



Parental support: www.familylives.org.uk or glosfamiliesdirectory.org Head Teacher's email address: head@birdlip.gloucs.sch.uk
 PTA fundraising via internet purchases: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/birdlipsschoolpta/>
 Parent Matters www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=94089
 Birdlip online Virtual School Uniform Shop: http://pmgschoolwear.co.uk/advanced_search.php?skl_id=38923&pager=view_all
 School closure website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures>
 Ofsted Parent View <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> Confidential contact for Governing Body: chair@birdlip.gloucs.sch.uk
 Health Protection Agency Guidance http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374
 Safeguarding http://www.birdlip.gloucs.sch.uk/our_school/policies/policies.html Birdlip Wish list <http://amzn.eu/9pZsmG2>

School Dinner Menu Choices

Menu Choices for next week should be taken from the **Week 3** selection

Events in the week ahead:

Wed 9th Oct, School photographs – all pupils
Wed 9th Oct, 2-7pm Highways England consultation, Birdlip Church – please attend if you can.

Forthcoming Events

Tue 15th Oct, Parents' Evening
Wed 16th Oct, 9am Harvest Festival Assembly – all welcome
Thu 17th Oct, Parents' Evening
Thu 17th Oct, Flu jabs for all pupils
Thu 17th Oct, Book fair after school
Tue 22nd Oct, Highways England workshop for Years 3-6. Parents and pupils welcome. 3:30 – 5:30pm in classroom block
Fri 25th Oct, Celebration Assembly at 2:30pm, all welcome
Fri 25th Oct, Last day of term
Thu 31st Oct, Deadline for secondary school place application (Yr 6 parents only)
Mon 4th Nov, Back to school for all
Fri 8th Nov, PTA Bonfire night
Mon 2nd Dec, 2pm – 3pm, Parents' Open afternoon – all welcome

I thought I'd write today about a topic that's bound to provide some lively discussion around the dinner table. The link below is to a piece from the BBC which reports on Scotland's very recent decision to ban smacking (and indeed all physical punishment of children).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-49908849>

There were a couple of points that stood out for me – the first was that Scotland becomes the 58th country to do so – Sweden was apparently the first way back in 1979.

As a nation we are often amongst the first to pass laws around human rights and equality like this that are seen in other parts of the world as very progressive or in some cases, sadly, unthinkable. Take for example the law regarding Same Sex Marriage introduced in 2013 or the Gender recognition act of 2004 – both still hugely controversial in some parts of the world.

So it surprised me then that we are seemingly at odds with a large number of countries out there with respect to smacking and this made me wonder why.

The second thing that struck me (no pun intended) was that the new law gives children the exact same protection as adults when it comes to assault. It made me wonder about the boundary between child and adult that currently exists under English law in this respect. Essentially you can legally use physical chastisement against your son or daughter aged 17 years and 364 days but move forward one day and it becomes illegal.

In schools any form of physical punishment has been illegal since 1986 (though in private schools it was allowed

until as late as 2003 in Northern Ireland) and as such the teaching profession has very much moved on from its use. Something for which I am profoundly glad.

I am sure that many of you will be wondering what my views are on the smacking ban in Scotland – let's just say that the smacks that I got from my mum and dad (which were quite a few as I was a mischievous young boy) didn't have any long term positive effect on my behaviour – I still got into just as much trouble.

That's all from me, have a lovely week, work hard and enjoy yourselves. Mr M.

Parents Evening Online Booking

Just to remind that we are using the Setmore online appointment booking system for this month's parents evening appointments. There is no requirement for you to register or set up an account and there is no charge either to yourself or the school for using the system. It is now available for use until Monday 14th October 2019 when bookings will close.

Please use the following link to access our school's booking page <https://birdlipprimaryschool.setmore.com> and follow the on-screen instructions to select the required class, date (either Tuesday 15th or Thursday 17th October) and appointment time (one appointment slot per child). Please note that appointments for **Osprey Class will start at 4.30pm on Tuesday 15th** due to Mr Pugh's school football tournament commitment.

After making your booking you will receive a confirmation email from Setmore, thank you.

PTA News

This is a last reminder that the PTA will start to advertise **Bonfire Night (Friday 8th November)** to the public from Monday 7th October.

To avoid disappointment, please purchase your tickets for this event before then!

It's a **ticket only** event (for safety reasons we have to cap the numbers.). This year the tickets are only available to purchase through the website Eventbrite.

<https://birdlipfireworks.eventbrite.co.uk>

Thanks for supporting this event.

The PTA Team

Birdlip & Brimpsfield Playgroup

Monday, Tuesday & Thursdays
0845am - 1245pm Term time only

Parent & Babies/Toddlers
Thursdays, 0845am 10.00am Term time only.
For more details please see
www.birdlip&brimpsfieldplaygroup.btck.co.uk
or email bbplaygroup@btinternet.com

Birdlip Brownies

For girls aged 7 - 10
Birdlip Village Hall
Thursdays 6.15pm - 7.30pm
for more details email birdlipbrownie@btinternet.com

Birdlip Guides

For girls aged 10-14
Birdlip Village Hall
Thursdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm
for more details email birdlipguides@btinternet.com

Birdlip Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is open to all pupils for a small charge and runs daily from 8am – contact the school for further details.



Highways England

Next Wednesday 9th October Highways England are holding a consultation exercise for the next stage of the A417 road improvements that are due to commence in about 2 years time. The project will have both significant benefits and impacts for the school and the local community so it is vital that as many people attend to make their voices heard as possible. This event runs from 2pm until 7pm in Birdlip Church but if you can't make it then there are a number of other events being held, more details of which can be found on the Highways England website.

Once a week take a peek...

Head lice are sadly a perennial problem for any school so we advise that once every week you check your child's hair. Early intervention stops the problem spreading. If you do find head lice please let the school office know.

For plenty of advice on dealing with head lice try the following link: <http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com/>

Whilst I'm on the subject of not so pleasant things another common problem in schools, particularly for the younger pupils are Thread worms. These are mostly harmless but are both itchy and unpleasant, sadly they are also very easily spread as their eggs can live outside the human body for up to two weeks. The best prevention is regular handwashing as the eggs need to be ingested in order to hatch. If your child does get a case of Thread worms please do notify the school and follow the steps on the NHS link below at home.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms/>

P.E. Kits – a reminder

Please ensure that P.E. kits come into school on a Monday morning, they will be sent home again on a Friday.