



No 15 12 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Well what a week this has turned out to be!

I thank you all for your patience during this last week. I know that the events announced last Monday had a huge impact on everyone's lives, and as a school we have been working hard to support you and your families, as well as reassure and look after our school staff. Quite frankly, this has been a very overwhelming week for all of us.

However, I would like to thank the many parents who have contacted school with their kind words. We have received emails and phone calls acknowledging how difficult these times are and offering words of encouragement for all staff and the senior leadership team. These messages are greatly appreciated thank you.

Whilst we have welcomed some children back into our critical worker classes, we are fully aware that there are many families at home that have not had the opportunity to send their children back into school. The decisions that we have made have been difficult, and made even more so due to individual circumstances that many families are facing.

We are following Government guidance, but making decisions based on our school community. These decisions are being reviewed regularly.

### **Remote Learning**

The Government has recently updated their guidance on Remote Learning provision. We have been reviewing our provision in the light of new guidance, and teachers have been uploading new information/resources onto Google classroom. We hope that your children are all enjoying the new videos that are being provided to support their learning. Our updated Remote Learning policy will be available on our school website later today. Attached to this newsletter is further information regarding remote learning.

We understand that home circumstances are different for each of our Boldmere families, and this makes home schooling a very different experience in each household. Please be reassured that we understand the pressures that many families are under. Many of us are parents ourselves and are juggling our own home schooling too. Just do what remote learning you can and when you can. If you need support with any on line learning, please email the year group email address.

### **Wellbeing phone calls**

The junior school are providing 'live' online registration sessions every day on google classrooms with a member of the year group team (where possible). This is an opportunity for staff to see the children and check in with them daily. It also allows children to see their class friends during lockdown. If children are not present in these sessions, staff will make wellbeing calls to check in with parents/carers and children. If you require support from staff for any wellbeing issues or advice, please email the year group email address.

National Teaching School  
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*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment*

## **Staff Absence – week commencing 11/01/2021**

Unfortunately, we have 12 members of staff absent across both of our schools, 5 at the infants and 7 at the juniors. These staff are absent for a variety of valid and different reasons and we hope they are able to return as soon as possible. Having this many staff absent from their school duties, obviously affects our operational capacity in all areas of our work. So once again, I ask you to please bear with us as we are having to adapt to constant daily changes, all at the very last minute, which is certainly not ideal.

Thank you in advance of your support and understanding regarding staff absence and how this impacts upon our operational capacity.

## **Free School Meal Vouchers**

We have been advised today that free school meal vouchers will shortly be made available for those who are eligible. As soon as we receive further information, we will contact you. However, if any parents/carers of children eligible for free school meals require this provision with immediate effect, please contact the school.

## **Music Lessons – Online**

Last week we sent out a letter via Parentmail to parents/guardians of all our existing music children regarding online music lessons for this term. If you have not yet sent your response back to school (via [enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk)), please do so by tomorrow. We are unable to make a decision regarding the viability of online lessons until we have confirmation of numbers. You will be advised as soon as possible as to whether we will be able to offer these online music lessons.

## **Confirmation of start and end times for keyworker children**

We clarify that the doors will be open for children to arrive at the junior school from 8.50 am until 9.00 am.

The school day will end as follows:

Yrs 3 and 4 – collect at 3.10 pm

Yrs 5 and 6 – collect at 3.15 pm

## **Contact with School**

A reminder that parents/guardians should use the year group email address to contact their child's class teacher/year lead regarding google classroom, school work queries etc.

However, for more general matters, e.g. if your child is unwell and will be absent from school or they have a medical appointment, please send your email to

[enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk) so that we can be sure that the office staff are able to pick up this information and therefore will not need to phone parents/guardians to ascertain the reason for your child's absence.

**Please note the following:**

**Reception Admissions – September 2021- Important, Closing Date For Applications Is This Week**

The online application process is now live to register your child for Reception 2021. Please visit the website at: [www.birmingham.gov.uk/school admissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/school_admissions) for further information. The closing date for applications is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

**Registration for Nursery September 2021 Intake**

Registration forms for children eligible to join the nursery in September 2021 (date of birth 01.09.2017 to 31.08.2018), are available from the school office or they can be downloaded from the school website under the Parents/Admissions tab.

If you know of anyone that may be interested in a nursery place then please get them to call us on 0121 464 2338.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Glasgow  
Executive Head Teacher