

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 today. 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 Wednesday 10th September** and make your payment if needed via ParentPay.

PE Bags are **£3.30** and school bags are **£4.10**, and can be purchased via ParentPay. School Grid is the system we use in school for ordering your child's school lunch. You should have received an email from School Grid by now but if you haven't please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Diary Dates

Monday 15th September- Reception children start full time.

Tuesday 30th September - Year 1 parent workshop

Wednesday 1st October - Year 2 parent workshop.

Thursday 2nd October - Reception parent workshop

Friday 3rd October- Whole school sponsored walk.

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

Friday 24th October- Break up for half term holidays.

Monday 3rd November- School re-opens to all pupils.

Friday 19th December- Break up for Christmas holidays.

Welcome New Staff

We are welcoming Miss Williams and Mrs Bull to our Boldmere family. Both staff are working in our BIB, Miss Williams as Puffin class teacher and Mrs Bull as the BIB SENDco. Returning from maternity leave, we have Mrs Uppal taking on the Y2 year lead. Mrs Silverton and Mrs Mahon are Y1 and Reception year leads respectively and Mrs Jones joins the Infant school as our SENDco although will continue to work with the Junior school SENDco, Mrs Robinson as well as with Mrs Bull. We have also appointed a new Bursar, Mrs Johnson, in the office to work alongside Mrs Virdee. Mrs Johnson will be joining us next Monday.

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, Bears and Seals 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.

Newsletter:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Lunchtime Clubs

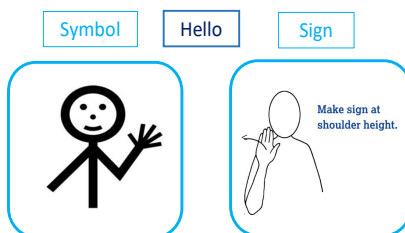
Autumn term one lunchtime club letters will be sent home last week. These clubs can be oversubscribed and we use the process of a lucky dip to ensure a fair policy. It is therefore important to ensure that reply slips are returned to school and payment is made via ParentPay before the deadline.

Sponsored Walk

Our annual sponsored walk will take place on **Friday 3rd October**. We are holding this for children across the whole school, in order to raise funds for the outdoor environment specifically Forest School resources. More details and sponsor forms will follow next week.

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.



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. Thank you for your support.

Online 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 online 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 'Online 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.

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.

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.

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

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



BIB Newsletter Week Beginning 8th September 2025

In **Giraffe** class this week, the children have been thoroughly enjoying exploring our sensory story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. They've been using their senses to engage with the different elements of the story, which has been a fun and interactive way to bring the story to life! In Maths, the children have been working on comparing amounts, developing their understanding of more and less, and practising counting with various activities. They've also been busy getting to know the new members of the class, forming friendships and settling into the routines of the class.

It's been a wonderful start, and we're excited to see how the children continue to grow and learn together!

In **Puffin** class this week, the children have started exploring a new sensory programme called TAC PAC, which helps to regulate and calm them before transitions. This programme uses touch and sensory stimulation to support their emotional well-being and is already proving to be a valuable tool for preparing the children for the next activity.

Alongside this, the children have been working on **Attention Autism**, engaging in activities that improve focus and communication skills in a fun and interactive way.

We've also enjoyed eating our lunches together as the whole BIB, creating a sense of community and sharing mealtime experiences as a class.

It's been a great week of learning and building connections!

Allergies/food intolerances

If your child has any allergies, please ensure that this information is added to School Grid (Dolce) when you register your child for school meals. This must be completed in addition to notifying the school office.

Dolce manage our lunch provision and it is parent's responsibility to provide food allergy information directly to Dolce via the online portal.

Busy Bodies families.

A huge welcome back to all our families, we hope that everyone has settled into the new academic year.



New starters/ Receptions 2025-26

Welcome to the Busy Bodies families, we hope that your child's time with us will be adventurous and fun in every way possible.

Everyone should have received their Arbor login details, please inform the Busy Bodies Manager if you have not yet been able to access the Arbor portal. Please note that all bookings are parent's responsibility, and must be done via Arbor.

Kindly note that there is a 12-hour cut off point for all bookings. For Busy Bodies there are two clubs set up - one for the breakfast club (**Busy Bodies Breakfast club**), and the other for the afternoon session (**Busy Bodies after school Club**). If you require your child to attend both sessions, this must be booked individually.

Registration fee 2025-26

If you require care for this academic year, please ensure that registration fee of £35.00 is paid via Arbor using the payment item- **Busy Bodies registration fee 2025-26**

If you have three or more children attending our club there is a separate Registration fees payment item on Arbor- **Busy Bodies third child registration fee 2025-26**. Payment of £17.50 for the third and consecutive child/ren.

Payment must be received by this **Friday 12th September**, should you have any difficulty in doing so, kindly inform the Busy Bodies manager. This covers your child's place for the remainder of this academic year.

Busy Bodies Arbor guidance- Do you require support?

We will be hosting two drop-in sessions for any parents who are new to Arbor or just require a refresher of how to make bookings.



The first session will be tomorrow afternoon-

Wednesday 10th September from 3:35pm to 4:30pm.

The second session will be Thursday 11th September from 9:30-10:30am.

Recruitment-

Busy Bodies is looking to recruit an enthusiastic, fun and child centred person to join our team of staff. If you enjoy making craft, creating fun sporting activities, and have the ability to engage with young people aged 4-11 years old then we would like to hear from you.

Kindly inform the Busy Bodies Manager via email on busies@boldmere.bham.sch.uk, application packs will go live on the Federation of Boldmere School website on **Monday 15th September**.

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 **£4.10** 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 City Council 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
Headteacher

09/09/2025