



Birdsedge

First School

Penistone Road,
Birdsedge,
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Thursday 25th March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to update you with a project school council have recently become involved in to become an international, Green Flag Award Eco-School. The programme is designed to raise environmental awareness amongst young people and in England it is run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Eco-Schools programme empowers pupils, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and can also lead to financial saving. Being an active member of the programme will be something your child will remember for the rest of their life.

The programme focuses on ten important environmental topics:

1. Biodiversity
2. Energy
3. Global Citizenship
4. Healthy Living
5. Litter
6. Marine
7. School Grounds
8. Transport
9. Waste
10. Water

Every school taking part in the Eco-Schools around the world programme follow the same simple Seven Step framework. This usually takes schools between one and two academic years to complete. After achieving our first Green Flag, our school can continue in the programme and achieve multiple Green Flags whilst continuing to work on and promote environmental issues. One of the most exciting things about the programme is that the process is designed to engage the whole school and its wider community.

During the initial steps of this journey, one thing that pupil voice has raised is that there is a high need to develop our outdoor school grounds. Together, with our Friends of Birdsedge group, this is something we are keen to develop, as quickly as we can. This will support our work towards this Green Flag but also and most importantly, will improve the opportunities and experiences for all our children.

Over the page is an overview of our plans we want to achieve for Birdsedge First School, along with the resources we need. We are asking for anyone who can offer any time, skills, expertise or resources to help with any of these projects to please get in touch with us at school so we can factor this into our plans.

We thank you in advance in your time in reading this and support for such an important cause.

Mrs D Waddington.





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Below outlines a plan of our priorities for the outdoors

Area for Development	Action Needed	Resources/Skills Required
<p><u>Outdoor Storage Shed at the back of school.</u></p> <p><i>This is rotten in the roof, sides and floor. This currently cannot be used as any items inside become water damaged.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of old Shed. 2. Replacement Shed that can be accessed safely by all children for gardening, Early Years provision and during Forest Friday/Outdoor Curriculum Lessons 3. Storage area created inside new shed for a set of waterproofs for every child in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and help to take down old shed • Links/recommendations to any shed companies for purchase of new shed • Time and skills in building new shed • Donations of water proofs and wellies
<p><u>Allotment Area</u></p> <p><i>We have an overgrown space we want to make into a school allotment</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing of current space, possibly including removal of part of wall to create a wider, safer area 2. Large Wooden Planters to be built 3. Compost Bin in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and help to clear current space • Materials and skills to build wooden planters • Links to companies/materials/skills to purchase or build a compost bin.
<p><u>Pond</u></p> <p><i>We have a disused pond on the school field that needs clearing, relining and making safe.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing of pond 2. New lining and filling of pond 3. Adequate safety fence/gate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and help to clear current pond and repair and refill • Time, resources and skill to ensure fence and gate are safe • Donations of tree stumps for seating within pond area
<p><u>Development of the Woodland Area</u></p> <p><i>Currently we have a wooden obstacle course and outdoor seating area that needs improving</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal/repair of current equipment 2. Development of seating area to make this bigger and able to occupy a larger group during Outdoor Curriculum Lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time, help and skills to repair/replace current equipment that can be saved. • Materials to replace rotten parts of the equipment • Skills and resources in clearing a larger seating area • Donations of Tree stumps for seating area
<p><u>Introduction of Outdoor Physical Activity Equipment</u></p> <p><i>Long term we would love to provide children with some long lasting outdoor equipment for physical development – climbing, balancing equipment, etc.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New outdoor assault course/exercise style equipment purchased and in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support to Friends of Birdsedge Fundraising to supplement school funds towards this big project. • Any links to companies providing such resources and ideas/recommendations of tried and tested similar equipment would be all welcome

