

# The Federation of Boldmere Schools

## Cofield Road · Sutton Coldfield · B73 5SD

***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.***

06/01/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a very heavy heart that we are having to close our school at such short notice, for yet another period of National lockdown. As you can imagine, this was not the way we wanted to start our Spring term.

We would like to thank all who have returned the declaration forms to request a vulnerable pupil or critical worker place at school. Yesterday, we were inundated with requests and we feel compelled to remind you that the purpose of this lockdown is to ensure that Coronavirus does not spread further across the country and put the health of individuals, especially the elderly and ill, at risk. It has now been made clear by the government that Primary Schools are not safe but they are indeed 'vectors of transmission.'

We do therefore, need to ensure that pupil numbers in school are as low as possible in order to keep them, their families and the staff safe. High numbers of pupils in school inevitably means higher levels of staffing and this will also impact negatively on the home-learning that we can provide for all of our children. At this present moment in time, we are expecting triple the amount of children that we had in school during the first March 2020 'National Lockdown' and this is incredibly concerning. This means that all teachers and allocated support staff where possible, will have to be in school to work front facing with children in school, which certainly is not ideal.

We ask therefore, that, even if you have returned your declaration form and you were notified yesterday that you were allocated a place, please only use a place if you absolutely need to. We would like to reinforce the following:

- To be classed as a 'critical worker' your role must be critical to the COVID-19 response
- If you have a partner who does not have a role critical to the COVID-19 response they should be looking after the children unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is exactly why we have also insisted that both parents must be critical workers to have requested a school place in the first instance. If you can stay at home, you should and there is no reason to expose anyone to any unnecessary risks
- Even if your sector has been designated as 'critical workers' it does not necessarily mean that your role within that organisation is 'critical' – please check with your employer.

We know that this is a difficult time for you but the government is clear, the aim of this lockdown is to reduce the amount of social contact we are having with one another to reduce the risks. Please do not put our school staff in a difficult position by bringing your child to school when you do not need to. School staff are putting their own health and that of their families at risk in order to support the country at this time of crisis.

From today, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, we ask that those children who genuinely meet the criteria and have been informed that they have been allocated a school place, arrive and are collected promptly at the allocated times that you have been informed of. We will be looking at all parent declaration forms again today to ensure that we have not missed any legitimate requests for a school place and if this is the case, we will be in touch. But unless you have been informed that your children is to attend school today, they certainly must not do so. Also if you submitted your form after the deadline, these request cannot be considered. This is an incredible difficult situation and the pressures in school continue to be relentless.

- A school packed lunch will be available for all infant children attending and FSM children at the juniors should they need one. As like any other children in school, these children may also bring a packed lunch from home if they wish
- Children attending are required to wear school uniform and to dress in warm layers as class rooms will be well-ventilated with doors and windows open.
- All children are to bring a coat, but once again keep all personal possessions to an absolute minimum

- Learning in school will be the same as the home learning set by teacher.

Our expectation is that all children will engage with remote learning daily and we will monitor this as regularly as we can. If there are any concerns or problems, we will contact you to see how we can support you further. Class teachers will also try to be in regular contact, but please can we remind you that all of our teachers are in school teaching and therefore, any responses to pupil's work or emails may be delayed throughout the day. They will respond as soon as they are able.

Please do not hesitate to contact us further if you require support of any kind during this difficult time. If we are in a position to help, we will, but please do bear with us as these last couple of days have certainly been a challenge.

Yours sincerely

Mr C. Glasgow  
Executive Headteacher.

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**btsa** BOLDMERE TEACHING  
SCHOOL ALLIANCE

