

# NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Challenges and Update of Full School Opening:

Our priority since the return to school has been to welcome back all children from Y1 to Y6 and to settle our new Reception and Nursery children into school. We have concentrated on familiarising children with the new school routines and assessing them so that we can plan appropriately to provide a recovery curriculum. The atmosphere in school is positive and it has been lovely to hear children back in the school!

However, the full opening of school has presented many challenges. We have been learning how to function in our new 'normal', constantly reviewing new guidance (which is often conflicting) and updating our safeguarding procedures. Unfortunately, we have also had a number of staff who are or have been unable to attend school as they have either been ill themselves or are awaiting test results for themselves or dependents. To date, we have had two positive results for staff and a further two for children.

In the last hour we have been notified that our Executive Head Carl Glasgow has tested positive for COVID-19. We wish Mr. Glasgow a speedy recovery. I am in regular discussion with our Chair of Governors and Public Health regarding the ongoing COVID-19 risk to the school. We have had 5 positive COVID-19 cases in as many days. At present we ask all parents / carers to have an increased awareness for both their own symptoms and symptoms developed by their children and to follow national and local COVID-19 guidance.

As I am sure you can appreciate the school has increasing staffing pressures and are managing situation on a daily basis. The safety of the children is paramount and we advise that all parents / carers monitor for any updates from the school.

The situation is changing daily and we are adapting as we go. We are working hard to balance delivering the curriculum within a safe and happy environment with minimising movement around school while covering absences. As you can imagine, it is a challenge the like of which no school has ever faced before. However, we will endeavour to follow all procedures and continue to provide a safe environment and appropriate learning for your children.

We have also been working behind the scenes to create a robust remote learning platform that is now available to children who are at home due to self-isolation. This will be delivered through Google Classroom. The provision is much improved on that we were able to provide prior to the summer.

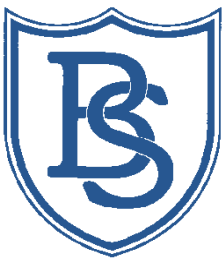
Children have been issued logins to access their work when at home self-isolating. You will receive a Parentmail later today with information on how to log on. Nursery children will receive their logins on Monday 5th October. Please also refer to the school website's '**Home Learning**' section, under your child's year group page, where a step by step guide and information about Google Classroom and our remote learning can be found.

I do need to stress however that this remote learning provision does not at this time include teacher contact via Zoom or Teams. There are several reasons for this and we will communicate further as soon as possible, but primarily, it is because staff who are self-isolating are not expected to provide live teaching sessions virtually, while those in school are engaged with in-school teaching, including covering for those currently absent. This position is under constant review.

We are sure that most parents will understand and accept this, and join us in wishing all staff and children with COVID-19 a speedy recovery.

I would like to take this time to thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times.

Mrs Kenny.



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## Cancellation of Violin Lessons and Lunchtime Sports Clubs

As mentioned in the Parentmail sent out last week we have decided to cancel all lunchtime sports clubs and Violin lessons in school. This decision has been made to reduce the amount of visitors into school at this time. Refunds will be made over the next few weeks.

## Bubble Party-Census Day - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Invitations were sent out last week for our Bubble party in school on Census day, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. This is to encourage as many children as possible to have a school lunch on this day as the funding we receive for school dinners is based on the number of dinners provided on this day. If you have not already done so please can you return the reply slips to the office by tomorrow **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

## 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). This includes nursery and the BIB-Giraffe class.

## All About Me Sheet

Over the next few days the children will be bringing home an 'All about me' sheet. Please can you support your child to complete the sheet and return it to school by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. These sheets will be displayed on our Religious Education board in school.

For our younger children please feel free to act as a 'scribe' for your child writing down what they say. For my beliefs, this could include family beliefs such as remembering to say please and thank you. In the big red box you can either include a photo of your child or they can draw a self-portrait. Thank you.

## Boldmere Library

Boldmere Library is open for order and collect. Staff are in the library on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm and are able to offer a service where people can come to the door and staff will then select books for them to take away to read.

## Celebrating Attendance

Congratulations to 1W, Lion class for achieving 100% attendance last week. Well done!

## Diary Dates:

### Autumn Term 2020

**1<sup>st</sup> October**-Census Day Bubble Party.

**13<sup>th</sup> October** - Nursery and Reception sponsored walk.

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** - Break up for half term holiday.

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** - School re-opens to all pupils.

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - Break up for Christmas holidays.

## Sponsored walk- Reception and Nursery children

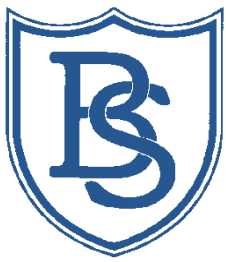
We are holding a sponsored walk for all of Reception and Nursery children on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The walk will take place on the school field during the school day with the children's class teachers. Reception children will walk three laps and Nursery will complete two. All monies raised will go towards updating our outdoor resources so that we can continue to provide children with an engaging and stimulating environment.

A sponsor form will be send out shortly and we ask that you pay all sponsor money via ParentPay.

When monies have been collected and spent we will share with you how much fun we having with our new equipment!

Thank you for your support, Reception and Nursery teams.



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## PTA News

Christmas card designs are in full swing. We are very happy to still be able to offer these for everyone to send to all your friends and family. You should have now received your child's designed Christmas card, received a blank sheet so your child can design their own card at home or you will be receiving something from the school by the end of this week.

**Please note that the hand in date for orders is the 9th October.**

**Payment is to be made by parentpay this year.**

Please follow the instructions that will be sent home with the design cards.

**Please follow the PTA on Facebook and Twitter to find out anything that's going on. You can also email us**

**at [boldmere.pta@gmail.com](mailto:boldmere.pta@gmail.com) and we can add you to the mailing list.**

## Contact With School

Please use the school email address [enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk) for all correspondence relating to absence, lunch clubs, parentpay, and general enquiries to the school office. Mrs. Kenny and the office staff check emails throughout the day.

Year group email addresses have been activated to support with teaching, learning and online/home learning support in each year group. Year leaders check and respond to these enquiries as necessary.

If you are in doubt, please always use the main enquiry email and we will forward your enquiry to the appropriate staff member.

The office is only open for emergencies. If you do need to speak to the office staff please use the hand sanitiser before entering school and strictly **one** adult or family at a time in the entrance area.

Please wait outside until advised to enter. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines.

## Busy Bodies

**Children's collection from Busy Bodies-** When collecting your child/ren from Busy Bodies, after ringing the bell and making eye contact with a member of staff who will call for your child, could you please find a safe place to wait to enable other parents to ring for their child/ren and we will bring them to you.

### October Booking forms -

We are now at full capacity for w/c 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October on Wednesdays and Thursdays, due to staff numbers and class bubbles.

Due to the number of changes, early collection fees for September w/c 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and reception September booking forms have not yet been debited. Please bear with us and we should get these entered at some point this week. October booking forms will be debited next week minus any isolation fees for your child/siblings.

### Year 2 to Year 3 Busy Bodies transfer -

We have today transferred your Busy Bodies credit or debit from year 2 to year 3 manually. Please check your parentpay account for your up-to-date balance. This does not include any extra or early collection fees for September or October's booking fee charges.

Email addresses for correspondence specific to your child's class/year group, to support with teaching, learning and online/home learning support.

[bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:bib-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[nursery-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:nursery-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[reception-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:reception-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[yr1-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:yr1-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

[yr2-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:yr2-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)

*Sarah Kenny*

Mrs S Kenny  
Head of School  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2020