



# Head Teacher Newsletter

## November 2021

### Dear Parent / Guardian

Our first week back after the half term break has been challenging due to the continued and increased transmission rates of Covid-19. The local authority contacted all secondary, primary and special school headteachers this week directly, and sent updated guidance to us all regarding introducing new measures to tackle rising national and regional transmission rates.

I have reluctantly decided to increase the amount of measures to combat Covid-19 in school as we move towards winter when cases are at their highest. We currently have 6 members of staff absent with Covid-19 and this will increase as we move towards Christmas. We have asked students to wear a mask in classrooms, communal areas and corridors, as an additional precaution to keep everyone safe. This is not mandatory and students have the right to not wear a mask. However, after 18 months of this crippling disease, I think it is in everyone's best interests to ensure that they keep themselves, the school staff and their families as safe as possible. We would also request that students wear their own permanent mask instead of our disposable ones, which tend to break easily and become a major litter concern, not only in school but also within the local community.

We are currently attending weekly virtual meetings with the local authority to discuss public health, education and our social welfare position that we find ourselves in. As soon as is practically possible, we hope to resume normal school life where trips, visits, activities week, fixtures, after school activities, parents evenings, assemblies and all the other things that make up a typical school week, are the norm. These are exceptional circumstances in exceptional times and from a safety perspective, my role is to ensure the day to day running of the school without disruption to learning. If we all continue to follow the social distancing measures of 1.5m and take precautions to ensure we are as safe as we can be, then hopefully we can get to Christmas without further disruption and I will not have to make the decision to move to remote learning, due to a lack of staff who are available to teach. Staff availability from our supply teacher agencies is greatly depleted due to increased demands from all schools to replace absent teachers.

Please continue to test your children twice a week, so we can identify any positive Covid-19 cases and keep them absent from school until they are safe to return. We have distributed more testing kits to Year 7 to 10 and Year 11 have received them today. If we all play a small part in adapting to the measures and requirements, it should help us move forward more confidently.

### Travel into and out of school

Thank you to all the parents who are picking their students up outside of the school grounds. The congestion in school has reduced and we are currently working with the local authority traffic control team and the community association to redesign the flow of traffic on the school site and the exit onto New Road. We are also trying to increase the number of parking bays on the grounds to support parent parking.

We have received complaints from residents on both estates to the left and right of the school onto New Road. Please can parents refrain from parking in those areas and blocking driveways and exits out of the estate. Although winter is approaching, we would prefer to see as many people cycling or walking to school, even for part of the way to school so it reduces traffic and pollution.

## Remembrance 2021 at Boldon School



Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.

We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. We will remember them.

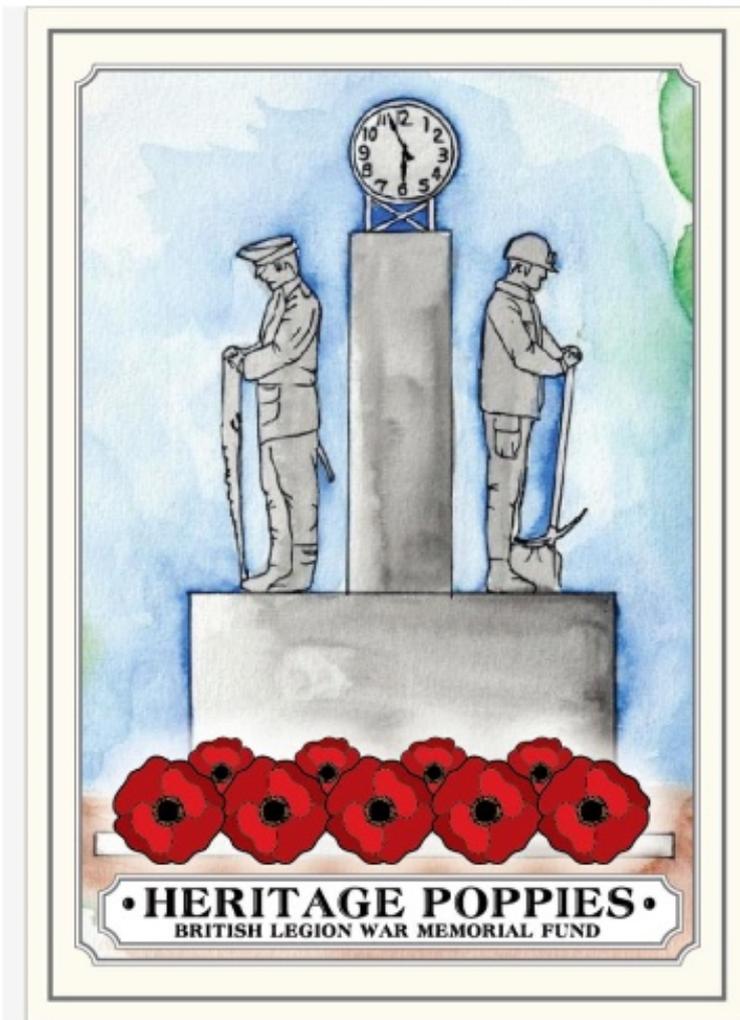
- We remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth.
- We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services.
- We acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.



As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, it has been necessary for us to consider new ways of performing Remembrance activities, and we are pleased to be able to announce the following.

- 1-12 November – Poppy Selling during tutor time.
- 5-9 November – All students will be invited to contribute to our annual poppy display.
- 6 November – Boldon School Royal Navy Cadets are attending the Field of Remembrance Service at Saltwell Park, Gateshead.
- 11 November – All students in Cadet or Uniformed Youth Organisations are invited to join Boldon School Royal Navy Cadets at 1120-1145am, for the School Act of Remembrance which includes 2 minutes' silence across the school at 1130am.





## • HERITAGE POPPIES •

The Boldons have linked up this year to commemorate Remembrance Sunday during the days leading up to Armistice Day, and the large poppies that run through East and West Boldon will now carry on their journey into Boldon Colliery.

East Boldon started this tradition, which spread into West Boldon, and now we're delighted to say that with the help of Boldon Colliery Heritage Group, the poppies will be seen in Boldon Colliery too as part of the wider effort by the group to raise funds for a war and pit memorial located in the heart of Boldon Colliery.

We are asking residents of The Boldons and surrounding businesses to each sponsor a poppy, with proceeds going to the British Legion, along with the war memorial fund - in much the same way as funds for the original Colliery Clock were raised from donations made by the people of The Boldons.

The original Colliery Clock will stand proud on the new monument to remind people of the supreme sacrifice others in our communities made for our freedom today.

If you would like to make a donation please complete this tear-off section and return with a donation of your choice to the business you collected this pledge form from, or West Boldon Post Office.  
(Suggested donation £10.00 - donation amounts will be kept confidential)



NAME: .....

BUSINESS: .....

REMEMBERING: .....

IN MEMORY OF: .....

NUMBER OF POPPIES SPONSORED: ..... DONATION: £ .....