



No 23 16 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been delighted to have all the children back in school and settled for just over a week. They continue to show us their resilience, collaboration with each other and are all working really hard.

We are working hard to mitigate risks by keeping our children in class bubbles and we thank everyone who continues to help us stay as safe as possible.

Illness In Children

We are doing our utmost in school to ensure that any positive contact is minimised as much as possible. We must remain incredibly vigilant, to reduce the risks of further “class-bubble” closures. As I am sure we all agree that we want the children in school for as much “face to face” learning as possible. We certainly do need your support to achieve this, so we please ask that you book a Covid test for your child if they are unwell with any of the main Covid-19 symptoms or any listed in the attached Covid-19 table.

We know that with some of the symptoms it is difficult to determine if the individual has Covid or not and that is why it is better to “err on the side of caution” and book a test. Please also be advised that if you book a test, you need to advise school and the child will not be able to attend school until you have been made aware of the outcome of the test.

We are certainly aware of the inconvenience this all causes. But if we all work together we can hopefully minimise any further disruptions to the children’s learning.

Staggered start and finish times – Reminder

Please ensure you adhere to the timings for the start and end of the day so we can keep each bubble as separate as possible and maintain social distancing as this remains a priority at this time. Once you have dropped off or collected your children, please leave the school site promptly. Thank you for continuing to work with us on this.

May we also remind parents/carers you are requested to wear a face mask when on the school site, unless you are exempt to do so.

Polite Reminder – Dogs on Site

A reminder that no dogs, other than ‘assistance dogs’ should be on the school site. Thank you.

Red nose Day (Comic Relief): 19 March 2021 - Reminder

On Friday 19th March we will be supporting Red Nose Day in school. Children may dress up as a superhero. They can wear a costume or their own clothes with a mask or a cape. There are printable masks available on the Comic Relief website:

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/schools/freedownloads/>

ParentPay have now activated donation page link for the Junior School (see below). All donations must be done via the link & they will go straight to Red Nose Day.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2991>

Parent consultations:

Parent's consultations are planned to take place at the end of this term, on Tuesday 30 March and Wednesday 31 March 2021 via on line booking system called School Cloud. More information about this will follow in due course, including log in details and instructions on how to access the appointments.

Netball Lessons – (last academic year – 2019/20)

Some of our children took part in netball lessons with Rachael, the netball coach, in the spring term 2020. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, Rachael was unable to provide sessions for week commencing 23 March 2020 and 30 March 2020. We were hopeful of recommencing netball lessons this academic year and rolling on those two sessions. Unfortunately, this has not been possible as yet. We will be reviewing our situation next term (summer term 2021) and if it is possible for us to offer netball sessions, we will advise parents of that decision.

Please contact the school office by **Tuesday 23 March 2021** if you would like a refund now (£3.00 x 2 sessions = £6.00). If we do not hear from you by that date, we will presume you wish the money to remain on the system in the hope that netball lessons will recommence next term. If however, lessons do not recommence, we will contact the netball coach and ask that refunds are made by the end of this academic year.

Year 6 Day Trips to Kingswood Activity Centre

Unfortunately, the year 6 residential trip to Kingswood was cancelled due to covid-19. With the future planned lifting of restrictions, we have decided to book a day trip for each year 6 class to attend Kingswood Centre to experience the variety of activities and tasks. This will be a full extended day of activities and a wonderful opportunity for the children. During the day trip, we will ensure that all covid-19 guidelines are adhered to. Children will remain in their class bubbles both on the coach and at the centre. The dates of the trips are as follows:

Monday 17 May 2021

Monday 24 May 2021

Monday 7 June 2021

We will confirm in due course which class will be attending the centre on which day in line with government guidelines.

The cost of this trip is £60 per day, which is higher than our usual day trips, due to the wide range of activities available to the children at the centre, along with a contribution towards the cost of the covid-19 compliant coaches and the need to keep children in their class bubbles.

If your child was attending the residential trip, you will have been refunded your payment, except for this amount (£60) which will remain on your ParentPay.

However, if your child was not attending the residential trip, we are asking for an amount of £60 per child payable via ParentPay under the heading '**Kingswood Day Trip 2021 – Year 6**'. We will be sending out a letter after Easter with further details. If your child is eligible for pupil premium funding, you will receive a separate letter in due course.

Whole School Eco Logo Design Competition

See attached information from Mrs Churchill regarding the above competition.

Diary Dates - Reminder

Spring Term 2021

Thursday 1st April- Break up for Easter holidays.

Monday 19th April- School re-opens to all pupils.

Thursday 27th May- Break up for half term holidays.

Friday 28th May- Professional Development Day, school closed to all pupils.

Monday 7th June- School re-opens to all pupils.

Tuesday 20th July- Break up for summer holidays.

Wednesday 21st July- Professional Development Day, school closed to all pupils.

Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust – School Uniform Grant Applications 2021 - Reminder

The above forms are available from the school office. All completed forms will need to be returned to the school office by **Monday 22 March 2021 at the latest**. The eligibility criteria and proof of benefit required is listed below:

- A current resident of the former Borough of Sutton Coldfield as set by the 1974 boundary. This includes Sutton Mere Green, Sutton Four Oaks, Sutton Vesey, Sutton Wylde Green, Sutton Trinity, Sutton Roughley, Sutton Reddicap and parts of Sutton Wamley & Minworth and
- In receipt of one or more of the benefits listed: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit.

Junior School Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor at the junior school. See attached advertisement providing you with full details. If you would like an application pack, please contact the school office by phoning 0121 464 3656 or you will find a pack on the Federation of Boldmere Schools' website.

Lateral Flow Testing

A reminder that a few weeks ago the [Department of Health and Social Care announced](#) that households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed using the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=

Supplies will be available-

- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Please be aware that lateral flow tests are only to be used if you do not have Covid symptoms. If you have Covid symptoms, then you will need to have a PCR test at a local testing centre.

Elections- 6th May 2021

Much to our absolute surprise, the elections office have contacted us to let us know that they are going ahead with their plans to use the school location as a polling station on Thursday 6th May.

We are now in discussion with the elections office and we have proposed our training room (building located between the two schools) as the venue to be used for polling, as we do not want to close the schools and disrupt learning further.

As a Local Authority Community maintained school, this is not our decision and we would have hoped, as do the DFE that schools were not used for polling purposes at all, but unfortunately this is not the case.

As mentioned, we will work with the elections office, so the proposed training room venue can be used safely for polling purposes. Whilst ensuring the health and safety of all pupils, staff and adults on site too.

More information will follow, but we are working hard to ensure that the school will remain open as usual on Thursday 6th May 2021.

E- Safety Reminder

Ensuring that children are safe when using information technology, is an essential life skill and is needed more now than ever with children having increased screen time and access to the internet. We wanted to remind you that on the school website, under 'Safeguarding' > 'E-safety' you can access useful resources and links to websites which offer age-appropriate resources and information for parent and carers. These can also be found on your child's Google Classroom in the 'Parent Information' folder.

Contacting School

Please can we remind you that if you have an **attendance query/absence**, for example if your child is not going to be in school due to illness/medical appointment etc, please call the office or email enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk. **Please DO NOT use the year group email address to contact the school regarding your child's absence.**

If you need support with teaching and learning at home, for example, a query about a lesson or clarification of an activity please make contact via the year group email addresses.

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

yr3-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr4-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr5-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

yr6-contact@boldmere.bham.sch.uk

Speed Restrictions

A reminder that Cofield Road and St. Michaels Road now have speed restrictions in place of 20mph.

Busy Bodies Newsletter:

April booking forms will be available for parents who are accessing provision currently to collect from the school office or to download from the school's website from Wednesday 17th March.

Unfortunately, due to still being at full capacity with year group bubbles and staffing, we can only offer places to parents who are currently accessing this provision. Please refer to last week's newsletter regarding waiting list places or contact BB for further information.

Isolation – We have already debited March parentpay accounts for your payments. Parents of children who are isolating from today will be reimbursed.

Mrs K Welch
Acting Head of School