

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.

23rd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, where shall we start?

The last few months have definitely been a challenging time for our country and I hope that all of our children, parents/carers, and staff have remained safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During my time as a healthcare professional and Governor for Boldmere Schools, I have never witnessed an impact like the one Covid-19 has had on our society and the unfortunate impact it has had on the education sector. The restrictions placed on our everyday lives and the roller-coaster of emotions we have all felt over the last few months will stay with us for a lifetime.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our parents/carers and children for your resilience during lockdown. While many of you will have embraced the challenge and seen the last few months as a privilege to spend such precious time with your children, others will have found this time incredibly challenging, balancing the demands of home-schooling and 24/7 childcare with work commitments, and experiencing loved ones becoming ill with the virus.

And of course, Covid-19 has inevitably changed the way in which our schools function this year. I am incredibly proud of the way the Senior Leadership Team and staff of Boldmere Schools have adapted since early March. They have had to act decisively and with care, often with very little clear guidance, and in a fraction of the time normally required to implement such profound changes. At every stage, I believe they have acted with the safety and wellbeing of our children in clear focus.

I would like to thank our staff for providing a provision for vulnerable and key worker children, enabling their parents to support our nation in its fight against the virus. Initially, and like me, they were apprehensive and frightened, but despite this, they stepped forward to care for these children and have continued to do so throughout lockdown. We must remember that in the early days of lockdown, very difficult decisions were expected of our community and business leaders to save lives and protect the NHS. Boldmere Schools made the decision to keep the number of teachers and pupils in close contact to a bare minimum, and I believe that this action played a vital part in minimizing the spread of Covid-19 amongst the Boldmere community.

Like our NHS colleagues, teachers have played their part in the battle against this pandemic.

In recent weeks we have seen the return of some year groups and it is lovely to see the happy, confident children of Boldmere once again. It is with sadness that we are not in a position to bring back more of our children, however I am fully supportive of ensuring children return to school safely. The schools have completed extensive risk assessments together with the Full Governing Board and have gone to great lengths to maintain the safety of the returning children and staff, in line with local authority and government guidance.

I have been in very regular contact with both schools and the Senior Leadership Team. The full Governing Board continue to meet via Microsoft Teams and carry out their statutory duties, and all Governors have been actively involved in the decisions the schools have made over the last few months.

I know many of you will have questions about the future. Some we can confidently and honestly answer now, others, such as the pace of change right now, we don't yet know. It must be said that an ongoing challenge for school leaders throughout this period has been a lack of clarity and consistency from government. But to help you understand our current position and plans for the balance of this term and the new school year, the Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team have put together a detailed 'frequently asked questions' document. We hope this is a useful reference document.

Finally, we have been genuinely moved by the kind words and offers of support from many parents/carers since lockdown was introduced. This has been the most challenging time we have ever faced in education. All Boldmere School staff have been impacted by Covid-19 in one way or another, and, like you, they have families and lives outside of school they have to manage. The pressure on individuals and the expectation on schools continues to be incredibly high, so it is absolutely right that the Senior Leadership Team and Governors keep the safety and wellbeing of our staff and children at the forefront of our planning and management.

In terms of support, regrettably, there is very little parents can currently do to help the schools at this time except to respect the timetable and processes put in place for those children now attending school, keep up to date with our communications, and restrict contact to all but the most essential.

I believe we can all help each other by being kind, supporting one another and remembering that this is a completely unprecedented time and everyone in Boldmere School is doing the very best they can. We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support, kind words, understanding and compassion that you have shown throughout the whole of this challenging situation.

Thank you to our entire school community for their patience during this difficult time and I look forward to hopefully seeing you all again soon on our school playgrounds

Yours sincerely,



Mr G Bloom
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Full Governing Board

The Federation of Boldmere Schools:
Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School
Executive Head: Mr Carl Glasgow
Telephone: 0121 464 2338/3656 Fax: 0121 464 4342/1344
Email: enquiry@boldmere-inf.bham.sch.uk / enquiry@bldmerej.bham.sch.uk