



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.

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 **Friday 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 Thursday lunchtime please contact the school office.

Diary Dates

Monday 16th September- Reception children start full time.

Tuesday 1st October - Year 1 parent workshop 9.15-10.15am

Wednesday 2nd October - Year 2 parent workshop 9.15-10.15am.

Thursday 3rd October - Reception parent workshop 9.15-10.15am

Friday 4th October- Whole school sponsored walk.

Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd October - Parents Evening 4pm-6.30pm.

Friday 25th October- Break up for half term holidays.

Monday 4th November- School re-opens to all pupils.

Wednesday 6th November - School Open Day for Reception 2024, 9.30am and 5.00pm

Friday 20th December- Break up for Christmas holidays.

Contact Details It is essential that parents/carers inform us whenever home addresses, mobile telephone numbers or any other contact details change. We must

Welcome New Staff

We are excited to welcome Mrs Turner in Reception teaching Penguin class and Mrs Cozens who will be working as a teaching assistant across Reception. I am sure they will all feel part of our Boldmere family very quickly!

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 Meerkat 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.



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 23rd September.

Lunchtime Clubs

Autumn term one lunchtime club letters will be sent home last week. 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 Wednesday 11th September 2024**.

Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on Friday 4th 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.

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.

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.

Ordering Lunches Via School Grid

Please can we remind parents that you need to order lunches for your child via School Grid. If your child is absent from school, please remember to cancel any ordered lunches as soon as possible to help reduce any wasted meals.

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).

If you have sent in photographs in previous years, we will re-use those.

Year 1 and 2 Reading Books

Children in Years 1 and 2 will be bringing home reading books this week. Please read as often as you can at home and record what you have read in the yellow reading record books.

Children will also take home a library book which is a book of their choice to share at home. Remember that the reading records are for recording any reading that you do at home.

Library Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all of those children who have completed the Library Summer Reading Challenge. If you joined the challenge, it is not too late to hand it in! Boldmere Library is open on Thursday and Saturdays 9am-1pm and 2-5pm for you to hand in your completed challenges.

Busy Bodies

We hope you have had a good summer break!

Welcome back to the new school year and a special welcome to all of our new children and parents starting with us.

Reception children

New parents will shortly be given ParentPay log in details from the Infant school to enable you to pay for your child's sessions, if paying by childcare vouchers or Tax-free childcare, please choose **Boldmere Junior_School** even if your child attends the Infants.

At Busy Bodies we provide a small snack upon arrival, if you wish to provide your child with their own snack, please send this in a named lunchbox.

September booking forms are available to download from the school's website or collect a paper copy from the Junior school office.

Previous Year 2 Children

Any credit or debts from your ParentPay accounts from the Infants will travel with your child over to the Juniors.

After School Clubs

If your child is attending an after-school club, please state this on your booking form, sessions at Busy Bodies will still be chargeable, your child will be returned back to us after the club finishes if required.

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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



School Emails

The two new separate

Email addresses for

Infants/Juniors are:



enquiry-inf@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

enquiry-jun@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

"Do you shop at Asda?"

If you do YOU can support the PTA!

Between now and 30th November 2024 - every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen school.

You can choose either Boldmere Infant and Nursery or Boldmere Junior School, but all the money in the cashpots at the end of November will be donated to Boldmere PTA.

Parentkind - a charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.

Donating is easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose Boldmere Infant & Nursery or Junior School - either searching by name or postcode
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop

Anyone can sign up - so start spreading the news amongst family and friends and raising funds that will benefit YOUR children at Boldmere schools.

This initiative is on top of the existing Asda Rewards benefits you get as a shopper - so you won't lose out on any of your own earnings or Cashpot, so everyone is a winner!

For more details, visit [asda.com/cashpotforschools](https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools)"

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) Home -School Communications
Absence-Phone the school office on 0121 464 2338 and leave an answer phone message by 8.30am on the day of the absence.

Change of pick up-Phone the school office on 0121 464 2338 by 3pm.

Medical Appointments-Bring appointment letter to the school office or email letter to enquiries.

Teaching & Learning Enquires-Email the year group email address. Teachers will respond within 48 hours: during school hours teachers are with the children so will not always be able to respond immediately.

Messages-SLT, Teachers and TAs are available on the door in the morning for short messages that can be passed on. Should you need longer to speak with your child's teacher there is an opportunity during parent/teacher drop in session between 3.30-4pm on Mondays. Although no appointment is needed, please let teachers know in the morning if you are popping in at the end of the day.

For any other query or concern, please email enquiry-inf@boldmere.bham.sch.uk or contact the school office who will direct your enquiry as appropriate. **Email Addresses**-We ask that all parents/carers adhere to the code of conduct in all their communications with school in order to foster positive relationships between school and families.

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 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 Governments 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 Attendance processes 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.

Congratulations Board

All of our Boldmere Infant children are being celebrated and congratulated this week for their return to school.

All children have settled well into their new classes, including our new Reception children. Well done children, we are very proud of each and every one of you!



Thank you for reading this rather long letter.

Mrs S Kenny
Head of
School
10/09/2024