



Birdsedge First School

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Head Teacher: Mrs D Waddington

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Dear Families

As many of you know, from September 2021 the Out of School Club transferred to be integrated as part of school, rather than run as a separate organisation. This secured the future of the club long term as it would no longer rely on a board of volunteer trustees and staffing absence could more easily be covered in house rather than the club having to close on any days where staffing might be an issue.

As I am sure you are aware, many schools are encountering financial hardship with national challenges around budgets and the increasing cost of living that the country is facing. At Birdsedge we have always planned ahead, looked after the schools budget financially and are in a safe position even at this difficult time. However, with numbers of families in school low and with these increased challenges, the Out of School Club has been running at a significant loss financially. My projected budget calculations for the year ahead, based on current numbers of sessions being booked, suggest that there is going to be a large deficit caused by the Club, which will begin to have an impact on our school budget for provisions for children more widely than the club.

I am incredibly passionate about the Club and worked hard to secure this to be part of the school over the last two years. However, I am going to have to make some price increases to sessions from January 2023 to try and reduce the predicted deficit. Of course, I hope that as pupil numbers increase, with more families using the club, that we can ensure that no future increases are needed and even bring the cost back down when numbers grow.

We have been working hard to provide a new and improved service for this increase in cost and I enclose a new prospectus for the re-launch of the club from January. This will take into consideration the type and quality of activities on offer, particularly in the evenings and the menu for meal times. Leanne as Manager is also undertaking her Forest School Practitioner training in the New Year so we can offer more exciting outdoor activities with a Forest School approach.

I will continue to offer Holiday Club days when there is a need and when I can, which of course will all support the financial position of the club. However, this does rely on enough bookings and me being onsite and available throughout the days so can only be run if we have adequate bookings.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those families who continue to support our club and I thank you in advance for your understanding. If you would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Kindest Regards

Mrs D Waddington. Headteacher

