



Dear Parents/Guardians

No 8
3 November 2020

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!

Please continue to follow the guidelines (see attached) to keep our whole community safe.

Arrangements for pupils who are extremely clinically vulnerable

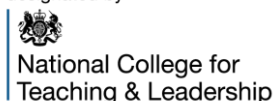
Whereas the UK Government, at the time of writing, has not reissued the same guidelines regarding shielding for people who are extremely clinically vulnerable, the Prime Minister has advised all to be cautious over their routines during this next lockdown period. If any pupil has been placed in the extremely 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.

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

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 return 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 and co-operation 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.

Core Value for this term - Kindness

See attached details regarding this term's Core Value.

PE Lessons this half term

This 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

- **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**

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 TOMORROW (4 November)**

Poppies for Sale

Poppies will be on sale to the children this week and next week, 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 listed overleaf

Annexe design competition

Before the summer holidays, we announced a design competition for the side of the annexe building facing the junior playground. It needs a new lick of paint and we'd love to know your ideas! We have already received some fantastic entries (thank you!) and want to extend the deadline to Monday 23rd November. Please see the attached document for how to enter.

Children in Need - Friday 13th November

For Children in Need this year, children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform, and feel free to make a donation to the cause via ParentPay (this will be set up shortly). Due to current restrictions, we cannot hold our usual, very successful cake sale. However, more details will come out regarding this in due course.

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

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 4th November 2020.*
- ***Entries should be sent by email to 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 4th 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

Busy Bodies News

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 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.

Helen & Jayne and the Busies Team

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

PTA News

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.

Boldmere Inclusion Base – fundraising event

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/crowdfunding/b-i-b>

C Glasgow
Executive Head Teacher