

BORDESLEY VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cromwell Learning Community Multi Academy Trust

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25th October 2024

Autumn Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parent / Carers,

Following a positive start to the new academic year we are quickly moving towards the half term break when **the school will close on Friday 25th October for one week, and re-open on Monday 4th November 2024.**



Thank you to all our families who contributed to our food bank collection. Part of this year's 'Harvest' it has now been collected by Birmingham City Mission and as such, will be shared with families in our locality. Similarly, we'd like to thank all those who visited the school's Book Fair. Those new books will be perfect for when we turn the clocks back and start to experience the darker evenings once again!



Attendance

Thank you to all the families who have supported the school and ensured their child has attended a daily basis in line with both the MAT, and the Government's focus.

If your child is absent, please remember to:

- Telephone the school before 9.00am each day
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards / letters, as applicable
- Refer to government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. (Exemplars below)

Feeling anxious or worried It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, school work or sensory problems. **Coughs and colds** It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. **Sore throat** You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. **Conjunctivitis** You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#), unless they are feeling very unwell. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. **COVID-19** If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and they either have a high temperature and/or do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities. **Hand, foot and mouth disease** If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. **Head lice and nits** There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

As a school, we will in return:

- Check your child's attendance on a daily basis
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance / absence record
- Complete a welfare home visit where applicable
- Invite you, as the parent, into school for a formal attendance meeting where there are ongoing concerns
- Liaise with the local authority should parents fail to engage with the school and the support it has offered



<https://bvcs.eschools.co.uk>

Pupil Well-Being

Mental health is important in primary schools because it can help children develop socially, emotionally, mentally, and physically. It can also help them learn more effectively, become more resilient, and succeed academically. As a school we will be launching our Drawing & Talking Therapy for individual pupils following the half term break. Practitioners have been trained and staff have liaised with SLT to discuss children who may benefit from this input. The programme consists of thirty-minute sessions over a twelve-week period on a one to one basis outside of the classroom, but all parents will be contacted prior to any support being initiated.



Alongside this, we will be running a Nurture Group as well as a Social Skills Group and again parents will be notified of this additional input.

In response to some of the needs observed in school, this half term small groups of children visited a local orchard to pick fruit for their family. While appreciating nature and developing a greater understanding of where our food comes from, the visit again revolved around children's well-being and feedback shows it benefited all involved!

Early Years Fund

Parents of children in the Nursery and Reception classes are asked to contribute 50p each week to the Early Years Fund which will help replace frequently used resources we need for cooking and food tasting activities, creative tasks, rewards, and treats that are so important for the youngest children in school.

Yr.3, 4, 5 & 6 – School lunches and Preferred Options

In terms of school lunches, all parents must commit to the preferred meal option on a half termly basis (which will be the minimum time period) and notify Admin. staff verbally, or in writing, of any changes for the following half term.

Please remember however, that if choosing to purchase a school meal for your child, payments should be made **in advance**. **Where there are overdue amounts of £30 or more, we will contact parents to request immediate payment.** If payment is not received, parents will be required to provide their child with a packed lunch until the outstanding monies is cleared in full. To support the school's ability to manage its budget, please ensure any outstanding payments for this half term have been cleared by Friday 25th October 2024.



In Birmingham it is believed that 3.000 children who qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) may not currently be taking advantage of this benefit and the council are launching a promotional campaign to encourage more qualifying households to sign up their children for FSM. Children who eat FSM are said to consume more fruit and vegetables than their peers, but in addition, it is held that eating a school meal can also support a child's mental wellbeing. Each new applicant will also bring in additional funding for the school and benefit the children in terms of further resources. Parents can check whether their child is entitled to a free school meal by logging on to: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>.

Yr.6 & Rec. – Application for Secondary / Primary School

The **application period for secondary school places in Birmingham for September 2025 will close on October 31st 2024.**

Applications received after this date will be considered late and only processed once all applicants have been notified of their 'offer'. All applications are online, and details can be found on Birmingham City Council's website -

www.birmingham.gov.uk/school-admissions. A 'Parents' guidance to submit online application, change of preferences and password resets' offers detailed instructions as to the process. Should you need any help however, please see a member of the Admin. Team prior to the half term break.

The application process for **Reception places for 2025 – 2026** also opened on **1st October 2024 with a closing date of 15th January 2025** and you should again ensure your application is on time, particularly as our admission numbers this year will be reduced to 30 places.

Yours sincerely,

Rubina Darr

R.Darr (Mrs)

Snr. Executive Leader