



Birdlip Primary School Newsletter

Friday 22nd October 2021 www.birdlipprimary.co.uk Newsletter 7

"Helping each other prepare for a bigger world"

Respect

Kindness

Resilience

Useful Links

Head Teacher's email address: head@birdlip.gloucs.sch.uk

School Emergency Phone No: 07775 203 435

Confidential contact for Governing Body: chair@birdlip.gloucs.sch.uk

School closure website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures>

Safeguarding: https://www.birdlipprimary.co.uk/parent_information/safeguarding/new_menu.html

Ofsted Parent View: <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Health Protection Agency Guidance http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374

Parental support: www.familylives.org.uk or glosfamiliesdirectory.org

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

Birdlip Wish list <http://amzn.eu/9pZsmG2>

Amazon Wish List – Library Books: <https://amzn.eu/cVgR1hs>

PTA fundraising via internet purchases: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/birdlipsschoolpta/>

School Dinner Menu Choices

Menu choices for next week should be taken from the **week 3** selection.

Diary Dates

Events in the Week Ahead

Sun 31st Oct, Deadline for Secondary School applications

Sun 31st Oct, PTA Halloween Pumpkin Trail

Mon 1st Nov, Pupils return to school

Fri 5th Nov, School Photographs

Forthcoming Events

Tues 9th Nov, Kingfisher's trip to Slimbridge Wetland Centre – details to follow (newly added)

Thur 11th Nov, Nasal Flu Immunisations for pupils

Tues 16th Nov, Reception and Year 6 Vision Screening and Height & Weight check

Wed 24th Nov, PTA film night

Fri 10th Dec, School Disco

Tues 14th Dec, School Christmas Dinner

Message from Mr Milner

Dear parents,

What a lovely start to the school year. Over the past 7 weeks we have welcomed 15 new children and their families into our community. We have tried to return to normal with a range of sports fixtures, school trips, extra-curricular activities, outdoor learning, swimming & music sessions to ensure the curriculum is creative, exciting and fun. It has been lovely to see over the last couple of weeks Atlas begin their well-being programme with a combination of outdoor fitness and indoor education about healthy eating and lifestyle - certainly the curriculum the children need.

However, school life is certainly not normal. The virus has decimated our attendance this term and the rise in anxiety and mental health concerns in primary age children is alarming. We acknowledge that at the moment well-being, resilience and happiness are prioritised over academic rigour. This approach has similarly been adopted in our local cluster schools.

Mrs Champion has begun her maternity leave, with her baby due in December. We all wish her well and look forward to her return, although we will see her every day dropping off Ollie! Also, Miss Tyson will be leaving us in the middle of November having worked as a teaching assistant and a playground supervisor. She has brought a great deal of zest to school life and we wish her well and all the best for the future. On this note, we are currently advertising for a 1-2-1 SEN teaching assistant to start asap. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Our catering company, Caterlink, has now produced pictorial menus to help children choose their menu choices. We show the younger children these pictures in the morning and I have also put them on the school website to help with decision making.

Andrew Milner

School Value Certificates Awarded Today



Secondary School Application Deadline – 31st October 2021

The closing date for secondary school applications is 31st October 2021. Please find the application form attached. Please contact Gloucestershire's School Admissions Team on either school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 01452 425407 if you have any queries.

Kingfishers Trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre - 9th November 2021

Kingfishers Class will be visiting Slimbridge Wetlands Centre on Tuesday 9th November 2021. The coach will leave and arrive back during school hours. Further information will be circulated to parents when we return to school in November.

Quick Reminders

School Photos – Friday 5th November 2021



Clothing and water bottles

Please ensure that all clothing and water bottles are clearly labelled. If you find you have any clothes belonging to another child at home, please return these to the office and we will return them to their owner.

Bug Hotels and Bird Feeders

Kingfishers and Mrs Platt would like to thank the parents for sending in apples for bird feeders, and pallets, bamboo, logs and roof tiles for making our fabulous bug hotels. Now we just need names for the hotels... and some mini-beast guests!



Well-being Courses for Parents

Family Learning run wellbeing courses online which are designed especially for parents/carers. All of the courses are open to all and free* to many. Please see the flyers attached.

- **Calm Kids, Calm Home** is a 6 week course running on Friday mornings. The course looks at ways of making the home environment calmer, including discussing effective co-parenting, family routines, parents as role models and self care. This course starts on Friday 5th November 2021 from 9:30- 11:00.
- **Calming the Mind** is a 5 week introduction to mindfulness. Parents who attended this course last year have noticed a real change in their lives, which has resulted in building strong bonds with their children. This course is running on Monday evenings, 7:30-8:30, from 15th November 2021.

** The courses are free if you are 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 £17,374 per year; qualified below a Level 2 (less than 5 GCSEs); have mental health challenges; or have a learning difficulty or disability.*

Gloucestershire County Council Fostering Recruitment

Gloucestershire County Council's Fostering Service has been working in partnership with thirty other local authorities to produce a film aimed at encouraging more local people to come forward to foster children and young people in care. It is well known, both nationally and locally, that there is a shortage of foster carers for children and young people who need them. The official launch and release of the 'Out There' film offers a powerful and thought-provoking approach to fostering with Gloucestershire's Fostering Service. Please [click here](#) to view the video via YouTube or visit:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering

Families in Partnership Newsletter

Please [click here](#) to access the first Families In Partnership newsletter which has been co-produced by Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum and teams within Health, Education and Care. The newsletter aims to bring you news and updates on these services and how you can become involved or feedback on the work that is being done. In this edition, for example, there is a section from the Police Service on how to keep your children safe online. As schools return and some youngsters move up to Secondary School, the newsletter aims to bring you information and advice on what to look out for and how to help your children navigate what for some is a new space.

PTA News

Halloween Decoration - Half Term Competition

We will be running a competition at the Pumpkin Trail for all children to decorate part of the village. If you wish to partake, decorate a section of the road leading to the brewery in half term and put your name & class on a label so we know whose decoration it is. The winner will be announced in the newsletter on 5th November. Mr Pugh will be deciding the winner and they will win a prize.

Birdlip Pumpkin Trail – 31st October 2021

You can pre-purchase your maps here - <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/birdlipschoolpta/#.YWXb1bco-Nw> Please purchase 1 map per child so that they receive their spooky prize on completion. **Numbers are limited so book now to avoid disappointment!** Fancy dress is encouraged.



Parents please help - we need as many volunteers as possible to help on the day to ensure we can host the trail and raise money for our school. If you can spare a few hours on the 31st October we need decorators from 9am - 12pm and then two teams to help with maps, prizes, marshalling and tea Tent (Team 1 from 12pm - 3pm and Team 2 from 3pm - 6pm). Please email birdlipschoolpta@gmail.com or get in touch with your PTA year rep and let us know if you can help.

We need cakes and baked goods donations for the Pumpkin Trail Tea Tent. If you can provide any cakes please bring to the Village Hall between 9am and 12pm on 31st October.

We are also decorating the pumpkin displays and throughout the village for a truly spooktacular event - if you have any unused Halloween decorations please hand them into the school office by 21st October in a named bag so we can make sure they come back to you after the event.

We look forward to seeing many of you there! Birdlip School PTA Team

Wrap Around Care

Birdlip Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open to all pupils from 7.45am. Prices are based on arrival time and include breakfast:

- 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. For more information and to book your place online visit: <https://atlascamps.co.uk/asc/birdlip/index.php>

Fun Events in the Community

Museum in the Park, Stroud – Half term Family Activities

There are plenty of activities taking place at Museum in the Park over the half term. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Oakbrook Community Farm – 26-27th October 2021

Oakbrook Community Farm are holding family nature play-days for 4-12 year olds on 26th and 27th October 2021. Children can play, explore, make crafts and cook on a fire. See attached leaflet for more information and how to book.

Children at Stroud Book Festival – 3rd to 7th November 2021

There are lots of fun events taking place at Stroud Book Festival from 3rd to 7th November 2021. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Visit Santa in Birdlip – Saturday 4th December 2021

Come and visit Santa at the Christmas and Craft Fair in Birdlip on Saturday 4th December - **pre-booking is essential** and all proceeds will go to Birdlip and Brimpsfield Churches. Tickets can be purchased at: visitsantainbirdlip@hotmail.com

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

If your child 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 PCR test. **You should also inform the school office as soon as possible. Siblings can continue to attend school as long as they do not develop any symptoms.**

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 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> and
- 2) Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your result – only leave home to have a test.

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

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

Playgroup and Holiday Clubs

Birdlip Playgroup

Birdlip Playgroup 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.

Atlas Camps - Birdlip School Holiday Club - October 2021

Atlas Camps October 2021 are open for bookings. The Ofsted registered holiday camp is open 9am to 4pm (8am to 5pm extra) from Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021. Please visit the website for more information and to book your space: <https://atlas camps.co.uk/birdlip/>

Little Monsters Rugby / Multi-Sports Fun Day – 29th October 2021

Please see the leaflet attached to last week's email for more information and how to book.