



Thursday 22nd July 2021

Dear Families

Well here I am...writing my last newsletter of the school year. It is hard to believe that it is 12 months since I was writing my introductory letter to you all, at the same time though it also feels like I have been here forever. Which is a wonderful feeling. In my first letter to you I wrote: *Living in nearby Thurlstone and having my wonderful grandmother grow up in Kirkburton, this area of West Yorkshire already has a large piece of my heart and I just know it will have an even bigger part from September.* Well it has, it has the BIGGEST part of my heart and I wanted to thank you all for that. I am so grateful for all your support and positivity in helping us have such a brilliant year, in such a time of challenge. Together, we have achieved so many things to help move our school forward in a year full of obstacles. The thought of what we can achieve together over the next academic year is something we should feel excited about and look forward to. For now, I wish a fond farewell and good luck to our Year 5 children and their families and hope you all have a wonderful summer of rest and family time. See you on **Tuesday September 7th**! Mrs. Waddington.

Covid 19 Updates

As long as guidelines remain the same, in September children will no longer be in class bubbles and our wider whole school systems and provision will recommence. We will of course however, have contingency plans in place should there be a change or concerning outbreak. We will of course also continue to ensure good hygiene routines and a clear air flow through the school building is in place and work with public health for any concerns or cases.

BFS Open Day

I am organising an open evening on **Monday 27th September 5:30pm – 7:30pm**, to showcase our brilliant school in action. I would love it if as many current families and children could join us for this. To talk to prospective parents and join in with demonstrations and fun activities. I will be leading some wake up shake up on the playground and we will have sports/activity workshops demonstrations to join in with.

Please save the date and spread the word!

September

Here are a few updates of what to expect in September. Things that staff are delighted to be putting back in place for children and families:

- We will no longer need to drop off and collect to designated class areas. All children should come to school through either gate entrance. From 8:45am doors will be open for children to drop off their belongings, order their lunch and come back outside to the front Playground.
- Wake Up Shake Up will become 'Family Fit Fun'. Parents and carers are welcome to join us on the playground 8:45am – 9am and join in our exercise session. (All welcome but not expected, teachers will be outside as before to supervise)
- Home Time will be from the back entrance of school as before.
- PE kits can be brought into school and kept on pegs/in lockers to change into, in school on PE days.
- Fridays will return bigger and better with more family themed activities including:
 1. From Friday September 17th we will be having our Celebration Assembly at 2:45pm and parents of children mentioned will be invited to join us.
 2. Each half term classes will be presenting a class assembly for parents too.
 3. Forest Friday will return to a whole school set up where children can work together in mixed aged groups
 4. Friday reading buddies will start with older children being paired up to read and share books with younger children.
 5. Children will have Friday Reward 'Family Time' in their House groups.

Outdoor Update

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch to offer some time during next week to help with clearing and improving our outdoor area. I will be aiming to be onsite Monday – Thursday 9am – 3pm if anyone else would like to just drop in during these times. Thank you ☺

Communication

<https://twitter.com/birdsedgefist>

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

<https://birdsedgefirst.org>

Friends of Birdsedge

Another thank you to the group for all their hard work and also to families for supporting their fundraising so generously and positively. A lot of the funds from this year will be helping improve our outdoor provisions next year. Here is a reminder of the group's page on Facebook:

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