



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 **School Emergency Phone No:** 07775 203 435
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

Wed, 31st Mar, Last day of term

Thu, 1st Apr, Inset Day (staff only)

Mon 19th Apr, Return to school for all

I won't lie, it's been a bit of a rubbish week and so when a piece of cake arrived in my office unexpectedly this morning it was definitely a high point.

I don't think there is anything much better in this world than a nice bit of cake and a cup of tea. So I thought that we'd look back in time to when cake began ...

The term "cake" has a long history. The word itself is of Viking origin, from the Old Norse word "kaka". Cakes however have been around for much longer with the earliest recorded examples coming from ancient Greece and ancient Egypt where in their oldest forms they were modified versions of bread.

Looking back to Viking and Norman times the earliest cakes in England were also essentially bread: the most obvious differences between a "cake" and "bread" were the round, flat shape of the cakes, and the cooking method, which turned cakes over once while cooking, while bread was left upright throughout the baking process. It's not until the Renaissance Period sometime between 1300 and 1500 that Sponge cakes (leavened with beaten eggs) are invented, probably in what is now modern day Spain.

These days of course cakes come in all different shapes, sizes, varieties and forms and although we might think of the traditional Victoria sponge or Fruitcake they actually cover pretty much all sweet desserts from Pavlova to Crème Brûlée through Sticky Toffee Pudding to Baklava and of course the fantastic Welsh Cake.

It's easy now to pop down to the shops and pick up one of the multitudes of different cakes out there but this wasn't always the case. In fact only fairly recently did cakes move from being something that was baked occasionally at home for a treat (often around religious festivals or celebrations) to a mass produced product. It's all down to the Great Depression in the 1930s when there was a surplus of molasses and the need to provide easily made food to millions of economically depressed people in the United States. One company patented a cake-bread mix in order to deal with this economic situation, and thereby established the first line of cake in

Family Learning Courses

Gloucestershire County Council are offering some great family learning courses (via Zoom) for parents and carers, all starting after Easter:

- Calming the Mind (mindfulness course);
- Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home;
- Everything You Ever Want to Know about Numbers But Are Afraid to Ask (Supporting children's maths);
- Improve Your English and Help Your Child (English lessons for ESOL parents); and
- Help Your Child with English in the Early Years (a course for ESOL parents with preschool children)

Please see the attached leaflets for more information and how to book.

Dad Matters Gloucestershire

This is a new initiative set up to support dads to have the best possible relationship with their families; to support dads with their mental health and wellbeing; encourage dad's to participate with services that have traditionally been targeted for mums (including antenatal and postnatal classes); and provide 1:1 peer support for dads. Further information can be found online: www.dadmatters.org.uk/gloucestershire/

Government Guidance for parents and carers: COVID-19

The Government have published a collection of guidance providing [information for parents and carers of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The collection brings together information and guidance for parents on:

- essential information for the spring term
- COVID-19 testing
- clubs and out-of-school settings
- home schooling and remote education
- support of children and young people

Links for Mental Health Support and Online Safety

Online Safety:

<https://birdlipprimary.co.uk/parent-information/health-wellbeing/family-support.html>

Mental Health support available in Gloucestershire:

<https://birdlipprimary.co.uk/parent-information/health-wellbeing/mental-health.html>

a box, paving the way for the mass production that we have today.

Time for some "did you know?" cake facts:

Cakes are broadly divided into several categories, based primarily on ingredients and mixing techniques, these are:

- Butter cakes
- Sponge cakes
- Chiffon cakes
- Chocolate cakes
- Coffee cake
- Baked flourless cakes, including Cheesecakes
- Butter or oil layer cakes
- Yeast cakes which are the oldest and are very similar to yeast breads

The World's largest cake was baked just last year in Italy. The giant cake, measuring 16.46 metres long by 13.94 metres wide, was decorated with a map of Italy and its most famous monuments. It had a total surface area of 244 square metres and weighed more than a tonne!

The world's most expensive cake was created by Debbie Wingham and cost an eye watering £50 million! It was commissioned by a wealthy family who wanted a lavish birthday cake. The 6ft long cake was totally edible and featured 4000 real diamonds, it was all hand sculptured and took over 1000 hours to make.

There are so many different types of cakes in the world that nobody has yet come up with a definitive list of them all!

Cake shapes have meanings for example round cakes symbolize the circle of life or the wheel of life and are one of the earliest forms.

So there you have it – cakes in all their glory. If you'd like to know more there is a whole world of cakes to explore on the internet – this website: <http://www.foodtimeline.org/foodcakes.html> is one starting point for you. In the meantime if anyone is wondering; I'm particularly partial to a Lemon Drizzle!

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

Birdlip Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be open to all pupils (separated into the same bubbles as school) from Monday 8th March 2021 and runs from 7.45am. Prices are based on arrival time:

- arrival between 7.45am-8am = £5.00 per session;
- arrival after 8am = £4.00 per session

To register and book spaces, please contact the playgroup leaders on: bbplaygroup@btinternet.com or 07914 091 427.

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 Camps After School Clubs and Holiday Camps are Back!



Atlas Camps After School Club

<https://atlascamps.co.uk/asc/birdlip/index.php>

Atlas Camps Easter Camp

<https://atlascamps.co.uk/birdlip/index.php>

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.