



No 13 8 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been lovely to see so much fun in school! Children have been taking part in a wide range of curriculum activities such as virtual meetings with an author, designing fairground rides and moon rovers and house events to name a few. Head over to our twitter to see more of the wonderful things we are getting up to here in Boldmere. The children continue to amaze us with their enthusiasm, resilience and their smiles as they arrive at school each day. Thank you for working with us to follow guidelines and keep our school community as safe as we can whilst we continue to remain in tier 3.

Mrs Silverwood

As you are aware, Mrs Silverwood has officially retired from her post as Head of School at the juniors with effect from 31 December 2020.

Despite her imminent departure from her role, we have been absolutely delighted to welcome Mrs Silverwood back to school today. We arranged for Mrs Silverwood to return for 4 days prior to Christmas to allow us to be able to draw a fitting end and celebrate all she has given in her leadership roles at Boldmere.

You may recall in my previous communication that I mentioned it was not all ‘doom and gloom’ and that Mrs Silverwood would be working in school in a very different capacity. I am delighted to be able to inform you that Mrs Silverwood’s skills are going to be utilised for two days a week in a teaching capacity. We are sure that she will prove to be a valuable addition when continuing to deliver intervention groups as part of our ongoing ‘catch up’ strategy.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with Mrs Silverwood in this capacity. Thank you Mrs Silverwood!

Acting Assistant Head Teachers

I am really pleased to announce Mrs Mutch and Mr Hill will be our Acting Assistant Head Teachers with immediate effect!

We are very fortunate to be able to have both of them step into these positions. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them as they work exceptionally hard in their SLT roles and this is a great opportunity for them and the school.

Report Cards

Alongside our focus on wellbeing and transition, our curriculum leaders and teachers have created a recovery curriculum to provide children with support that is adaptable and responsive to the children's needs and varying starting points after the National Lockdown.

In the Junior School, our parents' evening phone calls were focused on children's wellbeing and how they had settled into school life. Therefore, we have created a very simple report card which will give you a snap shot of where your child is currently working against the curriculum. This will be sent home on Friday 11th December. We also recognise we cannot share books with you in the way we usually would on a parents' evening, so have attached a piece of work that your child is proud of. This is chance for you to talk with your child about school and the learning that has taken place.

We can assure you we are working exceptionally hard to make strategic decisions about our catch-up provision throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Lateness

We have a number of children regularly coming into school late in the morning. May we remind parents/guardians of the importance of ensuring that your child arrives in school at their allotted times. This will ensure that we do not mix bubbles and your child is in class promptly, ready for when lessons commence.

A reminder of the start times for your child's class bubble. **Registration will take place 5 minutes after the start time. Please ensure your child arrives in time for registration and the start of the lesson:**

Year 4 -	8.40 am – Registration at 8.45 am
Year 6 -	8.45 am – Registration at 8.50 am
Year 3 -	8.50 am – Registration at 8.55 am
Year 5 -	8.55 am – Registration at 9.00 am

The Online Christmas Fair and Elfridges

A huge thank you to the PTA for their hard work and dedication in making the Online Christmas fair and Elfridges successful once again, despite the current restrictions. It was appreciated by everyone at school.

Music Lessons in school

We have been liaising with the music service regarding the provision of music lessons in school in the Spring term 2021. A letter has been sent out to the parents/guardians of all existing music children to establish if your child wishes to continue with their lessons. Please ensure you return your slip to the office, if you have not already done so.

We have also sent out a letter to the parents/guardians of children in year 3 regarding music lessons. If your child is in year 3 and is interested in receiving music lessons, please fill in the slip at the end of that letter and return it to the school office, preferably via email, by Friday 11 December. These lesson are fee paying. **Please also note that places will be limited and not all children showing an interest will be offered a place.**

National School Flu Vaccination Programme Update

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have been advised by commissioners that we can now approach parents to request expressions of interest with regards to an offer of inactivated influenza vaccine to children whose parents refuse live attenuated influenza vaccine due to the porcine gelatine content.

The offer of this vaccination will be delivered in a clinic setting. This offer will be dependent on both vaccine availability and the capacity within the Immunisation Team to deliver this offer at short request.

We would be grateful if you could advise any parents interested in their child receiving the alternative vaccination to contact the Immunisation Team on: **Tel: 0121 466 3440**

This information will also be available on Immunisation Team flu website:

<https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-public/children-and-young-people/services-parent-portal/immunisation-services/flu/>

Christmas Card Orders - PTA

If you have not received your child's Christmas card order by tomorrow, please contact the school office asap.

Forthcoming Events

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2020

11th December- Festive Jumper day- donations can be made via Parentpay.

15 December- Christmas packed lunch in school.

18th December – School breaks up for Christmas holidays.

Spring Term 2021

4th January- Professional Development day – school closed to all pupils.

5th January- School re-opens to all pupils.

12th February- Break up for half term holidays.

22nd February- School re-opens to all pupils.

1st April- Break up for Easter holidays.

Festive Jumper Day – Friday 11 December 2020

This year we are taking part in Festive Jumper Day to support the hospital charity helping to support patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Heartlands Hospital, Good Hope Hospital and Solihull Hospital.

We are inviting children to wear a Christmas jumper (if they have one) or alternatively a brightly coloured jumper instead of their normal school jumper or cardigan. We ask that they wear the rest of their school uniform as usual. If you wish to make a donation we will ensure this is forwarded to the hospital charity on your behalf. Donations can be made via Parentpay. Let's join in the festive fun!

Christmas Packed Lunch – Junior School – Tuesday 15 December 2020

If you have sent in an email to order a Christmas Packed Lunch please ensure your ParentPay account is in credit. Please ensure you do send an email to the office, otherwise we will not know that you require us to order a Christmas packed lunch for your child on that day. This also applies to those children who are eligible for free school meals.

Yr 4 - Whitemoor Lakes Residential Trip – February 2021 - Cancelled

We have been liaising with Whitemoor Lakes regarding the residential trip for year 4 in February 2020. **We are now able to confirm that due to government guidelines and Covid-19 restrictions regarding residential trips, this trip will NOT be going ahead.** We are, however, organising a day trip to Whitemoor Lakes later on in the academic year and will be sending you details before the end of this term. This trip is available to the whole of year 4.

Yr 6 - Kingswood Trip

As you are already aware, due to government guidelines and Covid-19 restrictions with residential trips, we had to cancel year 6's residential trip to Kingswood at the beginning of this term. However, we are pleased to advise that Kingswood are offering us the opportunity for a day trip in May/June. We will be sending out further details as soon as possible regarding these day trips, including the cost and information regarding refunds, where applicable. This trip is available to the whole of year 6.

New Winter Reading Challenge From The Library

Over the summer holidays, the Reading Agency always run a summer reading challenge through the local libraries. This year, they have launched a winter reading challenge for over the Christmas holidays. It is easy to join online by visiting <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2020>. The challenge asks children to read 3 books of their choice. Once they have completed their reading, you can print off a certificate and download a virtual medal. If you want some 'new reads', remember that Boldmere Library is now open on a Tuesday and Thursday 9am-4pm.

Busy Bodies

To all our Busy Bodies parents, just a quick update on our current situation regarding extra sessions and booking forms.

- Please do not drop your child off at BB in the morning if your child is not booked in and you have not called prior, to see if we can accommodate, as this could result in us having to contact you to return & collect your child, due to staffing and health & safety of all our children
- **Booking forms – Please return your forms by the date specified in the school newsletter. We always inform you at least two weeks prior that these are available to download or collect. This is followed up by another reminder a week before they are due in and a final reminder the day before the due date. If you have any problems, please contact us as we will always try to help and accommodate you. Late booking forms, as has happened this month, will be subject to our limited capacity and may result in places being unavailable.**
- **JANUARY BOOKING FORMS** will be available to download or collect from BB staff from Monday 14th December. These can be returned any time prior to school closure on 18th December or by Wednesday 6th January 2021 following children's return on Tuesday 5th January (the first week back has already been included on your December booking form). We will **not** be debiting January fees until w/c 11th January, it is only your requirements for your child's place that we need the booking form to plan for staffing etc.

- **Waiting list** – Many apologies to parents on our waiting list, if you have been reading our newsletters you will have read that we are at capacity and unfortunately there is no movement with BB at this present time. We will update you further when and if this situation changes.

PTA

Thank you everyone that visited our virtual online Christmas Fair. It ended last night and we will let you know the total raised as soon as everything has come in. If you have won one of the hampers you will receive an email informing you of this, please make payment online as soon as you receive the email so we are able to get your winning hamper to you before Christmas. All purchases and winnings will be delivered via your child, through the school.

The year group 2020 Tea towels, to celebrate this very strange year, will remain online to order but please order as soon as possible as these will come offline shortly www.pta-event.co.uk/boldmere The completed tea towels will be delivered in the New Year.

Covid-19 Related Information

We ask parents/guardians to continue to check the schools' website for up to date information relating to Covid-19.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Welch
Acting Head of School