

BOLDMERE

Infant and Nursery

SCHOOL

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Boldmere Infant and Nursery

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we are delighted that all children will return to school on Monday 8th March. We felt that this was an important time to inform you of new Government guidance and to remind you of the measures that we have in place, as a school, to mitigate the risk of coronavirus. We will continue to take a measured approach to ensure that all members of the school community are kept safe.

Attendance

The DfE has stated that, from 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils.

The latest guidance is that Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) staff and pupils should be supported to work remotely and should not attend school. We will require a copy of the shielding letter for our attendance records. Please call the school if you have not already done so, to discuss this further.

Pupils must not come into school if:

- **they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms**
- **a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms**
- **they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area**
- **they have had a positive test**

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- **the start of their symptoms**
- **the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test**

Any positive cases must be reported to school as soon as possible to:

enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk .

Local Outbreak

School will continue to take swift action when we become aware that someone who has attended school, has tested positive for coronavirus. In liaison with Public Health England and the Local Outbreak team at Birmingham City Council, close contacts will be informed and will need to self-isolate for 10 full days. In this instance, our remote learning policy and contingency plan for remote learning will start within 24 hours.

Handwashing

Pre-established handwashing routines will continue. Pupils must wash their hands regularly including:

- when they arrive at school
- when they return from breaks
- before and after eating

There are hand sanitiser stations in every classroom.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will continue and children will be reminded of this once they are back in school. Tissues and bins are available in every classroom.

Cleaning

In line with Government guidance and our COVID risk assessment, an enhanced cleaning regime will continue to be maintained. This will include:

- Frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal
- Cleaning toilets twice daily
- Cleaning toys and equipment regularly (including outside equipment)
- Encouraging pupils to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day and after using the toilet
- Allocating different groups their own toilets and sinks within our facilities
- Regular sanitising of hands

Children will continue to be provided with individual and frequently used equipment such as pencils and pens. Classroom based resources can be used and shared within the bubble and will be cleaned regularly. Resources that are shared will be cleaned before and after use.

Class bubbles

Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group.

For the vast majority of the time, children will remain in their class social bubble and will be kept apart from other groups.

Classes will not be mixing during lunchtimes and playtimes. Staff will, as far as possible, not be operating across different classes and year groups.

Specialist, medical professionals, therapists, social workers, peripatetic music teachers, supply staff and sports coaches can continue to provide school support as and where needed. Additional precautions will be taken to reduce the risks of transmission.

Start and end of day

Staggered start and finish times will be continued in order to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school. This will only work when the timings are adhered to by all parents/carers. We really do need your assistance and cooperation to make this work effectively.

Face masks must be worn by all adults who come onto the school grounds.

We ask that only one adult bring/collect children to reduce the number of adults on the school grounds.

Parents should not gather around the school site or enter school without a prior appointment.

We politely ask that as soon as children are dropped off and collected that parents leave the school site and/or surrounding areas as soon as possible.

Please ensure that your children are collected promptly at the designated time on a Friday.

The arrangements for drop-off and collection (until Easter) across the Federation are:

	Drop-off time	Collection time	Place
Nursery a.m.	8.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.	Nursery Gate
Nursery p.m.	12.30 p.m.	3.30 p.m.	Nursery Gate
Reception	8.50 a.m.	3.15 p.m. 12.00 p.m. Friday	RB/RK: Back door RH: Bottom door
Year 1	8.55 a.m.	3.20 p.m. 12.05 p.m. Friday	1B: Bottom door 1T: Back door 1W: Classroom door
Year 2	8.50 a.m.	3.25 p.m. 12.10 p.m. Friday	2PB/2S: Ramp door 2M: a.m. ramp, p.m. bottom door
Year 3 3U	8.45 a.m.	3.20 p.m. 12.10 p.m. Friday	Grassed area at the front of school

Year 3	3K	8.50 a.m.	3.25 p.m. 12.15 p.m. Friday	Grassed area at the front of school
Year 3	3H	8.55 a.m.	3.30 p.m. 12.20 p.m. Friday	Grassed area at the front of school
Year 4		8.45 a.m.	3.20 p.m. 12.10 a.m. Friday	Patio area at the front of school
Year 5		8.50 a.m.	3.25 p.m. 12.15 p.m. Friday	Patio area at the front of school
Year 6		8.50 a.m.	3.25 p.m. 12.15 p.m. Friday	Year 6 entry/exit point
BIB		9.00 a.m.	2.50 p.m. 11.50 p.m. Friday	Own door from playground

Staggered break and lunchtimes

In order to prevent contact between bubbles, staggered break and lunchtimes will continue. Children will continue to eat their lunches inside their classroom.

Please see information circulated on 26th February from Dolce for further information regarding school lunches and our new school provider. We will be launching a new lunch menu from 8th March that will include the daily “grab bag” option for whilst meals are eaten within classrooms. Grab bag meal options can also be ordered on Fridays for your child to take home with them as long as the order has been placed on the School Grid system.

Please register online this week to ensure that your child can receive their school lunches from 8th March. If you have not yet received an email with your login details, contact school immediately so that we can investigate and provide you with the required information to register before this Friday.

Water bottles

Please provide your child with their own labelled water bottle each day, filled with water only.

Ventilation

Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risk from airborne transmission. Teachers will continue to ensure that our classrooms are well-ventilated with windows remaining open throughout the day. Please ensure that your child wears additional layers of clothing.

Uniform

All children should attend school in their full school uniform, with the exception of their PE day when they should wear their PE kits to school. Children’s “welcome back” letters from their teachers, will detail the PE days for each class and will be sent later today.

Communication with school

Teachers and office staff will not be available for face to face discussions, please continue to communicate with us via telephone and email addresses.

Medication

Please ensure that your child’s medication (e.g. inhaler) is in date and that all medical information is up to date.

Lateral Flow testing for parents

On Sunday 28 February, the [Department of Health and Social Care announced](#) that from Monday 1 March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8

March. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed using the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Supplies will be available-

- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Supporting your child with their return to school

Children may have mixed emotions about their return to school.

Many children will be looking forward to returning, however some may be anxious. Follow the links below for some guidance on how to adjust back to school life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIXA57oI848&feature=youtu.be>

If your child is feeling anxious about returning back to school, the links below include conversation starters, breathing techniques and a video which can help you to encourage your child express how they are feeling.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-your-child-is-anxious-about-going-back-to-school/#conversation-starters>

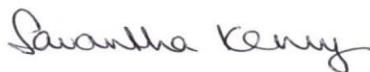
In the coming weeks, there will be further information being sent out about:

- Parents evening arrangements
- Curriculum adjustments and COVID catch-up plans
- Returning to a 5-day school week after Easter

We know that some families will feel anxious about the return to school. Please be reassured that the safety of our children and staff is of paramount importance and our robust risk assessments are regularly updated and reviewed to reflect the latest guidance.

Please do not hesitate to contact us further if you require any additional information or support at this time. We look forward to 8th March when we can welcome back all of our children and begin to return to some sort of normality.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Kenny
Head of School