



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, Year Two and BIB children seem to have come back happily and settled very quickly into their new classes. The new Nursery and Reception children will begin their first part-time sessions next week. Induction for Nursery and Reception children is taking place this week as we were unable to facilitate this during the Summer term. 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.

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.

Contact details:

It is essential that parents/carers inform us immediately whenever mobile telephone numbers or any other contact details change. We must be able to contact a parent/carers 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 is in receipt of 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



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the day, should be handed, by parents, to the staff on the door. If the school is required to give medicines, a parental consent form will be needed; these can be completed upon arrival at the door. 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, therefore nuts and nut products are not allowed in school for snacks or lunches as this can trigger the allergy in other children.

Nursery and Reception Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on Tuesday 13th October. We are holding this for Nursery and Reception only, in order to raise funds for the outdoor classrooms. 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 soon.

E-Safety

Ensuring that children are safe when using information technology, is an essential life skill. We do lots of work in school with the children to help 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 'Safeguarding' tab, then 'E-Safety' tab. You can access this and support your child to keep safe when using technology. Children's safety when accessing different technological devices is absolutely paramount and is a shared responsibility of both home and school.

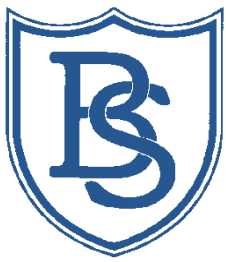
Now for the long list of reminders:

a) Drop off and Collection during Covid19: We are currently staggering the start and end times of each day in order to reduce the number of children and parents on site at any one time. These arrangements, may be amended in the light of further DFE guidance. Mr Glasgow and I review the situation regularly and will notify parents should arrangements change. Please note that school closes to all pupils on Friday at either 11.50am, 12pm or 12.10pm. Early closure on this day

facilitates a deep clean of the school and in particular the meticulous cleaning of all toys, games, books and resources used by our young children. These resources are vital for learning and we want to ensure that they are safe to use. Please note only 1 adult should be on the school site at drop off and collection time. This forms part of our risk assessment and we would welcome your help and support.

b) Registration: Registers are marked at 9.15am each day and we are required to mark as 'late' any child who is not in school at the close of registers.

c) Parent/teacher contact: Unfortunately during Covid19 we are unable to offer face to face meetings in school with parents. We are aware however that the education of your children is a partnership between you as parents and the school. Staff can be contacted with queries either by telephone or email. Please contact the school office in the first instance and we will direct your enquiry as appropriate. Enquiries are dealt with initially by the class teacher or the year lead. We have set up new email



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addresses for each year group enquiries. Please use these emails for correspondence specific to your child's class/year group. The email addresses are listed at the end of the newsletter.

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. Please do not send in rucksack style bags as they do not fit into the children's drawers. Book bags are available to purchase from school for £3.60 and are the perfect size for storing in drawers. Please pay via Parentpay.

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.

e) Toys, keyrings, birthday sweets & drinks

We request that children do not bring their toys from home into school and please do not put keyrings on book bags. We have many children at school with allergies and so we ask that children do not bring sweets to share with their classmates, but save them for parties at home. Please provide a named water bottle from home each. If your child does not drink water or milk, please speak with the class teacher.

f) Milk: Free milk is provided daily, until your child reaches 5 years of age. Following their 5th birthday a small charge is made but please order milk from school by completing the request form and making payment via Parentpay.

g) Fruit: All children receive a piece of fruit each day as part of the Governments Healthy/Free campaign. There is no cost to parents for this snack. We have just received confirmation that the free fruit scheme will re-commence

from tomorrow 9th September so no more snacks need to be sent in to school for your child.

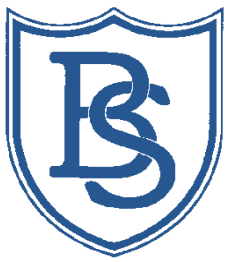
h) Absence:

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 first day of your child's absence we will make 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.

i) 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 we must ensure that school is a safe environment for them.

j) 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 can lead to accidents.

k) Masks and hand sanitiser:

No masks or hand sanitiser are required in school. In line with government guidance we are not wearing masks in school and we are providing and supervising the use of sanitiser during the school day.

School Meals during Covid19

Provision of hot meals is currently unavailable however, we are offering packed lunches for all children at school. If you would like your child to receive a packed lunch please ensure

that you have completed the online ordering form. Packed lunches include a sandwich (tuna, cheese or ham), piece of fruit/vegetable sticks, jelly, small cake and a drink. Alternatively, if you do not wish your child to receive a school lunch, please provide a packed lunch from home.

Please limit the amount in the lunch- do not send more than 3 or 4 items. Children can sometimes become overwhelmed by too many choices and also feel that they must eat everything before they go out to play! If you are providing grapes, please ensure they are halved in order to avoid the possibility of choking incidents!

If you decide to change your preference of a school lunch to a packed lunch from home please let the school office know.

WhatsApp:

Please note, WhatsApp groups are for out of school communication. If you require clarification regarding absences, illness or any school policy/procedure please contact the school directly.

From the PTA

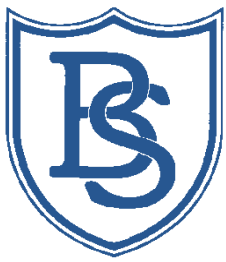
Welcome back to the New Year and welcome to all our new

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 all pupils.

Please join us. Be part of a fabulous team. As ever we are always looking to expand the team and welcome in new members. You'll gain massive satisfaction when you see the results and how much the children's education and experiences are enhanced by the money that we raise. Come and join us, make great friends and be part of the team.

Eager to help straight away? There's a few things you could start today!

Why not join 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.



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Do you have an Amazon account? By registering and doing your online Amazon shop through smile.amazon.co.uk the PTA will receive commission from every purchase you make. Just head to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and register Boldmere PTA as your chosen charity you can start fundraising for the PTA with your next purchase.

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.

Due to current restrictions in force in our community some of the big events that the PTA would usually hold in order to raise money for the children will unfortunately not be running this year. But we will not let this stop us doing whatever we can to continue raising as much money as possible for our children and the school. We need you more than ever this year - virtually, in person, thinking creatively and getting 'stuck in' in whatever capacity you have,

so that this year we are still, despite everything, able to continue to raise money so the children of both Boldmere Infant and Junior School continue to get those enhanced experiences and education that the PTA are so proud to help provide every year. Together we can do this!

Please email boldmere.pta@gmail.com and register your support and follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Busy Bodies

A big warm welcome back to all our Busy Bodies families old and new. We look forward to seeing you all and how much you have all changed over the last few months. A few little changes that will now be in place in our setting from 14th September. Booking fees for September payment have now been adjusted to take into account the first two weeks cancellation of payments and Friday afternoons. These fees will be debited to your account by Wednesday 9th September. Please pay promptly. We take this time to remind parents to pay any outstanding registration fees for 20/21 as soon as possible as this may affect your child's place for the

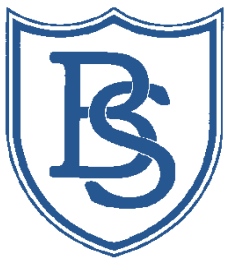
next academic year. This does not include Reception at present as they are still waiting for their Parentpay user names and passwords.

Busy Bodies operating hours - Busy Bodies will be operating their normal hours from 3.30pm until 6pm and the normal charges will still apply (i.e. 3.30-4.30=£5, 3.30-5.00=£7.50, 3.30-5.30=£10, 3.30-6pm=£12.50, as in our parent contract.

As we understand finishing times at the end of the day will start from 3pm. Busy Bodies will be happy to collect your child/ren from these times, however the following fees will apply:

- 3pm-3.30pm= £2.50
- 3.10pm-3.30pm=£2.50
- 3.15pm-3.30pm=£1.25
- 3.20pm-3.30pm=£1.25

The above will be the only changes to our normal operating hours i.e., we will NOT be offering any alternatives if asked (i.e. 3pm-4pm, 3.10pm-4.10pm, 3.15pm-4.15pm, these are NOT our normal operating hours.



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Booking forms - October booking forms will be available from Wednesday 16th September, to be returned no later than Wednesday 23rd September and payment by Friday 25th September.

Drop off and collection of your children - Unfortunately at this present time we are unable to allow parents into Busy Bodies setting when dropping off or collecting your child/ren. When dropping off there will be staff at the door to welcome your child and register them into Busy Bodies where they will stay in their year group bubbles, in an area with a variety of activities available.

When collecting please ring the bell on the top left of the door at the Busy Bodies entrance, a member of staff will be available and will record your collection time and sign on your behalf, and bring your child and their belongings to you. Busy Bodies will still be providing snacks in bubble groups and children will use their own water bottles that they have in school.

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).

And finally

Thank you for reading this rather long letter. We are sending it as a paper copy to all parents this week. We are also sending a copy electronically via Parentmail. Please let the office know if you do not receive a copy of the newsletter via Parentmail. From next week all newsletters will be sent out via Parentmail with the possible exception of Reception and Nursery children due to additional data inputting.

Mrs S Kenny
Head of School
8th September 2020

Email addresses for correspondence specific to your child's class/year group.

bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

nursery-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

reception-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr1-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr2-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk