



Birdlip Primary School

Helping Each Other Prepare For A Bigger World



Friday 17th December 2021

www.birdlipprimary.co.uk

Newsletter 14

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/birdlipschoolpta/>



School Dinner Menu Choices

Menu choices for next week should be taken from the **week 1** selection.

Diary Dates

Events in the Week Ahead

Fri 17th Jan, Last day of term

Forthcoming Events

Tues 4th Jan, Deadline to sign-up to extra-curricular clubs (newly added)

Wed 5th Jan, First day of term for pupils

Fri 7th Jan, Deadline to order Nativity DVD (newly added)

Mon 10th Jan, Kingfisher's weekly swimming sessions begin (newly added)

Mon 10th Jan, Extra-curricular clubs begin (newly added)

Sat 15th Jan, Deadline for applications to GCC for Primary School Sept 2022 intake

Fri 18th Feb, Last day of term



Message from Mr Milner

It feels like a huge achievement to have made it to the end of term. The last couple of weeks have been really tough and we thank you all for your kindness and patience coping with sickness. The latest news from the Government is bleak but I hope you all have the chance to have Christmas as intended and you all stay safe and healthy.

We have been told to ensure on-line learning is ready to roll out next term. We are in a fortunate position using Google Classroom and if required it will operate as before. Please check your class' Google Classroom page for any daily instructions, if required.

It has been a really successful term. We welcomed 15 new reception children in September and they have flourished under the guidance of Mrs Groves and Mrs Platt (not to mention their Year 6 buddies). The staff have worked amazingly hard to drive improvement through all areas of the school and I feel that we are more than ready to welcome our long overdue visit from Ofsted. I would like to specifically thank Mr Pugh and Mrs Harding for their support and professionalism running the school on a daily basis.

Next term, we would like to focus on Kingfishers, they have had a tough start to their school career with the pandemic and we would like to marry up a creative and enriched curriculum with the fundamentals of reading, writing and maths. Year 1 and 2 will be swimming most Monday mornings and will have the creative Eddie Parker for music once a week. We will also be utilising Mrs Platt's teaching experience to try and split Year 1 and 2 whenever appropriate to be able to give focus to year group needs. Miss Higgs will add the extra help to Robins.

Please note that the [school term dates](#), including INSET days are now available on the school website for 2022/3. I would be grateful if you consult these dates before booking future trips and holidays. Next term begins on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Andrew Milner

School Value Certificates Awarded Today



COVID-19 update

The Department for Education has updated its COVID-19 [Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus outbreak \(gov.uk\)](#). Please have a read through this if it applies, to reduce the risk of infection over the holiday period.

Families in Partnership Newsletter

Please [click here](#) to view the latest Families in Partnership Newsletter for parents and carers. Coproduced by Gloucestershire teams in Education, Care and Health, it aims to provide you with up to date information and guidance that is useful to you and your family for the time of year.

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 – Christmas period

Although Atlas Camps will not be running at Birdlip this Christmas, they will be at other locations. Please see their website for more information: <https://atlas camps.co.uk/>

Quick Reminders

Applications for Primary School Sept 2022 intake must be submitted by 15th January 2022

Any child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 can start the school year starting from 1st September 2022. If this applies to your child, paperwork will be sent directly to you from Gloucestershire County Council in early November and you must **return your application by 15th January 2022**. If you have any queries on the admission process or have not received a letter by December, please contact GCC directly on 01452 425407 or by emailing school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk

School Nativity

If you would like a copy of the School Nativity, please complete [the order form](#) and make payment via ParentPay. **Deadline for orders is 7th January 2022.**

PE Days

PE days will return to normal in January, so please send your child in PE kit on:

- Ospreys - Monday and Tuesday
- Golden Eagles - Wednesday
- Kingfishers - Friday (and Monday for swimming)
- Robins - Friday

Kingfishers Swimming Sessions

Kingfishers will commence their swimming sessions at Cotswold Leisure - Cirencester on Monday 10th January 2022. **Please ensure the children come swim ready under their PE kit. The coach will leave at 8.45am, so please bring your child straight to the playground outside the office to queue up.**

Extra-Curricular Clubs - Spring Term 2021-22

Various extra-curricular clubs have been arranged for the Spring Term (2021-22) to run from week commencing 10th January 2022 until 1st April 2022. Please see the timetable attached and [click here to book](#) your child on one or two of the clubs. **The deadline to sign-up for clubs is Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

Holiday Activities & Food programme (HAF) and Holiday Activities Programme (HAP)

HAF/HAP Provision:

There is just one more week for families to book their HAF/HAP activities. For more information and to book, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

Below are some county-wide HAP offers that are available to all families, not just those whose children are eligible for free school meals:

YogaBugs

Parents are now able to get free access to virtual healthy screen time until mid-February 2022. Taking less than 60 seconds to sign up, YogaBugs virtual is a digital yoga and wellbeing platform that includes hundreds of children's & adult's videos for families to take part in from the comfort of their own home! [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a short video to find out why it's good! [For all terms and conditions please click here.](#) To begin the process to claim access to the site and sign up, parents will need to visit: <https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/event/120134>

STEM Activities for children and young people:

There are also 2 very exciting STEM based activities that families can reserve tickets for that involve engineering and computer science. Please see details below:

Educraft: 6-16 year olds can travel back in time to discover what coding was like 40 years ago by using the very same computers which were used back then! Children will be designing and animating their very own video game as well as having the opportunity to kick back and play some classic games. A great opportunity to learn and play for all the gamers out there! [Click here for more information and to book.](#)

Bloodhound: 6-15 year olds will have the opportunity to see 'engineering in action'; learn about various science engineering technologies such as the Bloodhound Land Speed Record Car; build and race their very own prototype car; and takeaway a souvenir and family activity pack. [Click here for more information and to book.](#)

Wellbeing Courses for Parents and Carers

Adult Education in Gloucestershire are running some great wellbeing courses online which are designed especially for parents and carers. All courses are open to all and free* to many.

- **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. Starting on Friday 14 January from 9:30- 11:00.
- **Calming the Mind** is a 6 week introduction to mindfulness. Parents who attended this course last year have noticed a real change in their lives, and a greatly improved relationship with their children. Starting on Tuesday 11 January from 7:30-8:30.

Parents can enrol online by emailing fay.tucker@gloucestershire.gov.uk

* The courses are free if you are over 19 years old, have lived in the UK 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, Have a learning difficulty or disability.

In the Community

Christmas Carols at Birdlip Church – 5.30pm on Sunday 19th December 2021



Everyone is invited to the Christmas Carol Service at Birdlip Church, to sing lots of carols and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies.

If your child would like to do a reading at the Carol Service, please contact Joe Meary on 07949 109 960.

Gloucester Rocks

Gloucester Rocks launched earlier this year, as a place for families in the area to find things to do in their free time together. The website features over 100 community events, parks, walks, and places to visit. Visit their website for more information: www.gloucesterrocks.co.uk

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 Aftercare

Atlas Camps Aftercare 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> **Please note that the emergency number for Atlas when your children are with them is 07522 909 409.**

Support and Guidance for Parents

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

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.



**Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas from everyone at
Birdlip Primary School!!**