



EL/td/0110

October 1st 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank You

Many thanks to parents and carers for helping us to start the year with **exceptionally high standards of uniform**. There is no doubt that our students look immaculate and this is helping to set the tone for high standards of behaviour and work across the school.

Thank you also to the many parents and carers who supported us by lending us your children to help out on **Open Evening**. It was a very special occasion – students excelled themselves as tour guides and ambassadors for the different subject areas, showing our visitors the very best of Colmers curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Newbuild Start Date

We are hugely excited that our newbuild project is finally starting **on site on October 14th**. We know the project will not be without its challenges but this huge investment in upgraded facilities is a much needed and our students deserve the very best.

The start of the project means some big changes to the **car parking facilities** and we are therefore asking for a massive **#oneteam** effort from all of our staff, parents, carers and students to adapt to **life without a car park**.

Parking restrictions will be in place from **October 7th** when the contractors begin to get the site ready for the major building works. **This means there is no facility for parents and carers to park, drop off or pick up on site**, with the exception of parking for visitors with disabilities via the Belton Grove entrance.

I attach a **Parent Pledge** that will also be sent to you separately via ParentMail. We are asking all parents/carers to sign the pledge, giving us your commitment to keeping our students safe on the way to and from school. We need your help to increase the numbers of students **walking** or using **public transport** to travel to and from school as this will make a big difference to the whole community and especially to our local residents. Please return your completed Pledge either electronically on ParentMail or by hand to your child's Form Tutor and you will be entered into a **prize draw** for a £30 Morrisons Voucher.

If you have no alternative but to drop your child off or pick them up by car, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

- use either Morrisons car park or one of the other identified points on the map for drop off and pick-up provided
- no vehicle entry to the school via the entrance on Belton Grove
- no drop off or parking on Belton Grove
- no stopping along the Bristol Road to drop off

Free School Meals – are you eligible?

We know it is hugely important for students to have a healthy meal each day and we want every one of our students who is eligible for a free school meal to benefit from that opportunity. In addition, our school also receives significant additional funding for every child that is eligible for Free School Meals. We use this additional funding to provide a range of additional support in school, helping us to make sure that no child falls behind whatever their circumstances. If you think you might be eligible to claim, please see the information on our website <http://www.colmers.bham.sch.uk/free-school-meals/> and when ready, apply via the form on ParentMail. If you are unsure please call us for further information.



Communication

I really enjoyed meeting with over 20 parents and carers at our first **Parents' Forum** of the year. We spent our time together discussing our approach to **behaviour for learning** and also talking about how we are approaching **homework** this year. Feedback was generally very **positive** about the changes we have made to the detentions system and to the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Although we heard that we did well communicating with parents about school shoes, we are **sorry** that we were not so **effective** at making clear the school uniform requirements for **girls' trousers** so we will make sure we improve that for future years. Parents and carers were positive about the introduction of the **exam homework booklets** that you will receive before your children sit their internal assessments and we are looking forward to getting feedback on new designs for our **school reports** at the next Forum on Thursday 28th November at 5pm. In the interim, we are following up the concerns raised about **toilet provision** and also considering ways of managing the **queues for the canteen** now that we have moved to a single break and dinner time arrangement.

Communication featured in feedback from parents and carers – it is never easy making sure that key messages reach all of our wider school community and we will continue to work on how we make sure that our communication with you is clear, timely and consistent.

There are two ways that you can help us to **improve communication**:

Firstly, please make sure that you and all of your Colmers' parent friends are signed up to **ParentMail** and the **SIMSApp**. If you do not have a compatible smartphone to download the apps, both services also work as a traditional website too! Full information, download links and **Frequently Asked Questions** are available on our website <http://www.colmers.bham.sch.uk/apps-services>

Secondly, please make sure that we have your **correct contact details** at all times, especially if you change mobile phone number. If we do not have the correct mobile number for you, then you will miss out on notifications about detentions, attendance and any other messages that we send out by text on a regular basis.

Meet the Tutors Evening, October 10th 5-7.30 pm

The first big parking challenge for us as a wider school community will be our **Meet the Tutors evening** on **October 10th**. I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to come and meet your child's Form Tutor. Next week you will receive an **Early Update report** for your child you via the SimsApp and you will have a chance to discuss this and find out more about how your child has settled this year. Your child's Form Tutor is their **first point of contact** every single day and this initial evening is an invaluable chance to strengthen the relationships between school and home that are so crucial to your child's success. During the evening, you will also have the opportunity to meet with a member of the senior leadership team and to find out more about how you can support your child to make good progress in their studies.

Appointment slots will be available for you to book via ParentMail from Thursday.

As ever, if you have any concerns or queries, do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to ensure the person best placed to respond gets back to you as a priority.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher



COLMERS SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Colmers School & Sixth Form College | Colmers Farm Primary School & Rubery Nursery School | Parent Parking Pledge

In the interests of everyone's safety and to support the exciting rebuild project we agree to:-

At all times:

- Keep to the parking restrictions in place around our school site
- Keep pathways clear for pedestrians (at least a double buggy's width)
- Respect our neighbours and keep neighbouring driveways clear
- Keep junctions, crossings and access gates clear
- Park sensibly in marked parking bays only when visiting school.
- Only drive to school when absolutely necessary, and travel to school by sustainable travel wherever possible.
- Keep within the speed limit at all times
- Look out for pedestrians and cyclists

During the building project:

- Park and drop off/ pick up off site
- Avoid drop off/pick up in Belton Grove/ Leybrook Road and our school car parks
- Avoid creating congestion on neighbouring streets
- Use suitable drop off locations including, Morrisons, Buzz Bingo, Colmers Astro Turf, McDonalds, Ashill Road, Kendall Rise Road, Cliff Rock Road



I pledge the support of our family in the interests of safety for all students at Colmers School & Sixth Form College, Colmers Farm Primary and Rubery Nursery School.

Please return to school, or sign using the form on our Parent Mail App.

Parent/ Carer Name:

Child's Name:

Class:

Signature:

Thank you for your support



SIMS PARENT

ACHIEVING
excellence
BELONGING
together
CHALLENGING
mind-sets

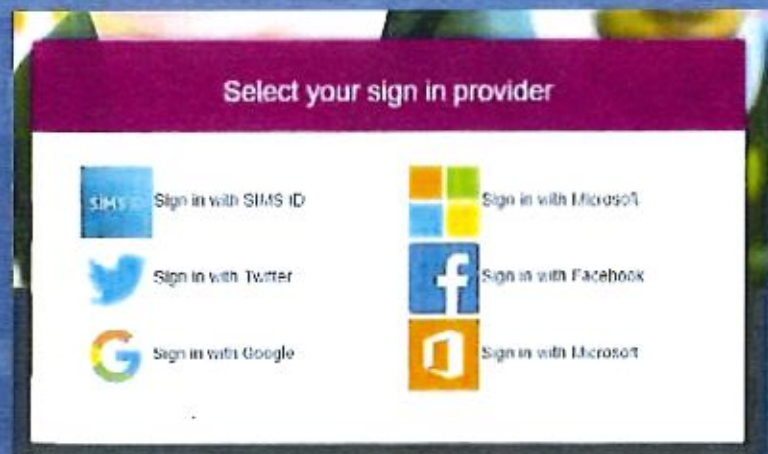
What is Sims Parent?

The SIMS Parent app allows the school to easily share information, such as your child's attendance, conduct, timetable and school reports.

All of the information is easily accessible from the convenience of your phone, tablet or PC.

How do I register?

1. Provided the school has your email address, you will receive a registration email from enquiry@simsonline.co.uk containing a unique invitation code. You will need this code to set up your SIMS Online Services account. If you have not yet received a registration email, please check your junk folder before contacting the school.
2. Follow the link in the email to be directed to the Sign in page.
3. You should register with a Microsoft, Office 365, Google, Facebook or Twitter account. Click the icon for the relevant Third-Party account and you will be directed to sign in using your existing details.



4. For verification purposes, parents are required to enter the Date of Birth of one of their children attending the school.

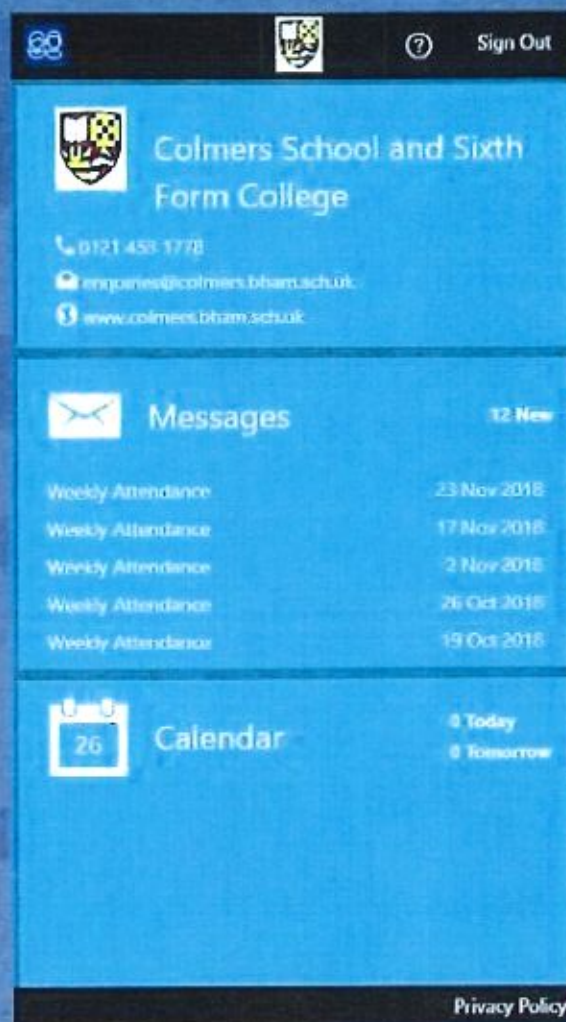
5. Once the registration process is complete, you can sign in via the website

<https://www.colmers.bham.sch.uk> or via the app.

How do I get the app?

For iOS devices download from the [App Store](#)

For Android devices download from [Google Play](#)



What if you don't have my email address?

If we do not have your most up to date contact details, then please contact the School Office on 0121 453 1778 so that we can update our records.



Dates for your Diary

October 10 th	Meet the Tutors Evening 5pm-7.30 pm
October 28 th – Friday 1 st November	Half Term Holiday
November 21 st	School Presentation Evening
November 22 nd	Staff INSET day – school closed to Students
December 6 th	School Early Closure
December 20 th	School closes for Christmas Break
January 6 th	Staff INSET day – school closed for students
January 7 th	School opens for students
February 17 th – 21 st February	Half Term Holiday