



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/birdlipprimarypta/>
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 2** selection.

Events in the Week Ahead

Forthcoming Events

Tue 15th Dec, Robins and Kingfishers Nativity – see Newsletter for more details.

Wed 16th Dec, Caterlink Christmas Lunch

Wed 16th Dec, Christmas Jumper Day (newly added)

Thurs 17th Dec, Last day of school for pupils

Fri 18th Dec, Inset day for staff

Sometimes life can throw an unexpected surprise at you and sometimes those surprises aren't very nice. A week last Sunday, and quite out of the blue, my dad had a stroke. He's okay, out of hospital now and is expected to make a full recovery but for a short while it was a very worrying and upsetting time.

It's times like this though that make you realise how lucky you are and that brings into focus the everyday acts of kindness that people do. The staff here, as you would expect, were amazing and wonderfully supportive in lots of small but very meaningful ways. It was though the unprompted kindness of a few individuals that really lifted my days, made more special as they didn't know that I was feeling down.

So thank you to the pupil who stopped to make sure I was alright on the playground after taking a tumble whilst playing football – you know who you are.

Thank you to the parent who noticed me looking tired one morning and stopped to ask if I was okay.

Thank you to the stranger in the car in front who paid for my coffee in the Costa drive through.

Thank you to the parent who so generously donated some money to the school for an area they knew we struggled with.

Thank you to the pupil in Robins who stopped me to ask how my day was going.

And a huge thank you to the pupil who hand knitted me a scarf for Christmas – I love it!

There's been seemingly little to cheer about in 2020 but when you look a little closer we've all much to be thankful for – I know I have. Let's all try and do something nice for someone else this week and pay those acts of kindness we receive forwards.

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

Robins and Kingfishers Nativity Play

The Nativity this year will be a little different to those of years past – unfortunately we can't use the village hall and sadly can't have an audience. We've taken that as a bit of a challenge though and along with the children have come up with something that we feel will be a bit special.

We'll be using the outdoor shelter for our performance which, conveniently, looks just like a stables and so we thought we might go the whole hog and set it up as one (obviously with risk assessments in place). We'll have straw on the floor, hay bales, live sheep (in pens) and even a donkey (well a lovely pony masquerading as one) so that the pupils can perform in style.

As we can't have a live audience we are intending to film the event for distribution to parents in those Robins and Kingfishers – if you would rather your child was not filmed please let the school office know so that we can make arrangements.

We will be doing a number of rehearsals through the coming days in school but would like to film on the late afternoon of

Tuesday 15th December, preferably at dusk so that the shelter looks its best with the soft lighting glow and so we can bring the animals in after the end of the school day. This would mean the pupils in Robins and Kingfishers staying on at school until about

4:45pm when parents would need to collect. We will give the pupils a small snack and get them changed into their costumes for the performance. As it's likely to be cold outside please ensure that you have warm clothes for your child to wear under their costume. If you've any questions about the above then just ask Mrs Groves or Mrs Harding.

Drop off and pick up reminder / update

A quick reminder and an update about the measures put in place to reduce the chance of catching COVID-19 both for your children, yourselves and our staff particularly in the run up to Christmas:

- Drop off is between 8.30am to 8.50am – please ensure that your child/ren do not arrive before 8.30am because the staff are unable to supervise at this time
- Collection is from 3.15pm to 3.30pm – please ensure you arrive by 3.30pm to pick up your child/ren, as failure to do so may result in them being placed in Atlas after school club which might incur a charge
- Please ensure social distancing at all times
- Please wear a face covering when picking up and dropping off – there is new guidance from Gloucestershire County Council (see Wednesday's letter) asking parents across the County to do this.

Road Closure - A46 Coopers Hill – from 4th January

The A46 on Coppers Hill will be closed from 4th January 2021 for 12 weeks for landslip repair. Please see the attached letter for more information.

PTA News

Goody Bags

With the absence of the traditional school Christmas disco, the PTA have kindly donated some goody bags for the children to take home on Wednesday 16th December 2020. The goody bags will have had a week of 'quarantine' before being distributed to the pupils.

Amazon Smile

If you're doing your Christmas shopping online, we can now receive donations from every purchase made with AmazonSmile. If you haven't already signed up just click the link to set up and then go to Settings on your Amazon app, select AmazonSmile and follow instructions to turn on 'generating donations.' Many thanks for your continued support! <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1173968-0>

Atlas After School Club

We are continuing to provide after school care at Birdlip this term. Our coaches have been working hard to ensure children have a safe, fun and engaging time with us at afterschool club. We will be here when and if you need us. Please book your place for this term online at: <https://atlasclamps.co.uk/after-school-clubs/>
Thank you, From the Atlas Camps Team

Birdlip Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open to all pupils for a small charge and runs daily from 7.45am to 8.45am. To register and book spaces, please contact the play group leaders on: bbplaygroup@btinternet.com or 07914 091427.

Birdlip Playgroup

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

You can register your child by contacting the play leaders at bbplaygroup@btinternet.com or 07914 091427.

Atlas Christmas Holiday Camp

Atlas **will not** be hosting a camp at Birdlip this Christmas term but if you would like a day full of festive themed fun, book online at a nearby venue such as the Atlas Bussage Camp.

Christmas Cards

If your child would like to send a Christmas card to another pupil in the school we've put in place some COVID safe measures to do this. There will be a post box outside each classroom for cards – please ensure that the child's name and year group is on the front of the envelope so that they are delivered correctly. The last day for posting will be Monday 14th December (please don't send your child in with cards after this date) all cards will then remain in 'quarantine' until Thursday 17th when they will be handed out to pupils to take home. Given the different circumstances this year you may wish to encourage your child to focus on fewer cards with a well thought out message rather than giving a large quantity of cards out.

Mental Health Support Available in Gloucestershire

We have collated a list of mental health and wellbeing support organisations. This is now available on the school website - https://birdlipprimary.co.uk/parent_information/health_wellbeing/mental_health.html

COVID-19 – What symptoms to look out for and what to do next

If anyone in your household displays COVID19 symptoms your child should not attend school and you should follow the self-isolation guidance provided by the government along with arranging a COVID-19 test. **You should also inform the school office as soon as possible.**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- 1) Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible; and
- 2) Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your result – only leave home to have a test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

You can choose to take the test:

- At a test site near you today and get your result tomorrow; or
- With a home test kit – you can order a home test kit via the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>