

NEWSLETTER - SEPT 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

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 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.

In addition to our usual start of term messages we have attached to today's newsletter the collated responses from our parent feedback survey in July. Thank you to all parents who provided feedback. The senior leadership team will use the feedback to support school improvement for 2023-24.

Reception Classes- Milk Letters, PE Bags and SchoolGrid

Reception class milk letters were sent home yesterday with your child. If you would like your child to have milk in school please return the form to school by 9am on Wednesday 13th September and make your payment if needed via Parentpay.

PE Bags are £3.30 and can be purchased via Parentpay. School Grid is the system we use in school for ordering your child's school lunch. We are still in the process of setting this up for the new reception children, you should receive an email from School Grid once this has been set up. If you have not received an email by Friday lunchtime please contact the school office.

Diary Dates

Monday 18th September- Reception children start full time.

Tuesday 3rd October- Year 1 parent workshop 9.15-10.15am

Wednesday 4th October - Reception parent workshop 9.15-10.15am.

Thursday 5th October - Year 2 parent workshop 9.15-10.15am

Friday 6th October- Whole school sponsored walk.

Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th October - Parents Evening 4pm-6.30pm.

Friday 27th October- Break up for half term holidays.

Monday 6th November- School re-opens to all pupils.

Wednesday 8th November - School Open Day for Reception 2024, 9.30am and 5.00pm

Friday 22nd December- Break up for Christmas holidays.

Yellow lines in Key Stage One Playground - A polite reminder!

The yellow line is in the playground for parent, carers to wait behind so that children have a safe space to enter school, it also allows school staff clear vision of the playground and children.

This week is settle in week for our new Reception children so we understand that parents may need to cross the yellow line in the top playground at the start/end of the school day (Hedgehog, Robin, Owl and Lion class drop off point).

If parent, carers need to pass on a message about their child to a member of staff please wait until majority of the children have entered school and a member of staff is free before crossing the yellow line.

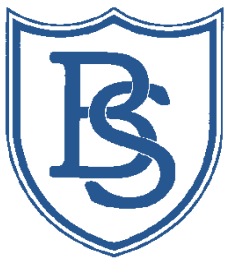
A calm start to the morning is a priority for our children and crowds can be daunting. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Contact Details

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

Welcome New Staff

We are excited to have a number of new teaching assistants across school this year. Welcome to Mrs Hakim in Nursery, Mrs Chatwin and Mrs Parsonage in Reception and Mrs Lawrence in Year One, Miss Gaunt and Mrs Isher in the BIB. I am sure they will all feel part of our Boldmere family very quickly!



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Year Two Librarians

There are a small number of vacancies for Year Two lunchtime librarians. Those children who have shown an interest in this important role in school have taken home application forms and job descriptions. These need to be returned to Mrs Beesley by Monday 25th September.

Lunchtime Clubs

Autumn term one lunchtime club letters will be sent home tonight, please check your child's book bags. These clubs can be oversubscribed and we use the process of a lucky dip to ensure a fair policy. It is therefore important to ensure that reply slips are returned to school and payment is made via ParentPay before the deadline which is **9am Monday 18th September 2023**.

Sponsored Walk

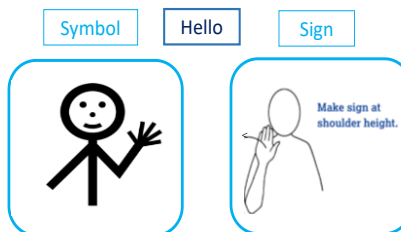
Our annual sponsored walk will take place on Friday 6th October. We are holding this for children across the whole school, in order to raise funds for the outdoor environment. As you can appreciate, our outdoor resources have a great amount of use and we are hoping to buy much needed equipment to re-stock it for this year! More details and sponsor forms will follow next week.

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 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.

Makaton Sign Of The Week

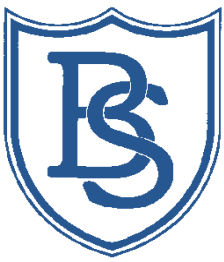
The new Makaton sign for this week is 'hello'. Look out for the video on twitter of Mrs Kinsella demonstrating the sign.



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. This also includes Nutella chocolate spread.

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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.

Ordering Lunches Via School Grid

Please can we remind parents that you need to order lunches for your child via School Grid.

Newsletter:

The weekly newsletter can also be found on the school website:
<https://www.boldmere.bham.sch.uk>

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 '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.

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).

Busy Bodies

Welcome to the first edition of the Busy Bodies news, we hope that all our families had a great summer break, though that seems like a distant memory now.

We would like to welcome all our new Reception children and all new families. We hope that Receptions have a good settling in session this week and look forward to welcoming you all full-time from week commencing 18th September.

September booking forms and registration fees.

A polite reminder to Receptions families that your ParentPay accounts will now have been set up, therefore you will be able to make your payments for your child's registration fees and September fees.

October booking forms

Please note that October's form will be available from Wednesday 20th September, booking forms must be returned by Wednesday 27th September. All October fees must be paid a month in advance by Friday 29th September. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate in contacting the Busy Bodies Manager

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

bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

nursery-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

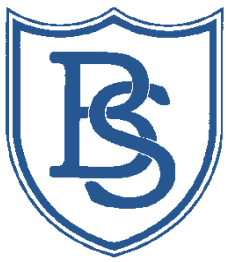
reception-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr1-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr2-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

Our Vision: The Federation of Boldmere Schools empowers all children to embrace learning; achieve their personal best; and build their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.





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Boldmere Inclusion Base News From Mrs Preece:

Welcome back to all the children and parents of the BIB and I extend a warm welcome to those new parents and children, who started with us this week. It was so lovely to see everyone after the holidays and hear about what you had all been doing. The children have settled well into their classes and are enjoying getting to know our new TA's.

Below is a reminder of the staff that will be supporting your children:

Giraffes	LK	ED
Mrs. Welch Smith	Mrs. Kinsella	Miss. Driscoll
Miss. Tulley	Mrs. Dale	Miss. Gaunt
Mrs. Isher	Miss. Mevish	Mrs. Boylan
Miss. Mevish	Mrs. Boylan	Mrs. Isher
		Miss. O'Connor

A few reminders:

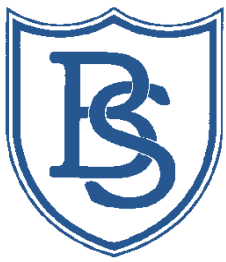
- Any appointments or absences should be reported to the respective school offices please. Reception- year 2, infant office 0121 464 2338, Year3-year 6, junior office 0121 464 3656. The BIB direct line 0121 464 2338/3656 option 5.
- A polite request parents please to drop children at the bottom of the ramp and not bring them into the BIB yourselves. Staff will take children in and take any messages that you might have for other staff members.
- Parent/Teacher 'drop in'-is available if you would like to speak to your child's teacher about an issue, Monday 3.00-4.00 is set aside for this.
- PE days are Wednesday and Friday. Children can come to school dressed in their PE kits. Wednesday will be an outdoor session, Friday indoors. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing as the weather gets colder.
- Junior BIB children will need to have a snack for morning break please.
- School lunches will now be charged for those children in year 2 who previously had free school lunches. If you would like your child to continue to have a school lunch, you will be required to open a junior account to place your child's order. You should have received parent mail to enable you to do this.
- Whilst the children are settling back into the routine of school, the BIB staff recognise that some children might need to bring in a comforter. However, we ask that these are kept to a minimum and with your support the children settle and become less reliant on these.
- We are continuing to develop our use of Makaton within school. Please look out on Twitter for the signs we will be focusing on. This half term we will be revisiting:



- Wednesday 13th September** -West Midlands Air Ambulance. The BIB will be joining in with the junior school to raise awareness and funds for the Air Ambulance service.

We will be inviting **ALL** the BIB children come to school on that day wearing something red .It is completely optional. Wednesday for us is a PE day therefore, children can opt to wear something red as part of their PE kit or accessorize with red, for example, socks or hair slides. For doing so, we will also be inviting children to make a contribution to the Air Ambulance charity on the day, preferably a cash (coins) donation as these will then be arranged into a collage, similar to this.





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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. Reception children come out a few minutes earlier to enable parents to collect children from different year groups.

b) Parent/teacher contact 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.

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.

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 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 for £3.80 and are the perfect size for storing in drawers. Please pay via Parentpay.

e) PE Bags: PE bags are available to purchase from the school at a cost of £3.30. Please make the payment via Parentpay. PE kits (indoor and outdoor) will need to remain at school at all times and will be sent home every half term for washing.

f) Parentpay: Parentpay is the platform we use in school for any payments that need to be made. Payment instructions, log in details and passwords are all sent home when your child first starts at school. There are a few methods of payment that can be used by

parents.

To clarify so that parents can make their own informed decisions: If using the bank transfer method of payment - it can take 3-5 working days and sometimes up to 10 days for the funds to be cleared by the bank before the school can access the money to make refunds.

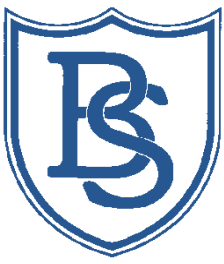
If parents scroll a little further down the payment page to checkout and choose either visa checkout or pay-use another method and then put/save your card details, the money is then cleared immediately so that if necessary school can refund as soon as we are able to. This applies to all payments made via Parentpay.

g) 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.

h) 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



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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.

i) 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.

j) Fruit: All children receive a piece of fruit each day as part of the Government's Healthy/Free campaign. There is no cost to parents for this snack.

k) 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.

School follows Birmingham's Fast Track to Attendance policy when dealing with attendance concerns and prosecutions.

Please see the important letter attached regarding attendance.

l) 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.

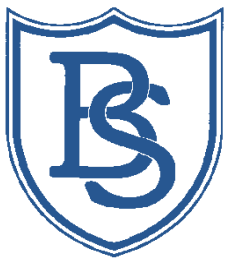
m) Scooters and bikes on the playground

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.

n) 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.

o) 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.



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Community News

Disclaimer - The following community events are for your information. Should you wish to obtain further information or attend, it is at parents' own discretion.

Football in the Community



ASTON VILLA
FOUNDATION

Skills and Coaching Centre
Sessions (Ages 2-16)

- Soccer Tots
- Skills Centres
- Player Coaching Centres
- Girls Coaching Centres
- Goalkeeper Coaching Centres

Areas Covered:

- Aston (Aston Villa FC City Academy)
- Sutton Coldfield (Sutton Coldfield Town FC)
- Harborne (Lordswood Girls Academy)
- Burntwood (Highfields Primary School)
- Halesowen (Halesowen College)
- Solihull (West Warwickshire Complex)
- Tamworth (Tamworth Enterprise College)
- Bartley Green (King Edwards VI Five Ways School)



Scan Me

Thank you for reading this rather long letter.

Sarah Kenny

Mrs S Kenny
Head of
School
12/09/2023

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