

# Boldmere Junior School

## Weekly Newsletter

### **A message from Mr Sadler, Head of Junior School**

Just a short opening from me this week, primarily to share a brief overview of what is happening in school this week. I will start however with a special mention for Mrs Hannan who has literally just left us albeit temporarily as she begins her maternity leave ahead of the expected arrival of her second child next week. On behalf of us all but particularly the children in class 4H, good luck Mrs Hannan. We look forward to seeing you back soon!

This week marks children's mental health week with the theme of 'Let's Connect'. There is specific reference to this shared below, written by Mrs Welch, our designated mental health lead for the school. I would just like to draw your attention though to this Friday's *dress to express* day. As is implied in the title, both staff and children are encouraged to set aside the school uniform and instead dress in something different that they feel comfortable in. This may include something they feel expresses who they are, or even who they want to be – the world is their oyster...but be mindful that it is still February and is likely to be quite chilly on Friday so I for one am going to have to save the beach shorts for another day!

This week also sees safer internet day, with learning based around the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. As part of this theme, children will have an assembly during the week with this as the focus. Mr Hill is also in the process of arranging an online parent workshop from the NSPCC with key information around e-safety parenting and safer internet use. More information in regards to this will follow in due course.

Year 3 will have the opportunity this week to perform their singing showcase, with a dress rehearsal being shown for the school to view on Wednesday, followed by performances for their family members on Thursday and Friday. Good luck Year 3 – I am sure I speak on behalf of all of the year three parents and family members in wishing you all the very best ahead of the performance. All ticket requests have been processed with parents guaranteed the initial two tickets that were requested. Where requests have been made for additional tickets, these will be allocated if available, with parents notified accordingly.

Finally, just a heads up that next week's newsletter will look a little different as we trial a modified, electronic version that we think will be easier to read, particularly on tablets or other devices! Watch this space...literally! If you do not currently receive the newsletter via Parent Mail, please inform the school office so we can add your email address to the Parent Mail system.

### **Children's Mental Health Week 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February**

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme is 'Growing Together'.

As part of this week we will have 'Dress to express day' on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February in which we are encouraging children, staff and families to use clothing and colour to express themselves during the day. There for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February is a non-uniform day. Dress to express is linked to the charity organisation Place2Be and as such we have set up a fundraising link for anyone who would like to support them.

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/boldmere-junior-school?utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=boldmere-junior-school&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share&utm\\_term=9efbb4612c7144b6b644e424d88aef0e](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/boldmere-junior-school?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=boldmere-junior-school&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=9efbb4612c7144b6b644e424d88aef0e)

During the week we will be looking at growing together and using some of the Place2Be resources for some of our session. We will also have a 'Wellbeing Drop in' areas throughout the week.

Place2Be has a lot of resources which may be of use and their area called 'Parent Smart' has 5 min read articles on a wide range of wellbeing and parenting topics from areas such as boundaries, meal times, supporting talents and social media. Here is the link to this area: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

### **Eco-Garden area by Year 3 'Pick-up'**

Please could you remind your children that they are not permitted to play in the area by Year 3 'pick-up'. This is our school's Eco-Garden and regrettably, there has already been damage caused.

It is a matter of safety that the pick-up areas are used to collect your children and not areas to play after school.

### **Dogs for Good Charity Visit – Donations Appreciated**

A volunteer from Dogs for Good will be coming into school on Thursday to speak with all pupils about their charity that make life-changing differences for people with disabilities through the power of expertly trained dogs. Mya, a lovely black Labrador puppy, will also be visiting and meeting some of the children.

We will be doing a cash collection for Dogs for Good on Thursday, if you are able to make a small donation this would be greatly appreciated!

For further details about the charity please see their webpage: <https://www.dogsforgood.org/>

### **Year 3 Singing Showcase - Important Information**

**All seats booked via the online form have been reserved as requested – please arrive 10 minutes before your performance.**

#### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

The performance will begin at 5.30pm, please ensure that children are in school for 5pm. Their costumes will be in school. The performance should end at approximately 6.30pm. Children will get changed in their classrooms and leave their costumes in school for Friday's performance. You can pick the children up from the Year 3 'pick-up' area.

#### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

The performance will begin at 2pm. Their costumes will be in school. The performance should end at approximately 3pm. If you are coming to watch this performance, you may take the children home straight after (and their siblings). If you intend to take your child home, please wait in the Year 3 'pick-up' area after the performance and your children will be sent to meet you.

We look forward to seeing you at the shows!

### **Addresses and Contact Numbers**

In case of emergencies please ensure the School Office are informed via email of any changes to your child's:

- Home Address
- Parent/Carers Email Addresses
- Mobile Numbers
- GP surgery name/telephone number
- Emergency contacts

## Celebration Assembly w/c 06/02/23

Congratulations to our Values Ambassadors and House point winners:

3U	Leah
3P	James
3M	Haifa
4RW	Ayla
4Q	Hettie
4H	Alexander

5W	Ted
5CS	Kiara
5B	Jack
6F	Tabitha
6J	Daniel
6PJ	Alexandra

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> February.

## Tweet of the Week



## Attendance

Last week's attendance for the school was 95.5%.

Our target each week is 97% (Please note, any children whose attendance was affected by strike action are not penalised for this).

The class with the best attendance and gaining the attendance leaf for our tree was 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	3M
Week 6	
Week 7	
Week 8	
Week 9	
Week 10	
Week 11	
Week 12	

## 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](http://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.

## Boldmere Inclusion Base (BIB)

### Celebrations

LK- **Shane**, for working hard with his handwriting and getting 5/5 with his spellings.

KM- **Taylor**, for demonstrating empathy and kindness with his class mates.

### Attendance for the week ending February 3rd

LK **77.14%**

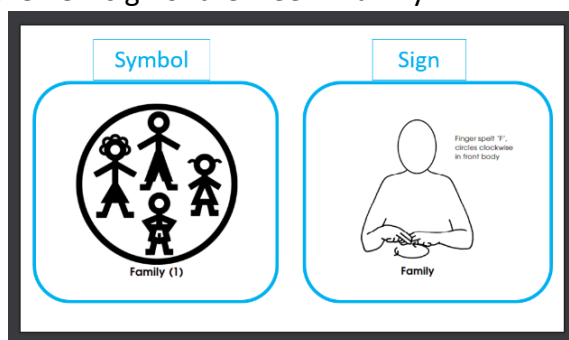
KM **98.21%**

If you have any ideas regarding trips, experiences or learning opportunities you feel that your children would benefit from that are not already in our curriculum, please remember to email [boldmere-contact@bham.sch.uk](mailto:boldmere-contact@bham.sch.uk)

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> is World Book Day.** The BIB will be reading and sharing the story, 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. If they wish to, your child can come dressed in their favourite colour to represent a coloured crayon.

### Makaton sign of the week

Please look out on Twitter for the new sign of the week. 'Family.'



## **Busy Bodies**

### **February booking form**

Please note that February booking forms were due in last Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February and fees were due in by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Currently, there are around 30 booking forms remaining outstanding, the Busy Bodies Manager has send out reminder emails yesterday. A huge thank you to all who have responded promptly.

Should you not require care for this month, please inform the Busy Bodies Manager.

**Planned strike action** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March (**on your February booking form**) is likely to be a day of strike action; we will keep you informed should there be any changes to our normal working patterns.

Please be aware that we have reimbursed all families that were booked to attend Busy Bodies on 1<sup>st</sup> February. This has been credited to your child's ParentPay account for you to utilise on future Busy Bodies payment. Some families have opted to swop this session to another date, this is acceptable, and parents have been informed of this change.

**Key work meeting- On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** we will be carrying out our half-termly key work session with our children. This gives all who attend an opportunity to engage in a planned activity with their key workers (Play Leaders), and allow the staff and children to get to know each other better. Some of the activities include a fun quiz, biscuit decoration, flag making and much more.

**Disco night-** We plan to have a **disco themed afternoon on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**.

Children can participate in karaoke, dancing, face painting and just having some fun.

Parents please note that children are able to bring in a change of clothes should they wish to for the afternoon session only.

Kindly ensure that all clothes are named and labelled in a bag. This can be given to a Busy Bodies member of staff or simple put into your child's book bag should they be booked in for Tuesday afternoon.

A reminder that should you wish for your child not to participate in face painting for any reason including allergies, please inform the Busy Bodies Manager prior to next Tuesday afternoon. Thank you all for your kind support throughout.

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



A new addition to our newsletter today and one born from our Health for Life programme, led by Mrs Churchill and her School Councillors. We will be posting periodic recipes suggested (and trialled) by children, the first of which has been shared by Ava in Y6. Give it a try!



Boldmere's  
Better Bites!



### Italian Meatballs with Chunky Tomato Sauce.

#### Ingredients

##### Meatballs

- 500g pork or beef mince (less than 10% fat) or 250g of each
- ½ medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and finely grated
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- 1 tsp sunflower oil
- Freshly ground black pepper

##### Tomato sauce

- 2 tsp sunflower oil
- ½ medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 100ml red wine or water

200ml cold water



Ava's finished dish looks delicious!

#### Method

To make the meatballs, put the mince in a large bowl and add the onion, carrot, garlic, oregano, salt and lots of freshly ground pepper. Mix with clean hands until everything is well combined, then shape the mixture into 24 small balls; they should be slightly smaller than a walnut in its shell.

Pour the oil in a large non-stick frying pan or sauté pan and fry the meatballs over a medium heat for 5 minutes. Keep turning and rolling the meatballs around the pan until lightly browned, then transfer them to a plate.

To make the sauce, pour the sunflower oil into a medium non-stick saucepan and add the onion. Fry for 4 minutes, stirring regularly, then add the garlic and fry for 1 minute more.

Tip the tomatoes, red wine and water into the pan and bring to a gentle simmer. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring regularly. Add the browned meatballs to the sauce and bring back to simmer.

Cover the pan loosely with a lid and leave the meatballs to simmer gently in the sauce for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. After 20 minutes, remove the lid and continue simmering gently for another 15-20 minutes or until the sauce is thick. Stir often and add a little extra water if the sauce reduces too quickly. Serve hot with a small portion of pasta or lots of freshly cooked vegetables.

## **Diary Dates – School Term Dates 2022-2023**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Class 4H parents' evening

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Parents' evening

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes Residential

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Children break-up for February half-term

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Children return to school

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Parents' evening

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Children break-up for Easter

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Children return to school

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

May Day Bank Holiday – School closed

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday – School closed

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

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

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Children break-up for half-term

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Children return to school

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

Children break-up for summer holidays

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

INSET days – school closed to children

**Boldmere Junior School**

**Cofield Road**

**Sutton Coldfield**

**B73 5SD**

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**Email: [enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)**

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