



Dear Parents/Guardians

No 7  
20 October 2020

## **Happy Half Term**

It certainly has been a term in school that will remain in our minds for quite some time. We have had our fair share of challenges, which we are sure will continue. Equally, it has been a half term of great enjoyment and success. We, of course, will continue to endeavour to build upon the achievements and successes when we return to school after half term.

Despite the challenges that continue to surround us all, we really do hope that you are able to have an enjoyable and indeed, restful half term when it finally arrives. Happy half term and thank you so much for all your support and co-operation, it is very much appreciated.

## **General Information**

In last week's newsletter, we informed parents that our whole year group bubble was self-isolating due to a positive Covid-19 case being confirmed in a child in 2PB.

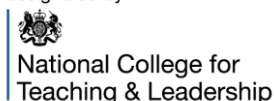
We have been following the Public Health England guidance and advice closely, but are aware that the isolation of a whole year group is not ideal for the 90 children and parents who are impacted. Not only are teaching and learning opportunities disrupted, but family lives are thrown into chaos and normal routines disappear.

Our Senior Leadership teams have been looking again at ways in which we can reduce the effects of positive cases in school and ensure disruption is minimal across any year group. Last week we liaised with staff, and trialled new playtime and lunchtime arrangements in an effort to reduce class bubbles mixing whilst outside.

I am pleased to say that, following some changes to current timetables and systems, we are able to facilitate playtimes in individual class bubbles zones. I must stress however, that these changes have been made as a direct result of staff forgoing their morning breaks, and working during part of their lunchtimes. Without these efforts, we would not have been able to facilitate separate playtime zones across each year group, maintaining safe environments and minimizing contact between classes

We will monitor the impact of these playtime changes, but hope they will reduce the number of children requiring self-isolation when future positive Covid-19 cases are identified. Thank you to all staff for their commitment and thank you to all parents for their continued support during this difficult time.

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 ‘Catch Up’ Programme**

You may be aware that the Government has allocated additional funding to schools to put a ‘Catch Up’ programme in place. Despite the fact that we have not been given the huge amounts of funding that the government and media would have us believe, we are, of course, extremely grateful that this funding is being made available to schools during a continuing pandemic which causes national and economic crisis.

The ‘Catch Up’ funding has been calculated by the number of children attending the school at £80 per pupil for the year. Therefore: Boldmere Infant and Nursery School has been allocated a total of £22,240 for Autumn term 2020 to Autumn term 2021, to be allocated to our school budget share in four instalments, with a first instalment payment of £5,560.

Boldmere Junior School has been allocated a total of £29,200 under the same timescales and payment schedule as the infants, with a first instalment of £7,300 to the juniors.

We certainly do not consider this to be a huge amount of funding that allows all children to ‘Catch Up’, so we need to ensure that we utilise the funding effectively and maximise the impact of our provision as much as we possibly can.

At Boldmere, the Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team will be utilising this funding to provide intervention groups to help address any significant gaps in learning we identify and to also accelerate and enhance opportunities to make progress. We firmly believe that staffing resources are our most valuable asset for children at our schools and our ‘Catch Up’ funding will be used to facilitate teaching to increase learning opportunities. It is our intention to look at the impact and utilise the services of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) Tuition Partners. Through this, schools will have access to high quality tutoring through the DfE approved list of tutoring providers, subsidised by up to 75% allowing us to get ‘best value’ for our funding. Tuition Partners will offer a range of approaches to impact positively upon learning. This is just one of the national strategies that we have at our disposal from November.

Our teaching staff and support staff have already commenced a number of intervention groups with a specific focus on either maths, phonics, reading and writing. These will, of course, continue and the ‘Catch Up’ funding will allow us to add to this and enhance the provision being made through school. We will endeavour to keep you updated on this in future newsletters.

## **Home Learning Book**

During the course of the week, all children in the Juniors will be sent home with a home learning book. This is as a result of feedback from year 3 parents after their recent isolation period. Should your child need to self isolate, their work is to be completed in the book (unless you choose to print out any sheets). Inside the book, you will find your child’s log in for all of the online platforms that we use in school and at home.

## **PE Lessons after half term**

After half term, your children will need to come into school in their PE kit on the following day:

Year 3 Tuesday

Year 4 Monday

Year 5 Thursday

Year 6 Wednesday

PE will be taught outside on these days only, as the weather tends to become worse in Autumn 2. Alongside our outdoor PE lessons, we will be teaching Sports Science and healthy eating lessons in school as part of our PE curriculum.

## Events

### Diary Dates

- **October – Black History Month**
- **23 October – Break up for half term holiday**
- **2 November – School re-opens to all pupils.**
- **6 November – History Day**
- **11 November – Remembrance Day event in school for pupils**
- **12 November – School Photographer in school**
- **13 November - Children in Need Sponsored Event**
- **26 November – Nasal Flu Immunisation – yrs 3 to y6 pupils**
- **18 December – Break up for Christmas holidays**

### History Day Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

During the half term break, we would like you to take part in a whole school history project. You will be researching at home via the internet, books, library etc. to gather information about the past on a preferred historical figure. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, you will share your research with the class in your chosen outfit. Please note: due to current regulations, we ask that no accessories are brought in as part of your outfit. Dressing up is not compulsory and is a personal choice for all pupils.

Mrs Kinsella

### Nasal Flu Immunisation – Thursday 26 November 2020

A reminder that NHS Birmingham Community Healthcare Immunisation team will be coming into school on Thursday 26 November to administer the Nasal Flue vaccination to year 3, year 4, year 5 and year 6 children. Consent forms were sent home with your child **last week**. **The forms need to be completed fully, whether you DO or DO NOT wish your child to receive the vaccine. Please make sure you include a contact telephone number and return the form to school by Friday 23 October 2020.**

### Poppies for Sale

Poppies will be on sale to the children on the first day back after half term (Monday 2 November) up until 11 November, or until supplies run out. We are asking for a voluntary donation of between 50p-£1. The children will be having an assembly on Wednesday 11 November, along with a minutes silence.

### Boldmere's Best Certificates

This week's class certificate winners are:

- Responsible Role Models: 5E
- Assembly Ambassadors: 5P
- Spick and Span: 6T
- Marvellous Manners: 3K
- Lunch Time Leaders: 4W

## **Urgent Information FAO Year 6 parents/guardians – Secondary School Application**

This is an email just to remind you that the deadline for current Year 6s to complete their Secondary 2021 Preference Form is Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **Please ensure you apply by the deadline**

Families need to apply online at <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Direct link to the application page is <https://eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php>

Families that apply after the deadline will be treated as late applications and their application will not be processed until after places are announced in March 2021.

### **Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence**

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

### **Local Covid Alert Level - High**

We have been asked to circulate to all parents/guardians information regarding ‘Local Covid Alert Level – High’. More detailed information is available by visiting [gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

### **Drop and Collect Covid Testing Service**

See attached letter from Birmingham City Council regarding the above service.

### **Poster Competition**

***Competition for primary age children to produce a poster that explains how important it is to follow the coronavirus rules in Birmingham to the theme of ‘It’s a fact!’***

*Early years and primary aged children in Birmingham (11 and under) are tasked with producing posters or pieces of artwork that explain to their families, their friends and the wider community how important it is that everyone in Birmingham follows the national guidance as well as the local restrictions that are in place:*

- *Wash hands: keep washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds.*
- *Cover face: wear a face covering in enclosed spaces.*
- *Make space: stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions.*
- *In Birmingham you must not socialise with anybody outside of your household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.*
- *Schools remain open and it is really important that everyone respects the measures schools have introduced to keep everyone safe.*

*Children should be encouraged to reflect on why the rules are in place and how important it is for everyone to play their part in keeping Birmingham safe.*

#### **How to enter**

- *Children should to produce a poster or painting/drawing that helps communicate the message that everyone in Birmingham should be following the rules together to keep us all safe. These should be sent to the council where a judging panel (including Director of Public Health, Dr Justin Varney) will decide on the winning entries.*

- *Winning entries will be used on the council's social media channels to help communicate the messages about following the rules.*
- *Prizes for winning entries will include vouchers and personalised face coverings.*
- *Entries must be received by no later than Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.*
- ***Entries should be sent by email to [education@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:education@birmingham.gov.uk) (photos or scans should be taken of the entries).***

#### Competition terms and conditions

1. *The competition is open to children in Birmingham aged 11 or under*
2. *One entry per child will be accepted. There is no restriction on the number of entries received from schools.*
3. *The closing date for the competition is 5pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.*
4. *Winning entries will be those deemed by the judges to have captured why Birmingham needs to follow the rules in the most engaging way.*
5. *Birmingham City Council reserves the right to reproduce and utilise in whole or in part the entries submitted by children for information and publicity purposes.*
6. *By entering, each school agrees to secure parental agreement and authorises the use of names of the establishment to which it belongs and the names of participating teachers and pupils in any information or publicity activity linked to this competition.*
7. *Schools must indicate any entries where there is not permission secured for any aspect of the entry.*

Schools with queries can contact [education@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:education@birmingham.gov.uk)

## **Busy Bodies News**

Wishing all our Busy Bodies families' a lovely half term break week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> October. The first half term has gone really well and the children have settled into their new play bubble environment. A member of staff is assigned to each bubble so the children have continuity. This will only change through class isolation or staff absence. Reception children have been exceptional in settling in with the support and nurturing of Harminder. Where possible they interact with year 1 at a distance but with lots of social interaction through music, craft and games.

**Booking forms** – Please ensure your booking form requirements have reached us no later than **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** either via email or handed in to BB to ensure your child's dates for November can be accommodated.

Unfortunately any booking forms received after **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**, we cannot guarantee days and times requested due to our current situation and we do apologise for this in advance. We will inform you as soon as possible if this is the case. Thank you for your understanding.

Now we have established our bubbles we are trying to extend the activities provided for our BB children and these will include more craft activities and themed evenings ie, film & popcorn evening, cooking activities etc. We will let you know in advance of a particular evening that may extend later in case you wish your child to take advantage of this event.

Reminder email address for any correspondence and attachments of booking forms:-  
[khyatt@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:khyatt@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all after half term on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## **PTA News**

There are ways that you can still help the schools, through the PTA, without actually having to do anything.... **Please see the options below and PLEASE share with everyone you know and sign up if you can.**

The **School Lottery**? For every £1 ticket that is entered, 40p goes back to the schools. Every week you have a chance of winning up to £25,000 while knowing you support YOUR school. Enter online now at [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) Search for Boldmere School, register and you could be our next winner! It's easy.

**Easyfundraising** turns your online shopping into free donations for our schools. How? Log onto [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) Choose Boldmere schools PTA to support, then join for free. As long as you log into Easyfundraising before you shop, then when you shop as normal the participating retailers will make a donation to say “thank you” to the schools. Easy as that.. Please sign up.

Do you buy a lot off Amazon? If so, start shopping through **Amazon Smile**. If you already have an Amazon account, when you click on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to sign in. If you don't have an account, you will need to set one up and this is easy and free. Once signed into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to pick a charity, choose Boldmere Schools PTA. Once this is all done the shopping experience is exactly the same, but every time you shop on AmazonSmile, they donate to our schools. It is no cost to you. You must remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) each time you shop for all of this to work.

**I hope all three of these options are something you can join up to. All the money raised helps to enhance our children's education and as we are unable to hold events at the moment every little bit, like this, helps.**

## **Boldmere Inclusion Base – fundraising event**

See attached details regarding the above fundraising event.

Mr C Glasgow  
Executive Head Teacher