

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

9 June 2020

Re-opening of School for Year 6 children

You may well be aware that this week we have seen some of our Year 6 children return to school. As agreed and communicated with parents/carers of these pupils, their provision at school in their allocated 'class bubbles' commenced yesterday. We were delighted to welcome these children back to school and incredibly proud of how well they settled into their new routines.

Information about all of the changes at school were sent via Parentmail last week, along with a video message from Mr Glasgow. Thank you all for observing the social distancing rules around school. There were many big smiles as we opened the doors and children seemed pleased to be returning. Well done!

Empathy Day

The website empathylab.co.uk are promoting 'Empathy Day'. On the school website under the 'Wellbeing' home learning tab you can follow the link to access their range of activities that help to develop empathy. The activities follow the three themes- read, connect and act. There are some lovely ideas for family activities.

#EmpathyDay- Read stories. Develop empathy. Make a better world.

Transition

As we have just re-opened school for year 6 children, our priority up to this point has been the organisation of their return, along with the continued provision for keyworker children who have been accessing school since 'lockdown'. The SLT and I have now started to look at transition between each of the year groups, and we are currently putting plans together. We have just heard this morning that it is unlikely that years 3, 4 and 5 will be returning for the remainder of the year, so we are making provision for this in our plans.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to advise parents on anything further yet, but I will provide updates as soon as decisions have been finalised.

Covid-19 updates

We currently have, under construction, an area on our website designated for Covid-19. We will be putting any new information or letters emailed home, which relate to Covid-19 updates, in this area so it's easier to find. You will also find our virtual tours there!

Moving forward with Home Learning

We miss the children and are working to find ways to help them learn even more at home!

As previously mentioned, we welcomed back the majority of our year six pupils who are now alongside our groups of key worker children. Subsequently, almost all available teaching staff have been deployed to teach one of these groups. This has often meant two members of staff per class in order to make sure we are keeping our staff and children in school as safe as possible.

We have a home learning team who are working to provide opportunities for children not able to be in school. A reminder that this work will now be available weekly.

We completely understand the need for direct teacher/pupil interaction and SLT are looking at the best way forward for some opportunities to interact as small class groups from home. This of course will have an element of trial and error, so please be patient with us while we research new avenues.

Any new method of communication may replace the phone calls home, as teachers will not have the capacity to do both in the current circumstances, as they are all 'front facing' with pupils every day in their newly arranged class bubbles.

Please look out for information via Parentmail regarding future communication with pupils.

We do want to further develop 'home learning' opportunities but hope you appreciate this will rely upon staffing capacity to remain operational in school.

Well-Being

A reminder that under the well-being tab we have added new links to websites and information which offer advice for parents and carers on supporting children and families experiencing bereavement, supporting children's transition back to school (whether it is now or in September) and supporting children during lockdown and school closures. We will continue to update this page regularly.

Whitemoor Lake Residential Trip – February 2021 – Year 4

A letter will be coming out shortly via Parentmail to those children in year 3 (year 4 September 2020) who will be attending the residential trip in February 2021. This letter will confirm your child's place and give details of the payment plan and booking conditions. We ask that you return the consent slip to the junior school office or by email to enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk quoting the heading 'Whitemoor Lake 2021'. This will confirm that you agree with the conditions as mentioned in the letter.

Kingswood Residential Trip – Year 6 – September 2020

We are currently in discussions with Kingswood regarding this residential trip and will be in touch with parents/carers shortly.

Junior School - Music Lessons – Summer Term Payment

For those children who are receiving 1:1 music tuition online, provided by the Music Service, the cost for the summer term will remain at £80, guaranteeing a minimum of 25 lessons during this academic year. If your child has not taken up the offer from the Music Service, you will need to pay £40 for the summer term, as the school are being charged 50% of the cost for this term by the Music Service. Please check your ParentPay account.

Boldmere Inclusion Base (BIB)

We hope all of our children and families associated with our BIB are continuing to remain safe and well. At some point last week, or indeed at the beginning of this week, you will have received a phone call from Miss Driscoll to update you on the learning provision associated with our BIB children.

Many thanks for taking the time to speak with Miss Driscoll and she will be in contact again in due course with further updates.

Once again, thanks for your support and understanding as the ongoing challenge continues to frustrate us all.

School Games Challenges

The School Games Challenges have officially begun and we would like as many of you as possible to represent TEAM BOLDMERE!

The School Games Challenges are a collection of ongoing challenges linked to the School Games developed by the Birmingham School Games Organisers (SGO) and Sport Birmingham. The School Games is a National Initiative open to any young person. It forms part of the legacy work after the London 2012 Olympics and is an opportunity for young people to play, compete and represent their school in a wide range of sports and activities.

Anyone can have a go at a challenge but you must be between 4-16 years old to submit results and attend a Birmingham Educational Institution. This is a great way of keeping fit and active, whilst also having lots of fun!

You can sign up for the School Games at: www.sgochallenge.com

Our school code to enter is: WILSON

Please see the aforementioned website for any further information. Once you have completed a challenge, you can submit your results online; this will form accumulative results for Boldmere Schools as well as giving an individual result.

We hope you enjoy the challenges.
Good luck!

Summer reading challenge 2020...

The nation's most popular reading challenge, which engages over 700,000 children each summer, launches in an all-new digital format this year. The launch took place on Friday 5th June at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>. There is also a link to these resources on our school website under 'Home Learning' □ 'General Home Learning Resources and Ideas' □ 'English'.

From Friday, there will be a range of reading activities for children of all ages. The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge 2020 announced last week the initial line-up of stars in children's publishing and entertainment who have pledged their support for this year.

Pause – Drop In Mental Health Facility for children and young people – NHS funded

This is a free drop in mental health facility and right now has lots of spare capacity. It is open access for young people (12 and above) and all carers/teachers/parents concerned about children and young people. Details regarding this service will be uploaded onto the school website shortly.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Glasgow
Executive Head Teacher

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