



No 14 15 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

This is our last week in school before we break up for the Christmas holiday on Friday (18 December) at 12.30 pm. The children will be taking part in a number of festive activities this week, including the Christmas Packed lunch today and their class Christmas parties tomorrow afternoon.

We take this opportunity to wish all our Boldmere families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 5 January 2021** (Monday 4 January 2021 is a Professional Development Day in school and is only open to the staff).

Message from Mrs Silverwood

Dear Parents and Carers and our incredible children (past and present).

For the past 18 years, Boldmere has been a huge part of my life. It has become part of who I am. Part of my heart. My own children have grown from pre-schoolers into strong, independent young women during my time here. As I have watched my own children grow and thrive, I have had the privilege to watch yours do the same and have hopefully played a small part along the way.

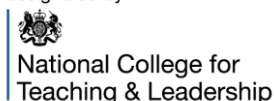
I love Boldmere. I love your children. It is with the heaviest of hearts that I say goodbye as Head of School. Leaving my role has been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make. I cannot thank you as parents and carers enough for the support you have given the school and myself personally. We have laughed together, seen incredible changes together and watched your children play, laugh and learn together.

I could write a book – a trilogy – of all the incredible memories that your amazing children have created within me. Memories I will treasure always.

My time as Deputy Head Teacher and Head of School has come to an end, but I am lucky enough to be able to continue to work with your children, going back to what I love most – teaching. I look forward to working with many of them in the future.

I would like to say a final ‘thank you’ to you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Covid-19

We would like to thank all parents/carers for their co-operation during class bubble isolations this term. We do however, continue to need your support as we break up for the Christmas holidays.

If your child becomes unwell with Covid-19 symptoms after Friday 18th December, please follow Government guidelines and book a test immediately. Your child and everyone in the household must isolate until results of the test are received. It is vital that you **make contact with school** to inform us of any illness and subsequent tests results. We have a duty to ensure that we work with Track and Trace to identify all possible contacts that any children may have had at school, in the 48 hours prior to displaying symptoms. This may include contacts during the final few days at school this week. Please email the enquiry address to notify us of this information. Should other children/staff be identified as close contacts, they will be notified by parentmail.

Government guidance has now indicated that the period of isolation for any contact with a positive Covid-19 case is reduced from 14 days to 10 days.

If your child becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms prior to school returning on 5th January, please update school with the information and follow Government guidelines for booking a test and isolating.

Self Isolation Guidelines – Important Information

See attached information we received yesterday afternoon regarding the above.

Extra-curricular activities

As we continue to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are unfortunately not able to offer lunchtime clubs (from external sports clubs) for the Spring term. We will review our decision during the start of the Spring term. As mentioned above the junior school are liaising with the Music Service to see if we can accommodate music lessons safely in school during the Spring term and we will confirm the start date at the beginning of next term with parents/guardians.

Attendance

We would like to thank all children for their great attendance during this term. We have had many weeks where certain classes have 100% attendance! The overall attendance for school is 97.54%, so a big well done to everyone. However, please can we issue a reminder to parents/carers that school must be informed of any absences from school as a result of trips abroad. Please can we stress the importance of being honest with absences from school. We have a safeguarding duty to ensure the safety of all children at school and I would much rather be told the truth than carry out home visits when we have been unable to make contact.

Lateness

A reminder that we continue to 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

Music Lessons in school

As mentioned in last week's newsletter 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 are hoping to commence lessons with the music service during the spring term, however, **we are awaiting confirmation of this.** As soon as we have a commencement date, we will send out a Parentmail to parents/guardians.

Free School Meal Vouchers – Christmas Holiday

A reminder that the COVID Winter Food Fund (Government scheme covering FSM over 2 week Christmas period), will be sent out on Wednesday 16th December 2020.

All vouchers will be distributed via 'Edenred' on behalf of school. Due to the volume of vouchers going out across the country there may be a delay in the vouchers reaching you, so please be patient and a reminder to check your spam/junk email as vouchers may appear in those folders.

If you are having issues with using the Edenred system, you can contact them direct:

Phone - 0333 400 5932

Email - freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com

Forthcoming Events

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2020

15 December- Christmas packed lunch in school.

16 December – Class Christmas Parties – information sent via Parentmail yesterday

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.

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

As stated in last week's newsletter, the residential trip has been cancelled. A letter will be sent out in the spring term providing information regarding a day trip to Whitemoor Lakes which will be offered to all children in year 4. At present, we are negotiating the dates and the cost. As soon as we have this information we will let parents/guardians know and will

deal with any necessary refunds at that stage. Should you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yr 6 - Kingswood Trip

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, Kingswood are offering the opportunity for children in year 6 to take part in a day trip in May/June. We will be sending out further details at the beginning of the spring term, 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

Well, we finally got here! Christmas week, full of fun activities and crafts for your children to enjoy their final week, even if it is in class bubbles.

We would like to take this time to wish all our families' a special family Christmas and thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding during these continued very challenging times. Stay safe and have a lovely time.

All our best wishes the Busy Bodies Team

January Booking form ☺ Here we go again!

Booking forms are now available to download or collect from Busy Bodies desk. These can be returned anytime up until the 18th December when school closes and no later than Wednesday 6th January. These fees will not be debited until w/c 11th January, at this point we just need numbers due to our ongoing limited capacity. Please ensure your December fees have been cleared before sending in a January booking form as we will be unable to accept your booking until previous fees are cleared. As always please contact us if you need help or support.

PTA News

We hope your kids are enjoying the chocolate gift that the PTA sent to the school this week. We know it's been a really tough year for the kids. The PTA were happy to donate a selection box for every single child in the school. We hope you enjoy them.

The year group 2020 Tea towels to celebrate this very strange year, will remain online to order. Order now at www.pta-events.co.uk/boldmere for delivery in the new year.. A perfect gift for your little one to remember their class of 2020, more details are attached.

We are pleased to announce that with the virtual Christmas Fair, along with Elfridge's and the fabulous Christmas cards, have raised over £3,000 for the schools. We would like to thank everyone that donated and everyone that made a purchase. We would like to send out a HUGE thank you to the fantastic parents that have taken so much time, effort and energy to organise the virtual Christmas Fair, the Christmas cards and Elfridges. This year was very different, it was a huge task and we don't want those extra efforts to go unnoticed. Thank you to an amazing team.

If you would like to join our team we would love to welcome you in. Look out for Invitations to our meetings, join our mailing list by emailing boldmere.pta@gmail.com.

We would like to sign off wishing you all the most amazing Christmas. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Community News

Community News:

Local Food bank Information

Food4U : United reform Church, Brassington Avenue, B73 6AA

Sutton Foodbank, Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church Centre, The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TA.

Erdington Foodbank, Six Ways Baptist Church, Wood End Road, B24 8AD. Thursday 12.00-2.00pm

Email: wunnay@btinternet.com Jean Morton 07474683927

Erdington Foodbank, George Road Baptist Church, George Road, B23 7RZ. Tuesday 12.00-2.00pm

Email: wunnay@btinternet.com Jean Morton 07474683927

Great Barr Food bank. St Bernard's Church, Broome Avenue, B43. Tuesday 12.00-2.00pm and Friday 12.00-2.00pm

Email: info@greatbarr.foodbank.org.uk 0121 357 5399

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Welch
Acting Head of School