



Dear Parents/Guardians

29 September 2020
No 4

Challenges and Update of Full School Opening:

Our priority since the return to school has been to welcome back all children from Y1 to Y6 and to settle our new Reception and Nursery children into school. We have concentrated on familiarising children with the new school routines and assessing them so that we can plan appropriately to provide a recovery curriculum. The atmosphere in school is positive and it has been lovely to hear children back in the school!

However, the full opening of school has presented many challenges. We have been learning how to function in our new 'normal', constantly reviewing new guidance (which is often conflicting) and updating our safeguarding procedures. Unfortunately, we have also had a number of staff who are or have been unable to attend school as they have either been ill themselves or are awaiting test results for themselves or dependents. To date, we have had two positive results for staff and a further two for children.

In the last hour we have been notified that our Executive Head Carl Glasgow has tested positive for COVID- 19. We wish Mr. Glasgow a speedy recovery. I am in regular discussion with our Chair of Governors and Public Health regarding the ongoing COVID 19 risk to the school. We have had 5 positive COVID- 19 cases in as many days. At present we ask all parents / carers to have an increased awareness for both their own symptoms and symptoms developed by their children and to follow national and local COVID-19 guidance.

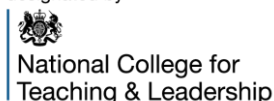
As I am sure you can appreciate the school has increasing staffing pressures and are managing situation on a daily basis. The safety of the children is paramount and we advise that all parents / carers monitor for any updates from the school.

The situation is changing daily and we are adapting as we go. We are working hard to balance delivering the curriculum within a safe and happy environment with minimising movement around school while covering absences. As you can imagine, it is a challenge the like of which no school has ever faced before. However, we will endeavour to follow all procedures and continue to provide a safe environment and appropriate learning for your children.

We have also been working behind the scenes to create a robust remote learning platform that is now available to children who are at home due to self-isolation. This will be delivered through Google Classroom. The provision is much improved on that we were able to provide prior to the summer.

Children have been issued logins to access their work when at home self-isolating. You will receive a Parentmail later today with information on how to log on. Please also refer to the school website's '**Home Learning**' section, under your child's year group page, where a step by step guide and information about Google Classroom and our remote learning can be found.

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

I do need to stress however that this remote learning provision does not at this time include teacher contact via Zoom or Teams. There are several reasons for this and we will communicate further as soon as possible, but primarily, it is because staff who are self-isolating are not expected to provide live teaching sessions virtually, while those in school are engaged with in-school teaching, including covering for those currently absent. This position is under constant review.

We are sure that most parents will understand and accept this, and join us in wishing all staff and children with COVID-19 a speedy recovery.

I would like to take this time to thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times.

Mrs Kenny

General Information

Google Classroom and Home Learning

The school website has now been updated. You may access Google Classroom via 'Home Learning'. Under 'Home Learning' is the link to 'Remote Learning via Google Classroom'.

Details regarding username and password have already been sent out to parents/carers, however, they will be re-sent via Parentmail later today. If you are unable to access or do not receive the Parentmail, please send an email to 'enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk' and indicate in the heading 'Junior School Google Classroom'.

Music Lessons

Unfortunately, due to our present situation, it has been decided that we will postpone the start date of week commencing 12 October 2020 for music lessons at the school, this includes private lessons (guitar and piano) and lessons provided by the music service (cello, brass, violin and woodwind). We will advise you as soon as we are able to offer this service.

Mrs Robinson, the guitar teacher, has asked that if any parent has an unwanted $\frac{3}{4}$ nylon strung guitar they wish to sell (good condition), please. If so, please contact her on 07932395158 direct.

Contact With School

Please use the school email address enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk for all correspondence relating to absence, parentpay, and general enquiries to the school office.

The office is only open for emergencies. If you do need to speak to the office staff please use the hand sanitiser before entering school and strictly **one** adult or family at a time in the entrance area.

Please wait outside until advised to enter. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Busy Bodies News

Children's collection from Busy Bodies – When collecting your child/ren from Busy Bodies, after ringing the bell and making eye contact with a member of staff who will call for your child, could you please find a safe place to wait to enable other parents to ring for their child/ren and we will bring them to you.

October Booking forms – We are now at full capacity for w/c 12th and 19th October on Wednesdays and Thursdays, due to staff numbers and class bubbles.

Due to the number of changes, early collection fees for September w/c 14th & 21st and reception September booking forms have not yet been debited. Please bear with us and we should get these entered at some point this week. October booking forms will be debited next week minus any isolation fees for your child/siblings.

PTA News

Christmas card designs are in full swing. We are very happy to still be able to offer these for everyone to send to all your friends and family. You should have now received an information card called 'IQ Cards 2020 Design Form'. This provides you with information on how your child can design a Christmas Card. You will have also received a blank sheet so you child can design their own card. Please ensure you read the Design Instructions and make your payment via **ParentPay (not cash or cheque)**. Design orders to be returned to the school by Friday 9 October.

Junior School - Payment to be made on ParentPay under the heading 'PTA Christmas Cards 2020'

Please follow the PTA on Facebook and Twitter to find out anything that is going on. You can also email us on boldmere.pta@gmail.com and we can add you to the mailing list.

Boldmere Library

Boldmere Library is open for order and collect. Staff are in the library on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm and are able to offer a service where people can come to the door and staff will then select books for them to take away to read.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Welch
Assistant Head Teacher