put in place take a huge amount of time and effort to organise and sustain.

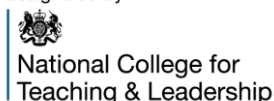
I would like to stress that every one of us working at Boldmere want children to return to school as soon as possible, but only when guidance suggests it is safe to do so for all staff, and pupils alike. There is still lots of ambiguity within the guidance, and as of yet our educational profession has still not been presented with a strategic plan of what the anticipated return to school may look like in September. Obviously this information is essential for our planning, and the circulation of this information is something that is again beyond our control.

The reason for adding this correspondence in today's newsletter is that school are receiving an increasing number of emails from parents which up till now, we have responded personally to. These emails are offering suggestions as to how we can facilitate more contact with children, how we can increase the numbers of children in school or indeed how we could use other local buildings for face-to-face teaching. Whilst we appreciate that parents are trying to be helpful, the implications of some of these suggestions are not fully understood by those not working in our profession. It is not the case for example, that retired teachers can set up learning for Year One children in the local library. There are endless preparations that would be needed to facilitate these proposals, not least of all safeguarding and health and safety requirements.

Mrs Kenny and I are becoming increasingly overwhelmed by the volume of correspondence we are currently receiving, and subsequently responding to on a daily basis. As such, we have made the decision that from today, we will not be replying personally to parental emails on the subject of home learning or the return to school. The time it takes to do so, is detracting from the essential aspects of school leadership that we need to be focusing on during these prolonged challenging times.

Please understand that we always value any correspondence/communication from parents/carers, and whilst we know the importance of working together, we are requesting

**National Teaching School**  
designated by



*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment*

that parents think carefully before sending emails to school. We are following Government advice at all times, and are guided by their recommendations.

Please be assured that we are doing our utmost, within the current staffing capacity, to ensure that provision is the best we can make it for all children.

Thanks again for your understanding and continued support.

### **Keyworker Children Drop Off Time**

A reminder that all keyworker children should come into school at 8.45 am prompt. Some of our children are coming in later than this time. It is very important that children come into school at their allotted time to ensure the safety of our school community.

### **Contacting Children Learning From Home**

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are going to trial a new way of contacting the children that are learning from home via an online video call using Google Classrooms. Please continue to check your Parentmail as more information regarding this will be sent out this week. The new form of communication will take place fortnightly, and will be approximately 40 minutes long. In the Parentmail, you will receive information on how the process will work, how to safeguard your child during the meeting and preparations you will need to set up for the meeting (including logon on to your child's email).

A trial will be carried out this week with half of the children from 4W on Thursday 18 June at 10 am and half of the 3E children on Friday 19 June at 10 am. Please check whether your child will be one of the children we will speak to this week. If your child isn't in the trial this week, they will be contacted next week, along with all other children currently learning from home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Mutch

### **FAO Year 6 Parents/Carers and Children – Secondary Transfer 2020**

A reminder for you to contact the junior school office if your child will **NOT** be attending in September 2020, the secondary school they have been offered by Birmingham City Council Admissions Department, e.g. if you have been successful on Appeal for another school. Please note – **there is no need to contact the junior school office if your child will be attending the secondary school they have been offered by Birmingham City Council Admissions Department.**

### **Baby News:**

Congratulations to Bruce and Kerema Hyatt-Halfpenny on the birth of their son Tao. Mrs Halfpenny is really enjoying being a grandmother. Welcome to the Boldmere family Tao.

## **Reception And Nursery September 2020 Intake**

We will be sending out welcome letters and information packs to all of our new Reception and Nursery children next week. They will be sent home via sibling's currently attending school, hand delivered if possible or posted.

## **School Games Challenges**

A reminder that the School Games Challenges have officially begun and we would like as many of you as possible to represent TEAM BOLDMERE!

The School Games Challenges are a collection of ongoing challenges linked to the School Games developed by the Birmingham School Games Organisers (SGO) and Sport Birmingham. The School Games is a National Initiative open to any young person. It forms part of the legacy work after the London 2012 Olympics and is an opportunity for young people to play, compete and represent their school in a wide range of sports and activities.

Anyone can have a go at the challenge but you must be between 4-16 years old to submit results and attend a Birmingham Educational Institution. This is a great way of keeping fit and active, whilst also having lots of fun!

You can sign up for the School Games at [www.scochallenge.com](http://www.scochallenge.com)

Our school code to enter is: WILSON

Please see the aforementioned website for any further information. Once you have completed the challenge, you can submit your results online; this will form accumulative results for Boldmere Schools as well as giving an individual result.

We hope you enjoy the challenges – Good Luck!

## **Summer Reading Challenge 2020**

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, don't forget to look on the school website under 'Home Learning' – 'General Home Learning Resources and Ideas' – 'English' for the link to the above resources.

C Glasgow  
Executive Head Teacher