

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

We hope that you have enjoyed the summer holiday and we warmly welcome all of our families back to school for the start of the new school year. The Year One and Year Two children seem to have come back happily and settled very quickly into their new classes and the new Reception children began their first part-time sessions yesterday. The first Nursery children have also started. I have been greeted by lots of smiles and hugs as I have walked around school!

This first newsletter of the year is always long as we have lots of information for you - thank you for reading it! Class teachers will be sending home details about topics, PE days etc shortly.

Diary dates:

We know that parents need to have dates for the year as early as possible. We have endeavoured to collate as many of the dates for the new school year as possible and we attach these to this letter - further details of events will be sent home when we have more information.

Staff changes

We have had a few staff changes this year. For information, our staffing structure is attached to the back of the newsletter. We congratulate Miss Cormell on the birth of Theo and Mrs Illidge on the birth of Bonnie and welcome Theo and Bonnie into our Boldmere family. Miss Cormell and Mrs Illidge will be on maternity leave for most of this current academic year.

Attendance

We were extremely proud of everyone last year for such excellent attendance and we hope that our attendance figures continue to improve this year. Mrs Mason is sending a letter to parents explaining our reward system for celebrating great attendance. Last year 12% of children achieved 100% and 47% achieved over 98%. Please support us by ensuring children attend each day.

Collecting Children from School

Our school is a large school and our priority is to keep all children safe. At the end of the day children are handed over to parents/ carers at designated places. If you

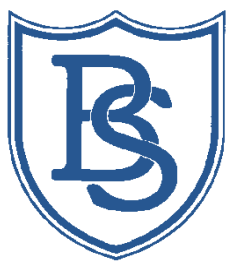
ask someone who does not normally collect your child to collect them, please tell class teachers, as we will obviously not let children leave with strangers. Unless we are given specific written authorisation, we will not let children leave the school in the care of any other child under the age of 16.

We would appreciate any parents who have custody issues relating to the collection of their children, to speak either to class teachers or to the school office. We will do our utmost to make sure that only the nominated people collect children from school, but we do ask parents to let us know when these arrangements change.

It is essential that parents/carers inform us whenever mobile telephone numbers or any other contact details change. We must be able to get in contact with a parent at all times.

Car parking Outside of the School

We appreciate the difficulty created by limited parking space for parents who



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need to drive to school to collect children. As ever, our only concern is for the safety of the children. Could we therefore ask parents not to park in the zig-zag safety area directly outside of the school.

This exists to prevent accidents happening to children - our children are very small and cannot be seen behind parked vehicles.

Medical Conditions and Allergies

If your child has an on-going medical condition, such as asthma or an allergy, could you please ensure that the school is aware of the condition and has any prescribed medication. All medicines other than asthma inhalers and epi-pens are kept in the office and it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that medication is in-date and replenished when necessary. Inhalers and epi-pens are kept in the classroom. Children with long-term medical conditions will all have a care plan and parents should provide school with a copy as soon as possible. Any other prescribed medications that need taking during the day, should be taken, by parents, to the school office. If the school is required to give medicines, a

parental consent form will be needed; these are available from the office. In line with all Birmingham schools, we are not allowed to administer any non-prescribed medication.

If children have specific allergies e.g. to nuts, eggs or sticking plasters, please inform class teachers or the school office. We do have a number of children with nut allergies in school, and would ask parents, if at all possible, to avoid the use of nuts or peanut butter in packed lunches as this can trigger the allergy in other children.

Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on 5th October. We hold this every year to raise money to pay for any extra enrichment activities. Last year we raised £1,279 and used this for visiting theatre groups; pottery workshops; bhangra dance workshops; cooking activities and gardening activities. More details and sponsor forms will follow next week.

E-Safety

Ensuring that children are safe when using all different kinds of information technology is absolutely an essential life skill. We do lots of work in school

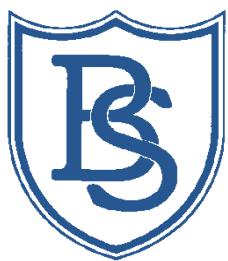
with the children to help them increase their e-safety awareness. We have also put some very useful resources on the school website

www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk

Go to the 'Parents' tab, then 'E-Safety' tab. You can access this and educate your child further about keeping safe when using technology. We are sure you agree that the children's safety when accessing many different technological devices is absolutely paramount and is a shared responsibility of both home and school.

Now for the long list of reminders:

a) The School day: Doors open at 8.50am for 'trickle in' time and all children should be in school by 9.00am. Registers are marked at 9.00am and we are required to mark as 'late' any child who is not in school at the close of registers. The school day ends at 3.30pm when children are handed over to parents or carers by class teachers. Reception children come out a few minutes earlier to enable parents to collect children from different year groups.



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b) Drop-in Sessions: Parents are very welcome to come into the classrooms after school on Mondays from 3.30-4.00 pm. This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions about our school, your child's progress or even to look at displays. No appointments are needed for drop-in sessions but it is useful to inform staff in the morning if you would like to see the teacher. If parents need to speak to class teachers about any aspect of their child's education, please feel free to make an appointment at any time during the school year.

c) Jewellery: Earrings, necklaces and bangles must not be worn to school as they can easily get caught when young children play. Simple studs for pierced ears are acceptable, but should be removed for PE. With our young children, we request that parents remove earrings on PE days. If your child is unable to remove jewellery for religious reasons please let class teachers know and we will ask them to cover it up during PE to prevent any risk of accident.

d) Book Bags: Please can you ensure that your child has an appropriate book bag in school. We have a number of children who bring in huge rucksack

style bags and they do not fit into the children's drawers. This results in them being left on the floor in cloakrooms which is a safety hazard. Book bags are available to purchase from the school office for £3.60 and are the perfect size for storing in drawers.

e) Clothes labelling: Could parents please make sure that ALL clothes and shoes are clearly marked with a label or an indelible pen. School uniform is expensive and if clothes are named, we can return lost items to their owners. Lost property is collected in the corridor between 1E and RM and parents are welcome to check there for lost items - the best time is after school.

d) Toys, keyrings, birthday sweets & drinks
We request that children do not bring their toys from home into school as they can often become lost. Could we also ask that parents do not put keyrings on book bags as accidents can occur. We have many children with allergies at school and so we ask that children do not bring sweets to share with their classmates but save them for parties at home. Children are provided with water to drink throughout the

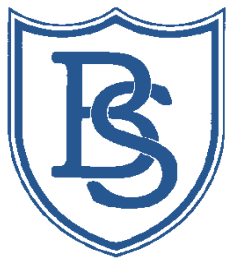
day from their own numbered cups. Water bottles from home are not required. If your child does not drink water or milk, please speak with the class teacher.

f) Absence:

The Government changed the legislation relating to Term Time absences last year and head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, in which case a form must be completed by parents and returned to the school. The Birmingham guidance is attached for information. If your child is absent from school due to illness, could you please contact the school office on the first day of their absence and then send a brief note to the class teacher when your child returns to school. It is a legal requirement that we account for every absence and the attendance of each child is monitored by the local authority and levels of absence reported to the Department for Education.

g) Dogs in school

With the exception of Guide Dogs and trainee Guide Dogs, we must insist that



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parents do not bring dogs on to the school site including the playground, field and through the gates onto school property. This includes dogs on a lead and those being carried. We have children with allergies and others who are very scared of dogs and must ensure that school is a safe environment for them.

h) Scooters and bikes on the playground

We continue to be delighted to see so many skilled scooter and bike riders in school and hope that the bike/scooter rack is helping store them safely. Could we ask that children do not ride scooters and bikes on the playground - with 270 children on the main site, this leads to accidents.

School Meals

School meals are served on a four week rotating system in school. This week is Week four, next week will be Week one. Following a few enquiries regarding the Jelly served in school, we can confirm it is made without gelatine.

From the PTA

Welcome back to the New Year and welcome to all new parents. We want learning to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. We,

the PTA, do what we can to support the school by raising money and providing essential equipment for the children to help them with their learning.

Would you like to get involved? Perhaps you might like to be the Chairwoman or Secretary? Playing these roles in the PTA allows you to be part of an amazing team. You'll gain massive satisfaction when you see the results and how much the children's education is enhanced by the money we raise. Come and join us, make great friends and be part of the team.

We will be holding the AGM at the end of the month but please do get in touch if you would like to get more involved at boldmere.pta@gmail.com - would love to hear from you.

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 celebrate how families and schools work together and make a whole school display. Please note that photographs are being used for a display so they may fade or be pinned (a copy or spare photograph is ideal).

Summer Reading Challenge

Please be reminded that children have until 15th September 2018 at 5pm to complete the challenge. If you have lost the review sheets you can hand the reviews in on any paper and hand them all in together.
and finally

Thank you for reading this rather long letter. We are sending it as a paper copy to all parents this week so that useful sheets, such as dates for the year, can be kept. Electronic copies will be sent out as soon as all of our data is updated.

Mrs S Kenny
Head of School
11th September 2018