

The Federation of Boldmere Schools

Cofield Road • Sutton Coldfield • B73 5SD

Our Vision: The Federation of Boldmere Schools empowers all children to embrace learning; achieve their personal best; and build their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Dear Parents/Guardians

21 April 2020

Firstly, we hope all of our school community, families and friends are continuing to stay safe during the ongoing challenges that we are all faced with. It still seems very surreal as we enter the third week of children not being in school during term time. Despite the challenges, we hope you were all able to enjoy the Easter period as best as you possibly could.

Obviously, schools continue to be closed and Gavin Williamson (current Secretary of State for the Department of Education) said clearly that schools will not be re-opening and he cannot give a date for this yet. As and when any decision is made on the reopening of schools and in what capacity, we will of course, let you know. However, the likelihood is that you will find out when we find out, as a consequence of any national announcements in relation to this.

Home Learning

Please do keep a close eye and check for updates on our school website and Twitter page as we are constantly updating these areas as and when additional resources become available. You may well have noticed already that we have added two learning links to our Twitter page that will be of great use. These are the BBC Bitesize – online lesson for primary and secondary pupils and The Oak National Academy has online learning for each year group. Both of these resources are endorsed and supported by the DfE. The DfE have also finally put together a number of online learning resources which can be used to effectively support your child's learning. All of this information can be located on the DfE website. In addition, year group pages on the website will be updated with Summer planning on Monday 27 April 2020.

We are aware that home learning is challenging as we are also facilitating this for our own children as well, so we do know the difficulties being experienced. However, we hope you are able to also experience the wonderful rewards that being with your own children brings and more importantly in keeping them safe. Although we are providing support, resources and information to support 'home learning', we have to be realistic in our expectations of ourselves and our children.

You may well have already seen this letter on one of the social media platforms, but we also thought it was perfect to send from our staff. This letter was as follows:

'Dear Parents/Carers

Don't stress about school work. In September, I will get your children back on track. I am a teacher and that's my superpower. What I can't fix is social, emotional trauma that prevents the brain from learning. So right now, I just need you to share your calm, share your strength, and share your laughter with your children. No children are ahead. No children are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be.

With love from

All the teachers on planet Earth' (more specifically Boldmere!)

STAY AT HOME, STAY SAFE, PROTECT THE NHS AND SAVE LIVES.

FSM Vouchers

We will be sending out the next set of Edenred vouchers over the next few days. You will receive an email from Edenred with details on how to claim the vouchers. To save time with administration we have decided to send out 4 weeks worth of vouchers at one time. So the next time we will send out vouchers will be week commencing 18th May 2020. Can we remind you that the vouchers do have an expiry date of one month, so the vouchers that were sent out on 1st April 2020 will expire on 1st May 2020. We noticed today that there are

a large amount of people who have not yet claimed their vouchers, please make sure that you follow the instructions and claim your vouchers before the expiry date. **Please check your trash/junk mail if you are eligible but have not yet received your email from Edenred.**

Nursery Places

Nursery places have been offered for September 2020. Please note that the deadline to accept or decline the offer of place is **Friday 1st May 2020**. Email your reply to enquiry@boldmere-inf.bham.sch.uk attaching proof of address and reply slip. Please mark your email as NURSERY SEPTEMBER 2020.

Year 3 Allocation to Boldmere Junior School (current year 2 parents)

If your child is currently in year 2, you should by now have been sent your year 3 offer email from Birmingham School Admissions and you may also have received the offer letter from them by post. Please note that due to COVID-19, parents/carers are NOT required to accept their offers. The process has been adapted so all offers are considered as **'accepted'** unless you, as the parent/carer, notify Birmingham School Admissions of your **refusal** by emailing the following dedicated email address by the 30 April 2020: AdmissionsOfferRefusal@Birmingham.gov.uk

Any concerns or questions in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

FINAL REMINDER:

FAO parents of Year 3 children - Year 4 Residential Trip – Whitemoor Lakes – Spring 2021 -

A reminder that if you would like your child to attend the above residential trip, **please ensure you make your non-refundable deposit of £20 on ParentPay by Friday 24 April 2020**. Your consent slip may be handed into the school office at a later date.

FAO parents of year 5 children – Year 6 Residential Trip – Kingswood Autumn Term 2020

For your information, the final payment of £120 will need to be paid on ParentPay by July 2020. However, it is possible for you to make smaller payments prior to the final date of 1 July 2020.

Advice for Parents/Carers looking after children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The DfE released this guidance on the 19 April 2020. It gives parents access to on line resources for children with SEND; coronavirus educational resources from the Sensory Projects, SEND-specific resources for learning from home from Tech Ability; advice on supporting children with learning disability or ASD from the Council for Disabled children.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Community News

Invitation for community grants to help children and families

Dear All

Birmingham City Council has announced today £0.8m emergency funding to help children and families.

Community, voluntary and faith groups who are helping children, young people and families through the challenges of Covid-19 are invited to apply for grants of up to £10,000 to continue supporting families through this difficult period.

All voluntary, community and faith groups are invited to bid for funding to support their activities, through a simple and accelerated process designed to get the money out the door to where it will make the most difference. Go to www.birmingham.gov.uk/Covid19CYPF for more details on Local Leads and Proposal Form

All support should be designed to put prevention and early help first, for example:

- A local community group for parents of children with autism wants to provide online activity packs for the children but needs new software. A grant of £300 would help to support the children and parents.
- A local mosque that previously ran family support sessions, with stay and play, and lots of activities for children wants to ring all the parents that are on their database, three times a week. A grant of £2,500 will enable the mosque to pay a professionally trained worker to support families.
- A local charity runs services for families in the city, particularly more vulnerable families and young people. The £10,000 grant will enable them to expand over their domestic abuse support programme over the next four months.

This is part of the **Birmingham Children's Partnership** response to Covid-19 for our families. Birmingham Children's Partnership includes Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust and West Midlands Police.

Our Place

A reminder that in response to the current pandemic, Our Place Support have set up a **Covid-19 information service** to help individuals and families to the access support packages available from the Government and give information on **Benefit entitlements, Housing and Employment matters**.

We are aware that some individuals and families that have been affected either directly or indirectly by Covid-19 have not yet looked at the support available to them. We encourage anyone that anticipates they will need to access these support packages to do so now so that they don't find themselves in a situation with no income at all as a result of benefit applications/support schemes taking longer than usual to register for and be considered.



Covid-19 Information Service

Benefits • Employment • Housing

Monday to Friday 10am-12noon



07545 378 181
(To arrange a call back)



Covid19info@ourplacesupport.org



www.ourplacesupport.org/advice-service

Our Place Support



Support for Families

We have been informed that Hope4Sutton, a charitable organisation, apparently has plenty of food parcels and volunteers to deliver these items but not enough families are coming forward to request these items being offered. They are delivering to the whole of Sutton, Kingstanding and into Minworth. If you need to access to the support being offered, the contact details are h4s.h2h@gmail.com or telephone on 07483829891.

Yours sincerely

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Mr C Glasgow
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs S Kenny
Head of School (Boldmere Infant and Nursery School)

The Federation of Boldmere Schools:
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