



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2

Dear Parents



Happy Diwali

Wishing any of our family and friends celebrating this weekend a happy Diwali. In school children have been learning about the Festival of Lights in RE and we have kindly been given access to a Bhangra Bambinos virtual session for children to trial during PE. Thanks to Bally at Bhangra Bambinos.



Remembrance Day

Tomorrow on November 11th children will be respecting the two-minute silence for Remembrance. They will be discussing the meaning behind Remembrance day in an age-appropriate way with their class teacher. CBeebies have a powerful video that we will be sharing with children. The video is an animation following a rabbit through a field of poppies and can be found at this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/poppies>

Anti-Bullying Week

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.

Harvest Festival

Thank you very much for the 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.

Nasal Flu Immunisation - Thursday 26th November 2020

NHS Birmingham Community Healthcare Immunisation team will be coming into school on Thursday 26th November to administer the Nasal Flu vaccination to Reception, Year One and Year Two classes. **If you have not returned your completed Immunisation form to school then please do so as soon as possible. We have spare forms in school if needed.**

Maths And Reading Presentations

We apologise for the delay in the maths and reading presentations being uploaded onto Google classrooms. Unfortunately, we were experiencing technical difficulties but staff persevered and have been successful (we are now all becoming IT specialists!). Presentations will be on Google classroom to view this evening.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2020

26th November - Nasal Flu Immunisation - Reception, Year One and Year Two.

18th December - Break up for Christmas holidays.

Spring Term 2021

4th January- Professional Development day - school closed to all pupils.

5th January- School re-opens to all pupils.

12th February- Break up for half term holidays.

22nd February- School re-opens to all pupils.

1st April- Break up for Easter holidays.

Children In Need 13th November

Five to Thrive

This year Children in Need have teamed up with Joe Wicks (the Bodycoach) to deliver a unique programme of wellbeing activities for their Appeal Week. Inspired by the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, it's designed to help children feel better about themselves - as well as helping others.

The children will be completing daily wellbeing activities delivered by Joe and on Friday 13th November children are invited to wear their own clothes for a suggested £2 donation.





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Fund Raising Message from Boldmere Inclusion Base

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>

Reception Admissions - September 2021

The online application process is now live to register your child for Reception 2021. Please visit the website at: www.birmingham.gov.uk/school-admissions for further information. The closing date for applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**. Further information, including a presentation and tour of our school is available on our website.

Newsletter:

The weekly newsletter can also be found on the school website: <https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk>

Year Two Parents Transfer from Year 2 to Year 3 September 2021

Letters will be sent home this week to all year two children. The transfer from Year 2 to Year 3 online application form can be found by visiting: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions The closing date for applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**.

Poppy Appeal

Poppies continue to be on sale in school. If your child would like to purchase a poppy, we will be asking for a minimum of 50p donation.

PTA AGM

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.

Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence

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

Mrs S Kenny
Head of
School
10/11/2020

Up to Date MAT information

Information can be found at: <https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk/parents/mat-information>



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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 at the junior school.

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 back filling 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 the 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, sanitizing solutions, anti-bac 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 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.