



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.

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 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. We have also been supported by our PTA and have purchased "children parking signs" for the bend on Cofield Road. Please adhere to the double yellow line parking restrictions in this area. These restrictions exist 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



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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.

Reception Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on 11th October. We are holding this for Reception only, in order to raise funds for the Reception outdoor classroom. As you can appreciate, our outdoor resources have a great amount

of use and we are hoping to buy much needed equipment to re-stock it for this year! 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 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.

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



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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. Please do not send in huge rucksack style bags as they do not fit into the children's drawers. This results in them being left on the floor in cloakrooms and 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 by the library, 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.

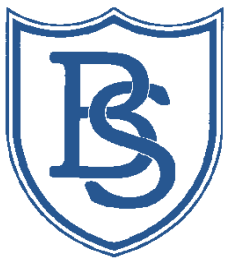
We have many children with allergies at school and so we ask that children do not bring sweets to share with their classmates but save them for parties at home. Children are provided with water to drink throughout the day from their own numbered cups. Water bottles from home are not required. If your child does not drink water or milk, please speak with the class teacher.

f) Absence:
The Government legislation relating to Term Time absences states that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, in which case a letter explaining why your child will be absent should be sent to Mrs Kenny. 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. If we have not heard from you on the day of your child's absence we will be making a phone call to you as part of our

responsibility to safeguard children.
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 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 we 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.



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School Meals

School meals are served on a four week rotating system in school. This week is Week Two. 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 school year and welcome to all our new parents. We all want our children's learning to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. The PTA do what we can supporting the school by raising money and providing essential things for our children.

Please join us. Be part of a fabulous team. We are currently looking for help, people to join in with the roles, perhaps co-chair, co-secretary, sharing the responsibility to make the job a little easier. We are also needing a new treasurer as our current treasurer needs to step down.

Please do get in touch if you're even slightly curious to find out about any of these roles. boldmere.pta@gmail.com

You'll gain massive satisfaction when you see the results and how much the children's education is enhanced by the money that 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.

Have you joined our 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.yourschoollottery.co.uk Search for **Boldmere School**, register and you could be our next winner! It's easy.

Finally, if you want to join the PTA mailing list and receive information about our events and what we are up to, please let us know by sending your email address to boldmere.pta@gmail.com

Any announcements will be sent out to the mailing list, but you have to be registered to receive them.

Busy Bodies

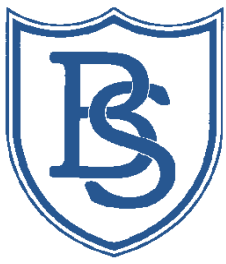
May we take this opportunity to welcome back all our Busy Bodies families, we hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and looking forward to this term.

September payments- Please be aware that all children registered for Busy Bodies have now been assigned to our

ParentPay system. Please ensure that you check and pay for your child's September sessions immediately if you have not already done so. Should you have any queries with regards to your child's account, please do not hesitate to contact the Busy Bodies manager who will be happy to assist with your query. October booking forms will be available from next week Monday 16th September, so be sure to collect an October form and return it to Busy Bodies by Friday 27th September.

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).



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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
10th September 2019

Sanantha Kenny