



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/birdlip-school-pta/>
 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 1 selection

Events in the week ahead:

Mon 6th Jan, Staff inset day

Tue 7th Jan, Back to school for all

Forthcoming Events

Mon 13th Jan, Clubs Start this week

Tues 4th Feb, Parents' Evening

Thu 6th Feb, Parents' Evening

Fri 14th Feb, Celebration Assembly, 2:30pm, all welcome

Fri 14th Feb, PTA Pop up Café

Fri 14th Feb, Last day of term for pupils and staff

Mon 24th Feb, Back to school for all

Thu 5th March, World Book Day

Thu 5th March, PTA film Night

Thu 19th March, Parents' Open afternoon 2:15pm – 3pm

Thu 2nd April, Last day of term for pupils

Thu 2nd April, PTA pop up Café

Fri 3rd April, Staff inset day

The days at this time of year are still shortening, albeit slowly, as we approach the shortest day and the winter solstice. With this comes increased, lingering darkness and today is no exception as there is thick fog outside my window which has blanketed Birdlip in a Stygian gloom. My grandfather always used to say that if it weren't for the celebrations on Christmas day then he would've celebrated the winter solstice instead and the start of the lengthening days. I think, as I hunker down in my office, that he might've had a point. I wonder what life must be like for those who live inside the arctic circle at this time of year – a time of eternal darkness.

There are of course many different celebrations around the world at this time of year and many go right back to beyond the reach of written human history. For a quick overview of some of the main ones try this link

<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/december-solstice-customs.html>

Well that's enough waffle from me for this year, if I don't see you before then have a lovely Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Lastly on behalf of the whole team can I say thank you to you all for your support over this term, it really has been invaluable. Thank you as well for the gifts and cards, they are all very much appreciated, especially at the end of a long and busy year.

I'm off to spend some time with my daughter ☺
 Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda,

Mr M.

Birdlip Wish list

Thank you to everyone who has so kindly bought the school everything from books to cushions through the Birdlip Wish list – it makes a big difference to so many aspects of school life. You can find the link to the page here: <http://amzn.eu/9pZsmG2> and on a regular basis in the links at the top of the Newsletter.

Yr. 5/6 Dance Festival – tickets now on sale

On Monday 27th January the whole of Ospreys class will once again be performing at the fantastic Gloucestershire Schools dance festival.

Tickets for the performance are on sale now from

<https://www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk/event/gloucestershire-schools-dance-festival-2020-316758/>

Please book early to avoid disappointment. We will be performing during the **6 – 7:30pm** slot so please ensure that you book for those times!

Birdlip PTA News

Birdlip School PTA would like to say a HUGE Thank you to all the parents, carers, teachers & pupils who have tirelessly supported the fundraising campaigns this term. These included the Pop-up cafés, the Bonfire Night, film nights, a Christmas Single, Christmas disco and Christmas raffle. Wow! What a busy term.

New School Dinner Menu – please see attached menu selection sheet for January choices.

Thank you from Mrs Dingle

I just wanted to put in writing a heartfelt thank you to parents, pupils and staff alike for your kind words and generosity over the past few weeks as I approach my last day working at Birdlip School. It has been an absolute privilege to work in such a wonderful school and to be surrounded by so many lovely people from the littlest 4 year olds to the oldest ...?! Saying goodbye at the Celebration Assembly was the hardest thing but to see so many of you in the audience proved how caring and supportive our school community really is. The gifts I have received are amazing, completely overwhelming and will be much appreciated so thank you again. Have a wonderful Christmas, a fabulous new year and I wish you all continued success at Birdlip School.

Mrs D.

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.

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/>

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**.