



# NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

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 bubble 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.

## Diary Dates:

### Autumn Term 2020

**19<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> October** - Parent consultations via telephone.

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** - Year One - When I Grow Up I Want To Be ..... day

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** - Break up for half term holiday.

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** - School re-opens to all pupils.

**5<sup>th</sup> November** - School photographer for all classes including nursery and BIB.

**26<sup>th</sup> November** - Nasal Flu Immunisation - Reception, Year One and Year Two.

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - Break up for Christmas holidays.

## School Photographs

We have arranged for children to have school photographs taken on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November**.

The photographer will be taking individual photographs but we are unfortunately not able to facilitate siblings or family groups as we usually do.

Parents/carers will be provided with unique codes to view, order and pay for purchases. The photographs will then be delivered to your home address and will involve a small postage charge. No orders will be taken through school, but we are expecting that the online process will ensure photographs will still be available for Christmas presents!

## 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/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) for further information.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

Further information, including a presentation and tour of our school will be on our website after half term.

## 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](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

The closing date for applications is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.



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## Messages from Mr Glasgow

### 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.

### 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.



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## Harvest Festival

It is that time of year again where we are celebrating Harvest. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions we will be unable to attend St Michael's Church for our celebration. However, don't worry we have planned something very special! This week, the children have been working hard, learning a special harvest song with their class. Later this week, the children will be recording a special performance of this song, just for you! These performances will be uploaded onto your child's google classroom page on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**. **We do understand that some children are not to be photographed in school, if you would like your child to be photographed on this occasion please contact your child's class teacher.** As part of our Harvest festival we are supporting the church in their collection for the Aston and Nechells' Food bank which provides emergency food for local people in crisis. In order to collect a variety of food items, each year group has been allocated a type of food from the foodbank's donation list. We would ask that children bring in one item that is non-perishable and in-date as follows:

- Nursery- Tinned Fruit
- Reception- Tinned Vegetables
- Year One- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Year Two- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

All donations will be gratefully received. If you could send your items into school by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** it would be much appreciated!

## Google Classroom

We have received lots of positive feedback regarding the home/remote learning available via the platform Google Classroom. In light of feedback we continue to adapt how and what we are offering. Thank you to parents for their continued support with their children's home learning. Our 'Home Learning policy' is available on our school website under the tab 'Remote Learning'.

## Nasal Flu Immunisation - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

NHS Birmingham Community Healthcare Immunisation team will be coming into school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November to administer the Nasal Flu vaccination to Reception, Year One and Year Two classes. Consent 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 daytime contact telephone number and return to school by **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** at the latest.

## ParentPay Refunds

We have already started the process of refunding parents for the lunchtime clubs and overpayments of milk that were cancelled this half term. The funds will be refunded to your ParentPay account. We hope to have this completed by tomorrow at the latest.

## Supporting your child at home with Reading and Maths

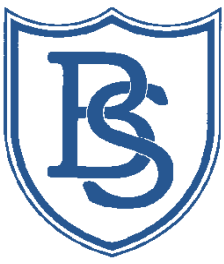
In normal circumstances at this time of year we would be welcoming you into school for an information giving presentation delivered by your child's class teachers about how you can support your child at home with reading/phonics and maths. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to have visitors within school, therefore we have created slideshows for each year group that you can access at home. They will be available after half term on the school website under each year group's curriculum page.

## Celebrating Attendance

Congratulations to 1B, Bee class for achieving 100% attendance last week. Well done!

## Nursery and Reception Sponsored Walk

Thank you to everyone who has raised sponsorship money for our annual sponsored walk. So far Nursery have raised £499.00 and Reception have raised £1374.56. Remaining sponsorship monies can be paid in via Parentpay. All monies raised will be spent on updating our outdoor resources. Please help support our school.



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## Busy Bodies

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 reach 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>**, means 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

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.yourschoolottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoolottery.co.uk) Search for Boldmere School, register and you could be our next winner! It's easy.

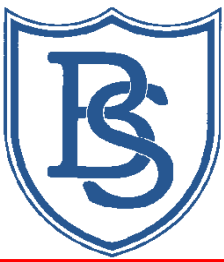
**Easyfundraising** turns your online shopping into free donations for our schools. How? Log

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.

**We 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.**





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## Help Us To Raise Funds For A Sensory Room At Boldmere Inclusion Base...

Boldmere Inclusion Base supports primary age children who have an Education Health and Care Plan with a primary need of Autism Spectrum Condition.

We are looking to make a space for these children to create an immersive sensory experience. For children on the autism spectrum, sensory rooms are designed to have a calming effect that reduces anxiety and improves focus. A sensory room can promote development of fine and gross motor skills, help children improve their visual, auditory and tactile processing and help children learn to self-regulate their behaviours which ultimately improves focus.

One of our lovely parents Mr Donovan is helping us with our first fundraising event by virtually cycling up Mount Everest! Please see the link to our fundraising page and support us if you can.

Thank you so much.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/b-i-b>



## [Help raise £5000 to Fund a sensory room for Boldmere Inclusion Base](#)

We're raising money to Fund a sensory room for Boldmere Inclusion Base. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

[www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)

### Boldmere Family Displays

We consider our school to be a very large family, therefore we would love your child to bring in a family photograph. We want to make a whole school "Boldmere Family" display to celebrate how families and schools work together. Please note that photographs are being used for a display so they may fade or be pinned (a copy or spare photograph is ideal). This includes nursery and the BIB-Giraffe class.

### Boldmere Library

Boldmere Library is open for order and collect. Staff are in the library on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm and are able to offer a service where people can come to the door and staff will then select books for them to take away to read.

### Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence

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

### High Covid Alert Level Poster

Attached to the newsletter is a poster regarding the current alert level in Birmingham.

Email addresses for correspondence specific to your child's class/year group, to support with teaching, learning and online/home learning support.

[bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[nursery-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:nursery-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[reception-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:reception-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[yr1-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:yr1-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[yr2-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:yr2-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

We would like to wish all our families a lovely, restful half term break.

Mrs S Kenny  
Head of School  
20th October 2020

**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.

