



Dear Parents/Guardians

No 9
10 November 2020

We hope all our families who will be celebrating Diwali this weekend, have an enjoyable time.

Message from Mr Glasgow:

Junior Head of School

In last week's newsletter, we informed you that unfortunately, Mrs Silverwood had made the difficult decision to resign from her role as Junior Head of School.

This week, we are absolutely delighted to inform you that Mrs Karen Welch, our current Assistant Head Teacher, has been appointed as Acting Head of School at the juniors until further notice. Mrs Welch commences this role with immediate effect and ourselves and the governing board are thrilled that Mrs Welch will be working in this role.

We are sure you will join us in congratulating Mrs Welch and, of course, wish her all the very best in her new role. More information in relation to how we will be backfilling leadership roles at the school will follow in due course.

Staffing Issues

As a consequence of the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 that continue to surround us all, we again find ourselves in a difficult position of having to manage severe staff shortages. At the time of writing, we have 16 staff absent across both of our schools. We are continuing to do all we can to remain operational and mitigate the absence of staff, but as we are sure you are aware, it is certainly not easy.

As a consequence of continued staff absence, we may not be able to respond to individual needs/issues that are being raised as swiftly as we would like. So please be patient and we will continue to endeavour to meet the needs of the children as best we can.

If you do have anything that you feel we need to know about your child, please always do this via the class teacher in the first instance.

School Budgets

We are fully aware of the huge financial implications that Covid-19 has had across the country and schools are in exactly the same financial plight. Before Covid-19, educational funding was a huge challenge due to previous funding cuts and the measures of austerity that we were experiencing at that time. This situation has obviously worsened significantly with the continuation of the pandemic.

We would like to make it clear that the only additional funding that we have received from

government is the 'catch up' funding which is quite rightly ring-fenced for children. We have experienced a significant loss of income as we have not been able to provide a number of services that would offset the costs of the services provided. We have had to spend large amounts of our school budget share on making our school environment safe. Additional cleaning, sanitising solutions, anti-bacterial wipes, plus much more, have all been purchased and will continue to be needed in school. These are, of course, additional expenses from our school budget, that who would have ever imagined were needed.

The continuation of staffing shortages has led to increasing the hours of our own staff where possible and an increase in the use of supply teachers to ensure we remain operational.

The concerns being raised are certainly not an exhaustive list of what has impacted financially on our budget, but we felt it was important for us to highlight the ongoing financial challenges that are having to be managed in schools as well.

We certainly can empathise with the challenges of finance and schools are not outside of the difficulties being experienced in business and the economy.

Events

Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day on Monday 16 November.

Next week we will be taking part in anti- Bullying week 16th-20th. We are using the theme 'Cool to be Kind' to link it to our value Kindness. We will kick start the week with Odd Socks Day where children will be invited to wear socks on Monday 16th November to celebrate and embrace that we are all unique. Our Monday assembly (virtual) will focus on bullying, age appropriately, and children will continue discussion with their class teacher throughout the week. For more information and advice please visit anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk.

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

We have a few families who have not yet returned their form. Even if you do not wish your child to receive the flu nasal spray, we would be grateful if you could return the form to us by tomorrow morning. We have spare forms in the office. Thank you.

Harvest

Thank you very much for your kind donations that have been sent into school. We will forward the donations onto St Michael's Church for their collection for the Aston and Nechells Food Bank.

Poppies for Sale – Remembrance Day – 2 Minutes Silence

A reminder that we have poppies for sale in school at the moment. We are asking for a voluntary donation of between 50p-£1. The children will be having an assembly (tomorrow) Wednesday 11 November, along with 2 minutes silence.

Children in Need - Friday 13th November – reminder – NON UNIFORM

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.

Warm Clothing - Reminder

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.

Boldmere's Best Certificates

This week's class certificate winners are listed overleaf

Annexe design competition - reminder

We have already received some fantastic entries (thank you!) so far. The deadline has been extended to Monday 23rd November. See details in last week's newsletter regarding entry.

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Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence

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

PTA News

This year is very different for the PTA but we have a number of exciting events coming up. Please watch this space and our social media to find out more.. In the meantime, there are ways that you can still help -

- Enter the **School Lottery** online at www.yourschoollottery.co.uk Search for Boldmere School, register and you could be our next winner!
- Shop through **Easyfundraising**, www.easyfundraising.org.uk and the retailers will make a donation to the schools.
- Start shopping at **Amazon Smile**, www.smile.amazon.co.uk whenever you buy with Amazon they donate to our schools.

All are very easy to join, please take part and encourage others to help in the same way.

Please see our social

media <https://www.facebook.com/boldmereschoolspta> and <https://www.instagram.com/boldmerepta/> or get in touch through boldmere.pta@gmail.com if you would like fuller instructions on how to join.

Does the company you work for '**Match fund**' charity events? Would you consider match funding for us?

The PTA has a representative for every year in the school. If you have a fundraising idea that you would like to get involved with, please do email us at boldmere.pta@gmail.com and we can direct you to your year rep who will happily work with you. It is amazing to be part of the Boldmere family, we would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved.

Mrs K Welch
Acting Head of School