



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://pmschoolwear.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>

I'm starting to find that my usage of the word unprecedented is, well, unprecedented for once again we find ourselves in the most unusual and unprecedented of situations and times.

I will not pretend that the last week has not been challenging because it has but despite the logistics, the difficulties and the short timescales the staff, the pupils and indeed the whole school community have been fantastic – thank you.

We face difficult times ahead as a school and indeed as a country but I know that if we continue to work together as a school community in the way that we have done so far then we will get through this. With that in mind I have two favours to ask – the first is to bear with us. All the staff are working phenomenally hard behind the scenes to get everything up and running in the way it should and I'm hugely proud of them. There will though inevitably be teething troubles along the way and we ask for your patience with them as we are stretched very thinly at present.

I also need help from those of you who are key workers – please only send your children in to school when you need to. The criteria for key worker status is much broader than it was and so our numbers in school are much higher than the first lock down. We currently have around 30% of pupils attending whereas in the first lockdown it was 5-10% and this means that we are close to the system being unsustainable. Put simply if numbers rise much further or if we lose staff to Covid we cannot provide both live learning at home and support the pupils who are in school. We are not alone in this respect and I should add that we are in a better position than many schools in this respect (I spoke to one primary Head today who has over 200 pupils on site) so thank you for that.

That's all from me, I'm off to have a quiet sit down in a dark room, have a lovely week, work hard and enjoy yourselves. Mr M.

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

School Admissions for September 2021

For anyone wanting a school place for their child in foundation stage in September 2021, you must submit your application by midnight on **15th January 2021**.

Road Closure - A46 Coopers Hill – from 4th January

The A46 on Coopers Hill will be closed from 4th January 2021 for 12 weeks for landslip repair.

PTA News

Chair and Vice Chair

A little reminder that Ellie and Bianca will be stepping down from leading the PTA in February. If you are interested in taking on a leading role for the PTA, please contact Ellie or Bianca who would gladly talk you through the role.

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/>

Atlas After School Club

We are currently providing after school care for Key Worker and vulnerable pupils only. 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 online at: <https://atlasamps.co.uk/after-school-clubs/>
Thank you, From the Atlas Camps Team.

Birdlip Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is currently available for use by Key Worker and vulnerable pupils only. For more information, please contact the play leaders on: bplaygroup@internet.com or 07914 091 427.

Birdlip Playgroup

Birdlip Playgroup remains open and runs on a Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 08:45am - 12:45pm (Term time only). You can register your child by contacting the play leaders at bbplaygroup@btinternet.com or 07914 091427.