



Dear Parents/Guardians

8 September 2020
No 1

Welcome Back

We hope that you had an enjoyable summer and were able to spend some quality time with your friends and family. It has been absolutely wonderful to welcome all of our children back to school. We are incredibly proud of them all – they are so adaptable and resilient. It was amazing to see so many happy smiling faces that made the schools ‘come alive’ again. The children appear to have settled back into school really well and it has been a joy to see how excited they are to come to school and see all their friends.

Your children are a real credit to you and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our parents and carers for coping so well since March and for all of your support of school during these continuing uncertain times.

General Information

School Website

Please continue to check the school website for all information to do with the school day. Any letters to parents/guardians containing such information is stored **under the heading ‘Covid-19’**, this includes letters, ‘Key Information Sheet’, for the various year groups etc. We are sure there will continue to be a number of changes in relation to school arrangements, so it is essential that you check our website and all other methods of communication.

FAO Year 3 parents/guardians - paperwork

If you have not already done so, please return the paperwork sent out to you with the school prospectus, e.g. the ‘confidential information sheet’, including various consents, ‘IT consent form’, blue contact card information, etc. If you have not received this pack, please contact the office as soon as possible.

FAO Year 3 parents/guardians - ParentPay

This week your child will be bringing home an envelope containing your password and username for access to ParentPay. If you have not received this information by the end of this week, please contact the school office.

FAO Year 3

In the juniors, we use a reading system called accelerated reader to assess both children’s reading ability (decoding) and their comprehension. This online assessment is carried out in school and determines the book ‘number’ that your child comes home with. If you would like further information, please see the school website (in the reading section).

Coloured Contact Cards – years 4, 5 and 6

To be sure our contact information is up to date, we will be sending out contact cards with your child over the next few days. Please fill in **both** sides and return to the school office via your child's class teacher. If you have recently had a change of address, please ensure the office have these up to date details and that you provide the office with evidence, e.g. utility bill/council tax.

FAO Year 6 Parents/Carers – Secondary School Transfer – September 2021 – important information

A reminder that letters were sent out to you via Parentmail at the end of last term and by paper copy via each child last week, regarding applying online for your child's secondary school place – September 2021. If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2020.

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.

School Books to be returned

Before lockdown, each child in current years 4 to 6 were sent home with two books from school. Please could you send these books back in to school by Friday, so that we can quarantine them before restocking the library.

E-Safety

Ensuring that children are safe when using information technology is an essential life skill. We do lots of work in school with the children to help 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

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.

FAO of parents/carers who bring/collect their children to/from school using a car

Parking Considerately

We take this opportunity to remind all our parents and carers to park considerately and not block the driveways of local residents.

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 also 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

Medical Information

A reminder that any medication brought into school, should be handed over to the school office for safe-keeping. Parents/Guardians must fill in a medical form regarding administration of the medication. Please DO NOT send your child into school with tablets/medication to keep in their bag/desk.

Please also ensure the school office is up to date with any changes in your child’s medical needs etc. ***If your child uses an inhaler, please ensure it is in school.***

Children eligible for free school meals

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office for more information.

Music Lessons – Autumn term 2020

We are currently liaising with the music service and with the private music teachers with regard to commencement of music lessons during the Autumn term. At this stage, we do not have a start date. Based on government guidance, we will advise you of a start date and how we will be accommodating this facility in school as soon as we are able to do so.

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 Mr Glasgow

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 first day of your child's absence we will make 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.

Drop off and Collection during Covid19:

We are currently staggering the start and end times of each day in order to reduce the number of children and parents on site at any one time. These arrangements, may be amended in the light of further DFE guidance. Mrs Kenny and I review the situation regularly and will notify parents should arrangements change. Please note that school closes to all pupils on Friday at designated times.

Registration

Registers are marked at 9.15am each day and we are required to mark as 'late' any child who is not in school at the close of registers.

Parent/teacher contact:

Unfortunately during Covid19 we are unable to offer face to face meetings in school with parents. We are aware however that the education of your children is a partnership between you as parents and the school. Staff can be contacted with queries either by telephone or email. Please contact the school office in the first instance and we will direct your enquiry as appropriate. Enquiries are dealt with initially by the class teacher or the year lead.

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 the 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.

Forthcoming Events/Activities

Year 6 Trip to Kingswood Residential – September 2020 - CANCELLED

Government guidance has confirmed that no residential trips can take place at the moment and therefore we are writing to you to confirm that the above trip will not go ahead in September 2020. We are continuing to liaise with Kingswood to see if we can sort out a convenient alternative date for later in the academic year. We will keep you updated regarding this. However, if it is decided that we are unable to go ahead with this trip, we will be in touch regarding refunds.

School Clubs (netball, karate, tennis etc)

At this stage, we are unable to advise you when we will be commencing with any of our after school/lunchtime activities this term. As soon as we are able to do so, we will contact you via Parentmail and the school newsletter.

Busy Bodies

A big warm welcome back to all our Busy Bodies families old and new. We look forward to seeing you all and how much you have all changed over the last few months. A few little changes that will now be in place in our setting from 14th September.

Booking fees for September payment have now been adjusted to take into account the first two weeks cancellation of payments and Friday afternoons. These fees will be debited to your account by Wednesday 9th September. Please pay promptly. We take this time to remind parents to pay any outstanding registration fees for 20/21 as soon as possible as this

may affect your child's place for the next academic year. This does not include Reception at present as they are still waiting for their User names and passwords.

- **Busy Bodies operating hours – Busy Bodies will be operating their normal hours from 3.30pm until 6pm and the normal charges will still apply (ie 3.30-4.30=£5, 3.30-5.00=£7.50, 3.30-5.30=£10, 3.30-6pm=£12.50, as in our parent contract)**

As we understand finishing times at the end of the day will start from 3pm. Busy Bodies will be happy to collect your child/ren from these times, however the following fees will apply

- **3.00pm - 3.30pm = £2.50**
- **3.10pm - 3.30pm = £2.50**
- **3.15pm - 3.30pm = £1.25**
- **3.20pm - 3.30pm = £1.25**

The above will be the only changes to our normal operating hours ie, we will NOT be offering any alternatives if asked (ie 3pm-4pm, 3.10pm-4.10pm, 3.15pm-4.15pm), these are NOT our normal operating hours.

Booking forms – October booking forms will be available from Wednesday 16th September, to be returned no later than Wednesday 23rd September and payment by Friday 25th September.

Drop off and collection of your children – Unfortunately at this present time we are unable to allow parents into Busy Bodies setting when dropping off or collecting your child/ren. When dropping off there will be staff at the door to welcome your child and register them into Busy Bodies where they will stay in their year group bubbles, in an area with a variety of activities available.

When collecting please ring the bell on the top left of the door at Busy Bodies entrance, a member of staff will be available and will record your collection time and sign on your behalf, and bring your child and their belongings to you.

Busy Bodies will still be providing snacks in bubble groups and children will use their own water bottles that they have in school.

PTA News

Welcome back to the New Year and welcome to all new parents. We all want our children's learning to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. The PTA do what we can supporting the school by raising money and providing essential things for all pupils.

Please join us. Be part of a fabulous team. As ever we are always looking to expand the team welcome in new members. You'll gain massive satisfaction when you see the results and how much the children's education and experiences are enhanced by the money that we raise. Come and join us, make great friends and be part of the team.

Eager to help straight away? There's a few of things you could start today!

Why not join our school lottery? For every £1 ticket that is entered, 40p goes back to the schools. Every week you have a chance of winning up to £25,000 while knowing you support YOUR school. Enter online now at www.yourschoollottery.co.uk Search for Boldmere School, register and you could be our next winner! Its easy.

Do you have an Amazon account? By registering and doing your online Amazon shop through smile.amazon.co.uk the PTA will receive commission from every purchase you make. Just head to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and register Boldmere PTA as your chosen charity you can start fundraising for the PTA with you next purchase.

Finally, if you want to join the PTA mailing list and receive information about our events and what we are up to, please let us know by sending your email address to boldmere.pta@gmail.com Any announcements will be sent out to the mailing list, but you have to be registered to receive them.

Due to current restrictions in force in our community some of the big events that the PTA would usually hold in order to raise money for the children will unfortunately not be running this year. But we will not let this stop us doing whatever we can to continue raising as much money as possible money for our children and the school. We need you more than ever this year - virtually, in person, thinking creatively and getting 'stuck in' in what ever capacity you have, so that this year we are still, despite everything, able to continue to raise money so the children of both Boldmere Infant and Junior School continue to get those enhanced experiences and education that the PTA are so proud to help provide every year. Together we can do this!

Please email boldmere.pta@gmail.com and register your support and follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Glasgow
Executive Head Teacher