



Wednesday 14th December 2022

Dear Families

Approaching the end of the year is always quite a natural time to reflect and there is so much I have reflected on when I sat down to write my final newsletter of the year. What a year it has been for Birdsedge First and what a high we are finishing on. It really feels like things have gone from strength to strength these last few months. September saw a visit from OFSTED that finally got school the recognition of all the fantastic work that goes on here. October brought with it lots of visits from prospective families and our school applications for next year rising. In November there was a visit to space, hugely helped by some incredible parents, that gave a very well deserved celebration for children (and grown ups too!) Finally, December has seen a fantastic Christmas Fayre, attended by the close and wider community and a week full of festivities this week. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for making this year a year of so many highs, you have no idea how much school and you as a community have lifted me in 2022. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas. I can't wait to start 2023 with you all. Mrs. Waddington ☺

### Goodbye and Welcome!

At the end of this week we say goodbye and good luck to Miss Haigh as she leaves to take up a post in Wakefield as an Assistant Headteacher in January. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Miss Haigh for all her hard work for school during her time here and wish her well on this next chapter she is about to start.

We also say hello and welcome to Mr Phil Newing who will be joining us here at Birdsedge for two terms as full time Class 2 teacher in the new year. Mr Newing has enjoyed his first induction day last week getting to know the class and has more time planned in school this week for getting to know the children personally and academically and plan for their next steps.

All change but a change we are excited for, for everyone involved.

### Friends of Birdsedge

Once again this wonderful group of volunteers have raised some amazing funds for school with their recent efforts. There was an excellent turn out at the Christmas Fayre and the latest count showed an amount of well over £1000 raised. With the additions from the Christmas Performance refreshments and raffle the group will be heading into the new year with funds that are really going to enrich and enhance opportunities and experiences for children in school. From the bottom of my heart...thank you. You are all my heroes.

### Attendance

Attendance reports for this half term will be shared with all families the first week back in January. Attendance has been such a challenge over this last month, with so many children (and adults!) battling illness. Therefore I understand and appreciate percentages are going to be low for a number of children this time. Although unavoidable, hopefully with some strong attendance for the rest of the year ahead these will start to pick up.

### Dates for the Diary

**Tuesday 3rd January:** INSET Day. School closed to all children

**Wednesday 4th January:** First Day back for all children for the new school term

**Week Beginning 6th February:** Drop Down Wellbeing Week

**Friday 10th February:** Last Day of the half term, school will close for 1 week

**Monday 20th February:** School Re-opens for the new half term.

**Week Beginning 13<sup>th</sup> March:** Drop Down Science Week

**Week Beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> May:** Drop Down Careers Week

### Communication

<https://twitter.com/birdsedgefirst>

<https://www.facebook.com/BirdsedgeFirstSchool>

<https://birdsedgefirst.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofbirdsedge>

### HD8 Network

Just a reminder of the HD8 Network we are members of. Check out a recent article we had published here:

[Birdsedge First School - My Journey as Headteacher since September 2020 - HD8 Network](#)