



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1

Dear Parents

Message from Mr Glasgow

We hope all our families managed to have an enjoyable half term.

Education during the Second Lockdown

Even though we are working under incredibly challenging circumstances with huge amounts of pressure, we are delighted that schools remain open as usual during the second lockdown. This, of course, brings a certain level of apprehension for our school community, particularly our staff. However, it is vital that children attend school at this difficult time, so that we have some type of normality in place.

All arrangements that were in place prior to half term will remain in place for the remainder of this term. This will include the continuation of the Friday afternoon school closure to pupils, which remains to be a challenging decision made by our Governing Board. We continue to find ourselves in exceptional circumstances that intensify and accelerate the challenges we are all facing. As we approach a second lockdown, we have to make decisions which will not be received well by all of our school community, but do hope you continue to support us in the way that you have done so previously.

Apologies for not confirming these arrangements with you sooner. Many thanks!

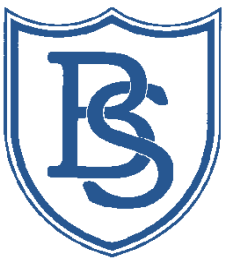
Arrangements for pupils who are extremely clinically vulnerable

Whereas the UK Government at the time of writing has not reissued the same guidelines regarding shielding for people who are extremely clinically vulnerable, the Prime Minister has advised all to be cautious over their routines during this next lockdown period. If any pupil has been placed in the extremely clinically vulnerable category recently and is concerned about attendance at school, please seek advice from your GP and keep us informed of any updates.

Staffing Issues

At the time of writing, we have six members of staff currently off across both schools, who have either tested positive for Covid-19 or who have had positive contact with someone who also has Covid-19. We wish all our staff a speedy recovery and hope they remain safe whilst self-isolating in whatever capacity they are in.

Having any staff out of school reduces our capacity significantly. We are working incredibly hard to mitigate the impact of having six staff absent at present, but this is not easy so please, once again, bear with us.



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1

Update on Mrs Silverwood

You may well be aware that unfortunately, Mrs Silverwood continues to be absent from her post as Head of School at the juniors, due to ongoing health issues that have not improved during her absence from work.

Mrs Silverwood is currently not due to work until week commencing 7 December 2020. However, her return as Head of School will only be for the last two weeks of the term, as she has made the incredibly difficult decision to resign from her post with effect from the 31 December 2020.

We are all deeply saddened by the pending departure of Mrs Silverwood from her current role. After 18 years of wonderful leadership as a Deputy Head Teacher and then Head of School, she has decided that her health has to come first and has made the decision to resign from the job that she loves. We wholeheartedly support the decision that Mrs Silverwood has made and we are sure that you will too.

We intend to provide you with further communication regarding Mrs Silverwood, along with information regarding the Junior Head of School post in due course.

Thank you for your support with yet again, another challenging matter

Warm Clothing

As part of managing and mitigating the risks of Covid-19 in schools, we are asked to ensure all areas of the school are well ventilated. As we are now entering the colder months of the year, we would please encourage the children to wear additional layers of warm clothing whilst in school. This is due to the fact that we have a number of windows and external doors open to allow for ventilation, which of course may expose the children to the cold at some points during the day.



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1



Outdoor Classroom Day

On Thursday 5th November we shall be taking part in International Outdoor Classroom Day at school. This is a day to encourage and celebrate outdoor play and learning at school.

Children must come to school in suitable outdoor shoes and coats to ensure that they can get fully immersed in activities and be prepared for the weather! Please send wellies to school if possible, in a named bag.

School Photographs

On Thursday 5th November the photographer will be in school taking individual school photos. Although this is also outdoor classroom day, we will endeavour to have photographs taken before children have their outdoor learning sessions!

If your child normally has PE on a Thursday, alternative activities will be taught this week. Children will need to wear their uniforms to school.

Unfortunately, sibling and family photographs will not be taken this year due to current restrictions. All photograph orders will be taken online and parents will be provided with a unique code to access their child's photographs. School will not be taking any orders this year.

Kindness Value

Our value this half term is 'kindness'. The children have already started to talk about the importance of kindness in their classrooms. Adults in school are on the lookout for acts of kindness and any children who have been 'caught in the act of kindness'. We are also encouraging children to carry out random acts of kindness when they are outside of school, this year more than ever we need to spread kindness.

Pink forms will be sent home in book bags, which can be completed and sent back into school explaining your child's act of kindness. It may be writing a letter to a friend or relative, helping check in on an elderly neighbour, helping parents and carers at home with housework or entertaining siblings!

Completed forms can be sent back into school to be celebrated. If you haven't received a form, please ask your child's teacher for another.

Nasal Flu Immunisation - Thursday 26th November 2020

NHS Birmingham Community Healthcare Immunisation team will be coming into school on Thursday 26th November to administer the Nasal Flu vaccination to Reception, Year One and Year Two classes.

Children In Need 13th November Five to Thrive

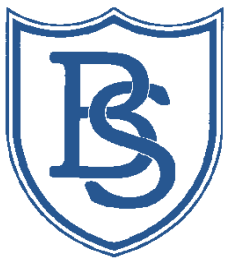
This year Children in Need have teamed up with Joe Wicks (the Bodycoach) to deliver a unique programme of wellbeing activities for their Appeal Week. Inspired by the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, it's designed to help children feel better about themselves - as well as helping others.

The children will be completing daily wellbeing activities delivered by Joe and on Friday 13th November children are invited to wear their own clothes for a suggested £2 donation.

Fund Raising Message from Boldmere Inclusion Base

We would like to thank Mr Pete Donovan for his fantastic efforts on Sunday cycling virtually up Everest. It took 12 hours and Pete climbed 8848m all on his turbo trainer in his garage at home. We are delighted to announce that by doing this we have raised over £1800 - we are so grateful! What an amazing achievement. Thank you to everyone who donated! If you didn't get a chance to donate, don't worry the just giving page is still open...

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfund/b-i-b>



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1



Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale from tomorrow. If your child would like to purchase a poppy, we will be asking for a minimum of 50p donation.

Supporting your Child at Home with Reading and Maths

In normal circumstances at this time of year we would be welcoming you into school for an information giving presentation delivered by your child's class teachers about how you can support your child at home with reading, phonics and maths.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to have visitors within school, therefore we have created slideshows for each year group that you can access at home.

They will be available on the website under each year group's curriculum page on **Monday 9th November**.

Newsletter:

The weekly newsletter can also be found on the school website:
<https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk>

Up to Date MAT information

Information can be found at:
<https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk/parents/mat-information>

Google Classroom

Thank you to all children who submitted work onto our Google classroom platform last half term. Whilst children were self-isolating, it was lovely to know that they were working hard, and I know that your teachers enjoyed seeing your tasks! Please can we remind parents/carers that the activities provided on Google Classroom are to be completed whilst isolating and teachers will provide feedback in line with our Home Learning Policy. The tasks assigned, are linked where possible, to the activities taught in school that week. There is therefore no requirement or expectation that children need to submit work if they are still attending school.

PTA AGM

As part of the charity status the PTA every year has to hold an annual general meeting. This year it will be held on Wednesday 4th November at 8pm. Due to current restrictions this will be a zoom meeting. If you would like to hear what the PTA has been doing over the last year, how much money has been raised and where it has been spent and any information about where we will be moving forward to in the future then please join us. Email boldmere.pta@gmail.com and we can forward you the meeting login details so you will be able to attend the meeting with us.

Reception Admissions - September 2021

The online application process is now live to register your child for Reception 2021. Please visit the website at:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions for further information.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**.

Further information, including a presentation and tour of our school will be on our website at the end of this week.

Year Two Parents

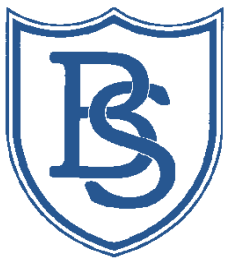
Transfer from Year 2 to Year 3 September 2021

Letters will be sent home this week to all year two children.

The transfer from Year 2 to Year 3 online application form can be found by visiting:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The closing date for applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**.



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1

Busy Bodies - Important Notices

A warm welcome back to all our Busies children, we hope you all had a lovely half term break.

Booking forms

As we have mentioned in detail in previous newsletters, our capacity has been substantially reduced to ensure all our children's safety in their 'Bubbles.

Unfortunately, now we are at full capacity for November's bookings. We will therefore be unable to take any further booking requirements at present.

If the situation changes in view of the forthcoming government changes coming into place on Thursday, we will keep you informed via our Newsletters.

We will be debiting parent pay accounts for November fees w/c 9th November to allow parents any cancellations they may need to make if they commence working from home or may be furloughed again.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if your current situation changes.

Thank you for your continued understanding of our current situation.

Harvest Festival

We hope that you enjoyed the Harvest songs that were uploaded onto Google classroom last half term.

As part of our Harvest festival we are supporting St Michael's Church in their collection for the Aston and Nechells' Food bank which provides emergency food for local people in crisis. In order to collect a variety of food items, each year group has been allocated a type of food from the foodbank's donation list. We would ask that children bring in one item that is non-perishable and in-date as follows:

Nursery- Tinned Fruit

Reception- Tinned Vegetables

Year One- Tinned Rice Pudding

Year Two- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

All donations will be gratefully received. If you could send your items into school by Friday 6th November it would be much appreciated, we have extended the original deadline date.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2020

2nd November - School re-opens to all pupils.

5th November - School photographer for all classes including nursery and BIB.

26th November - Nasal Flu Immunisation - Reception, Year One and Year Two.

18th December - Break up for Christmas holidays.

Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence

Attached to this newsletter is a quick reference guide for parents and carers regarding Covid-19 related pupil absence.

Mrs S Kenny
Head of
School
03/11/2020