



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

Mon 3rd May, Bank Holiday Monday - school closed

Fri 28th May, Last day of term for pupils

Mon 7th June, Return to school for all

Wow, what a week. It has been a fantastic start to the term. The children's well-being day was a fantastic way to start the term and allowed such a great range of practical and physical activities for the children. My thanks for the staff for organising such an inspiring first day back.

We introduced a positive behaviour ladder this week in each class to enable each child to think carefully how best to support the school values – Kindness, Resilience and Respect – and become their best selves. It was lovely to be able to present value certificates out in assembly today, in addition to admiring the children in their new PE kits. I have been impressed with the kind, supportive and friendly nature of the Birdlip children and a positive behaviour in-house strategy will really help them. It is important to stress that children do make mistakes and do get it wrong sometimes but school is a safe place for that to happen and we offer support and guidance how best to right a wrong. We will, of course, let you know if your child dips into "red" but we want to encourage all children to take responsibility for their actions and reward positive behaviour. Such rewards will be presented in Friday's assemblies. There will be more details regarding the revisions to the behaviour policy shortly.

I have had a wonderful first week. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and staff and have been bowled over by the kindness and support offered. My aim was to hit the ground running and continue Mr Metcalf's excellent leadership to make the school the best it can be. With a background in IT, I have established Google Classroom as a learning platform to help with not only home and blended learning going forward but as a day-to-day tool in the classroom. A new class set of tablets arrived this week and we have already rolled them out to Ospreys class to begin this new and exciting learning platform. My belief is that the technology and traditional learning work really well together to prepare children for the future workplace. This is in keeping with the school strap line "Helping each other to prepare for a bigger world." Again, a great deal more information about Google Classroom will be rolled out to you all soon.

Can you help with the school library?

As you may know, we are currently sorting out the school library. We are slowly adding bar codes to all books so we can start a system of book loaning for all the children in the school. There are many more books to do but we are getting there. Thank you to those parents who have donated some fabulous books to the library already.

Thank you also to Mr Ben Lowe who has designed and donated a brilliant sign for the library which is proudly displayed near the entrance to the teaching block.

Mrs Wilson-Copp and Mr Metcalf have also donated beanbags for the library too, so thank you both.

We are planning to paint all the bookcases in black over the next few weeks. Yes, we got the idea from Waterstones but it will look great!

We would like to ask for your help if you have any time. If you are able to take one bookcase home and paint it with some black paint and bring it back when it's dry, we'd be most grateful. Mr Milner is getting the paint shortly.

If you are able to help, please speak to me (Mrs Harding) or any other member of staff and we will empty a bookcase for you.

Kind regards, Mrs H

Courses for Parents and Carers

Adult Education in Gloucestershire are offering various courses this term via Zoom for parents/carers and grandparents living in Gloucestershire. Courses include:

- **All you Need to Know About Numbers** - Thursdays from 12:30-2:00
- **Money Management Workshop** - Wed 5th May from 9:30-12:00
- **Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home** - Fridays from 9:30-11:00
- **Get Crafty and Relax** - Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00.
- **Writing for Wellness** - Tuesdays from 12:30-2:00.
- **Improve Your English and Help your Child** - Wednesday and Friday mornings
- **Help Your Child with English in the Early Years** - Thursdays from 9:30-10:30.

The courses are free to people over 19 years old, have lived in the UK/ EU for 3 or more years, or have a valid Residence Permit, and are one of the following: Unemployed or earning below £17,000 per year; Qualified below a Level 2 (less than 5 GCSEs); Have mental health challenges, Have a learning difficulty or disability. Please see the attached leaflets for further information and how to book.

I have also been tasked with revamping the school web site and ensuring it is a vital go to space for information about your child's learning. It is important that key information about the school's curriculum and how you can support your child's learning is easily accessible and easy to follow. It is also important that our curriculum offer is unique, innovative and far better than everyone else's! Please keep checking the web site and look at the new additions as and when they begin to materialise.

I am also delighted that demand for places is significant for September 2021 and we will shortly be looking forward to welcoming them to our school community. Hopefully as COVID restrictions begin to ease we will find ways to welcome them physically into school before September. Similarly, we also hope that we will shortly be able to reduce our number of bubbles and allow the older children to rekindle their help and support of the younger children – the essence of a small school.

Once again, thank you for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to meeting you all in person over the next few weeks.



Andrew Milner

School Value Certificates Awarded Today



PTA News

100 Club Winners

The 100 Club winners for April are:

1st Prize – Darren Ward

2nd Prize – Sophie Lowe

Congratulations! Please collect your prize money from the office and good luck to everyone for next month!

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.

Atlas Camps After School Club

Atlas Camps provide after school care between 3.15pm to 5.45pm. Please book your place online at:

<https://atlas camps.co.uk/asc/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.

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_welbeing/family_support.html

Mental Health support available in Gloucestershire:

https://birdlipprimary.co.uk/parent_information/health_welbeing/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/>