

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 have their stay and play sessions this week and 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. School has been filled with lots of smiles and we have even enjoyed year group assemblies.

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.

Covid-19 Update September 2021

We have used the DFE operational guidance to share the following key messages.

Bubbles Mixing and 'bubbles'

We are no longer required to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Children are no longer required to isolate if they are a positive contact. This includes being a positive contact with someone in living in the same household (please see below for further information).

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and **education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.**

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their

parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

Individuals are **not required to self-isolate** if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

As a school we feel we have a duty of care to inform you



if there is a positive case within your child's class. We will do this via parent mail.

Information from NHS for **those identified as positive contact:**

Even if you **do not** have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

What to do if you or your child has symptoms- If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your test result - only leave your home to have a test. [Check if people you live with need to self-isolate.](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have any of these symptoms, get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have coronavirus and **stay at home until you get your result**, even if the symptoms are mild.

If you have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result after being tested because you had symptoms

If your PCR test result is negative but you still have symptoms, you may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or a stomach bug. You should stay at home until you feel well and for at least 2 more days if you have had [diarrhoea or vomiting](#). Seek medical attention if you are concerned about your symptoms.

We will continue to contact you and ask you to collect any children, as soon as possible, who present with Covid symptoms during the school day.

Please find the DFE operational guidance at this link:

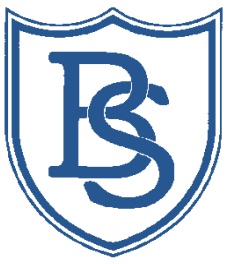
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

Thank you for your continued support.

Welcome to ... Big Cats Reading Books!

Over the summer, we have updated our Reading Scheme in order to give a greater range of books to match our





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phonics teaching. The scheme that we will be using is 'Big Cats'. This week, children will be assessed in order to match them to the most appropriate book. Please note that the levels on Big Cat do not directly match the numbered levels on the Floppy's Phonics/Oxford Reading Tree so your child may get a book which doesn't necessarily correspond with the previous reading band.

Children who are already confident readers will continue reading Oxford Reading Tree books.

This week, all children will take home a library book and they will be given a reading book next week, once all of the assessments have been completed.

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/carer at all times.

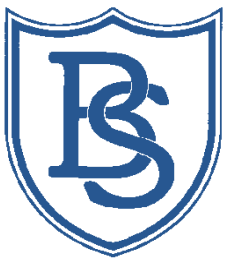
Car parking Outside of the School

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. Disabled badges are permitted to park on the double yellow lines.

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 written by parents and the school nursing team. Any other prescribed medications that need taking during the day, should be taken to the school office by parents. If the school is required to give medicines, a parental consent form will be needed; these can be



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completed at the office. In line with all Birmingham schools, we are not allowed to administer any non-prescribed medication.

Allergies

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. This also includes Nutella chocolate spread.**

Nursery, Reception and Inclusion Base Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on Friday 8th October. We are holding this for Nursery, Reception and the Inclusion Base 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) 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 3.20pm when children are handed over to parents or carers by class teachers. We take into account families need to collect siblings.

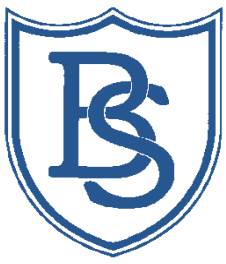
b) Parent/teacher contact: Staff can be contacted with

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 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



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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.

f) Toys, smart watches, 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 also ask you to check that children are not wearing smart watches. These have camera devices.

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 day. 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.

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

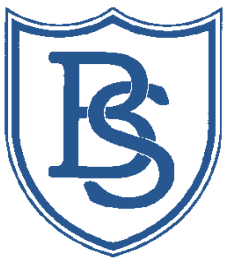
With the exception of Guide Dogs and trainee Guide Dogs, we must insist that parents do not bring dogs on to the school site, including the playground, field and through the gates onto school property. This includes dogs on a lead and those being carried. We have children with allergies and others who 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



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masks in school and we are providing and supervising the use of sanitiser during the school day.

L) School Meals: School lunches for your child must be ordered daily via SchoolGrid. Please make sure you update all food allergies and preferences via SchoolGrid if anything changes.

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

Hello and welcome to the new school year. For all of the new reception families a HUGE welcome to the Boldmere Family. Boldmere PTA organises and runs events and fundraising initiatives throughout the year. These are all organised and run by volunteers. We would love to invite you to join us and take part in raising money that is so importantly being spent in enhancing our children's education. 100% of the profits raised is spent on our children.

The PTA run events such as firework displays, fairs, balls

and competitions. We raised around £5,000 last year, despite covid restrictions limiting our usual calendar of events. In previous years we have been closer to £20,000. We hope this next year will be even more successful so we can continue to support our school by providing items and services such as books, subscriptions, playground markings, visits and parties that will benefit all children at our school.

We communicate through different ways. Please follow our social media <https://www.facebook.com/boldmereschoolspta> and <https://www.instagram.com/boldmerepta/>

If you would like to join our **mailing list** to be kept up-to-date with PTA activities, then please get in touch through boldmere.pta@gmail.com. You can email the same address if you have **fundraising ideas** or if you would like to join in. It is amazing to be part of the Boldmere family, we would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. If you did not want to have a hands on role, then there are plenty of ways that you can still help out.

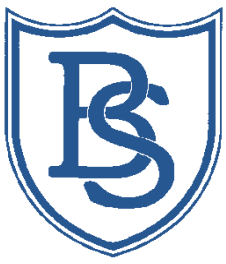
Please enter our **School Lottery**, visit

- www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/boldmere-infant-and-nursery-school and register to play. It only costs £1 per week. You could be the next 'BIG MONEY' winner!

Other simple ways that cost nothing to you and makes money for our kids.

- Shop through Easyfundraising, www.easyfundraising.org.uk register with us as your charity and the retailers will make a donation to the schools.
- Start shopping at Amazon Smile www.smile.amazon.co.uk register with us as your charity and whenever you buy with Amazon they donate to our schools.
- Does the company you work for 'Match fund' charity events? Would you consider match funding for us.





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Busy Bodies

The Busy Bodies team would like to take this opportunity to say a warm welcome back to all our families. We hope that everyone has had some break over the summer holidays, and look forward to hearing the children's stories and settling everyone back into the setting.

A New Academic Year-

Welcome to all our new families, we look forward to meeting the new children and helping to settle them into our club. We encourage free play within our setting and we are happy to inform you that children will be able to enjoy the provision of freely chosen activities once more.

Afternoon/Evening Collection-

We will be continuing with the collection procedure that was in place before the holidays. Parents/guardians should ring the Busy Bodies bell on the left hand side of the door and once the staff member has recognised who you have come to collect please return to the paved area (collection point) at the front of the school, and a member of staff will take your child/ren out to you.

September Fees- All our families will now have been issued with their ParentPay

logins, please ensure that you have paid for your September and Registration fees by **this FRIDAY 10th September**, if you have not already done so. **Busy Bodies waiting list-** The Busy Bodies Manager will be contacting parents who have not yet paid their Registration fees for this academic year, as we are currently experiencing a large intake of new families this year. If you no longer require our provision, please inform the Buy Bodies Manager as soon as possible, so that we can offer our waiting families the sessions they require.

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 next week. 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).

Thank you for reading this rather long letter.

Mrs S Kenny
Head of School
7th September 2021

Diary Dates:

Monday 13th September- Reception begin part time
Tuesday 14th September- Violin lessons begin
Monday 20th September- Reception full time
Monday 4th October- Flu immunisations (nasal spray)
Friday 8th October- Sponsored walk
Monday 18th October- Reading and Maths presentations for each year group (available on school website)
Wednesday 20th/ Thursday 21st October - Parents Evening via school cloud
Friday 22nd October - Half term
Monday 1st November- Autumn Term 2, Children return to school
Friday 19th November- Children in Need fundraising
Friday 17th December - Break up for Christmas

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