

Boldmere Junior School

Weekly Newsletter

A message from Mr Sadler, Head of Junior School

A few very special mentions to start this week's newsletter. First of all, a massive well done to our incredible choir who took part in the Young Voices concert at the NEC last week. We took 78 children in total to the concert, to join the 6000 other children there from schools across the Midlands and even as far as Wales. The children were also joined by a special visitor or two, including none other than Heather Small! The concert itself was nothing short of spectacular, as has been testified by the many parents and family members who attended in support of the children, and was simply a pleasure to be a part of. Without exception, the children represented the school perfectly throughout the afternoon and evening, and we are incredibly proud of them all. At Boldmere, we pride ourselves on the experiences we seek to offer the children and I have no doubts that this will live long in their memories! Publicly, I'd like to express my thanks to all involved in the concert, but particularly the staff that gave up their time freely in support of the children. Special mention especially to Miss Brown who gave up so much of her time in preparation for the event, not just in the sessions that she led in advance of the concert but also in making the necessary arrangements to ensure all went smoothly. Bravo Miss Brown!

As if to highlight the incredibly busy pace of life at Boldmere, we jump straight from 'Young Voices' to young athletes next, with a good number of our children doing an exceptional job of representing our school on the court last week. Of the netball court variety, our Year 5 and 6 netballers took part in a game at Birmingham Met where they competed against Little Sutton. In a hard fought encounter, our children were narrowly defeated but as we have grown accustomed to now, they represented the school with pride and real determination and I know they are very much looking forward to their next fixture in a couple of weeks' time. A switch of court now as some of our Year 6 children were given the opportunity to take part in the first ever (we think) Sutton Schools basketball competition at Bishop Vesey last week. As with their netballing counterparts, the children conducted themselves incredibly throughout the event, striking the appropriate balance between being competitive and respectfully sporting. The success of the children saw them reach what can only be described as a gruelling final, being narrowly defeated by the basketball equivalent of a penalty shootout. Well done to all the children who took part in these events and a huge thanks again to Mr Hill, Miss Pritchard-Jones and to Miss Jackson for giving their time to make this possible.

A short reminder relating to a survey that we are currently running regarding the request /opportunity for parents to contribute in a way other than financially to the wider life of the school through a 'donation in kind'. To date, we have received offers from parents ranging from supporting gardening projects to photography to supporting any design and technology sessions to supporting with and talking to the children about environmental projects: thank you so much, I will be in touch with you all soon. It is the intention to keep the survey open for another week, the link to which is copied below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=o1qZIB4jj0KY5rkBJrERNy4McYFAlfNEjga3-UkIGCFUMzZQMVPDTjBaU1I5WTNOUIhLNVdORJCUS4u>

Finally from me, an important reminder that due to strike action tomorrow Wednesday 1st February, the following classes will be **closed**: 3U, 3M, 4Q, all Year 5 classes, 6F and 6PJ and in the BIB KM (Miss Martin's class).

The only classes that will be attending school are 3P, 4H, 4RW, 6J and in the BIB LK (Mrs Kinsella's class).

Although it may seem that some year groups are disproportionately affected by this, it is predominantly a consequence of the fact that staff across both schools are represented by different unions and of all the teaching unions, the only one that met the threshold to take industrial action is the NEU. I would also like to state on record that I am grateful that staff making the difficult decision to strike have shown both respect and consideration in advising school leaders of their intentions beforehand thereby enabling us to make the arrangements we have done; this is not something they were obligated to do.

We are not able on this occasion to provide specific activities for classes not in school, however to support with online learning, should you wish to, please use the links below. The first will provide a link to the school website where the termly overviews for each year group are displayed, the second is the Oak National Academy which provides online, subject specific lessons.

<https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk/curriculum/ks2-year-groups>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year>

Spring term parents' evenings

A reminder that the dates and details of our spring term parents' evenings were shared recently and parents have already begun taking the opportunity to book an appointment with their child's teacher. Appointments will be conducted remotely via video call, the details for which are included in the letter shared last week.

For the majority of the school, appointments are offered on either Wednesday 8th February or Tuesday 28th February. Mrs Hannan will be holding parents' evening for parents of children in 4H on either Wednesday 1st February or Wednesday 8th February slightly differently as a consequence of her upcoming maternity leave.

Medication required during the school day

If your child needs to take any medication during the school day this **MUST** be given by a parent or responsible adult to the School Office and complete a consent form for the medication to be administered by school staff.

Any prescribed medication must be in the original packaging which has a chemist label with your child's name on it.

Non-prescribed medication such as Calpol, cough medicine, Strepisils and eye drops should also be in the original container or box and can be given once a consent form has been completed.

Please **do not** send any medication with your child or in their bags.

Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies

The deadline for ordering hoodies is Friday 3rd February. Please place any orders by this date via the link below:

<http://www.sportologyonline.com/collections/boldmere-school>

Kickstart Holiday Club

Kickstart Academy will again run a holiday club during the February half-term break. The link below will take you to the booking information and further details offered by the club.
<https://www.theksagroup.co.uk/venues#WestBromwich> (scroll down to Boldmere)

Parents should note that Kickstart offer a reduced rate for bookings/payment made by 10th February.

Celebration Assembly w/c 30/01/23

Congratulations to our Values Ambassadors and House point winners:

3U	Grace	5W	Harry
3P	Zaina	5CS	Siena
3M	Henry	5B	Manthan
4RW	Lucy	6F	Katie
4Q	Ava	6J	Chloe
4H	Chayce	6PJ	Charlotte



Tweet of the Week



Federation of Boldmere Schools
@BoldmereSchools

5W are having their memory put to the test this afternoon! After a quiz of our historical learning, we have used our glossaries to unpick written accounts of the time when the Vikings raided Britain, comparing the different perspectives of Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and monks.



15:01 - 30 Jan 23

Attendance

Last week's attendance for the school was 95.8%. Our target each week is 97%

The classes with the best attendance and gaining the attendance leaf for our tree were 6F & 3M.

This terms' standings for attendance are as follows:

Week	Class
Week 1	6J and 3M
Week 2	6F and 3M
Week 3	6F and 3M
Week 4	3U
Week 5	
Week 6	
Week 7	

Childcare Choices Campaign

Over a million families in the UK are entitled to support with the costs of childcare from the government, but many are missing out because they do not realise they are eligible. The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of the support available from the government with the costs of childcare. You can support the campaign and help ensure your parents and carers aren't missing out by directing them to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk where they can easily find the right offers of childcare support for them.

They could be entitled to:

- up to £2,000 a year of Tax-Free Childcare per child (or £4,000 if disabled) for children up to 11, or 17 if they're disabled
- help with up to 85% of their childcare costs for children up to 16 with Universal Credit
- 30 hours of free childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds if they're a working family in England.

Government childcare financial support is not limited to just nurseries and childminders, depending on eligibility criteria, this support could be used for breakfast clubs, after-schools clubs, activity clubs, holiday clubs, and play schemes.

The Department for Education has also developed a [parent toolkit](#) that provides social posts and assets for use on your social media (if applicable) to inform parents and carers of the support available and ensure they aren't missing out.

Busy Bodies

February booking form

Booking forms are available from the Busy Bodies desk, junior school reception area or online via the schools website. Please return your forms by this Wednesday 1st February, and your fees must be paid by this Friday 3rd February.

Kindly check your child's ParentPay account to ensure that your fees are paid and up to date as of the month of January. We will deduct your February fees on the week commencing Monday 6th February onto the ParentPay system.

Strike day

We are pleased to inform our parents/ carers that should your child/ren are not able to attend school this Wednesday 1st February due to possible strike actions, Busy Bodies will reimburse your fees to your child's ParentPay account. This can then be used towards future payments such as your February or March fees.

Some parents have already informed us that their children will not be attending and we are aware of the possible classes that may be affected. Your fees will be reimbursed by the end of the week, should you have any questions do not hesitate in contacting the Manager.

Boldmere Inclusion Base (BIB) News

Celebrations

LK- **Theo** for completing fabulous spelling and phonics work.

KM- **Hayden** for always having a positive attitude to learning.

BIB Attendance

We will be focusing on attendance over the coming weeks in the BIB. If your child is absent please make sure you call the main school offices to let them know. **Junior Office** 0121 464 3656

KM attendance this week **94.29% Well done KM!!**

LK attendance this week **91.43%**

News

We are very excited this week to begin working with Mrs. Adams and Benny her dog, from Pets As Therapy. Some of you will have received consent letters asking for permission for your child to take part. Thank you for returning these so quickly. If it proves successful, we will be inviting other children to take part.

Over the coming weeks, the BIB will be welcoming an Associate Teacher, Miss Lupson, will be with us until the end of March.

As you will be aware, we have been lucky enough to have PC Duncan Long supporting us in the BIB. He has spoken to the children about road safety and accompanied us out in the community to look at safe places to cross. In the future, we intend for him to speak to the older BIB children about Internet Safety.

Over the last year we have begun to go out into the community more and take trips to the local library and into Birmingham City center on the train. With these things in mind, we would like to ask you if there are any experiences, or things you would like your children to learn about, outside of the academic curriculum.

Please send any ideas via the BIB email: bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRIVE CAREFULLY AND PARK
RESPECTFULLY OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL AND ON OUR
NEARBY ROADS**

Diary Dates – School Term Dates 2022-2023

Wednesday 1st February

Class 4H parents' evening

Wednesday 8th February

Parents' evening

Wednesday 15th February – Friday 17th February

Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes Residential

Friday 17th February

Children break-up for February half-term

Monday 27th February

Children return to school

Tuesday 28th February

Parents' evening

Friday 31st March

Children break-up for Easter

Monday 17th April

Children return to school

Monday 1st May

May Day Bank Holiday – School closed

Monday 8th May

King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday – School closed

Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May

Year 6 SATs test week (further detail to follow for children and parents in Year 6)

Friday 26th May

Children break-up for half-term

Monday 5th June

Children return to school

Friday 21st July

Children break-up for summer holidays

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th July

INSET days – school closed to children

Boldmere Junior School

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Email: enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk>