



Birdsedge First School

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Head Teacher: Mrs D Waddington

Monday 12th June 2023

Dear Families

Attached to this letter is an update from Natasha Greenough, our CEO at The Mast Academy Trust with some staffing updates for September. I have my own staffing updates more specific to Birdsedge I am excited to share with you and thought alongside this letter was the right time to send it. We have been on quite a journey together here at Birdsedge. Since arriving almost three years ago, I have poured my heart and soul into building Birdsedge back up after such a challenging time, not just at Birdsedge but nationally too. This has taken a lot of hard work and has often meant taking things on above just a Headteacher role. I have always known that this investment was always going to be worth it long term and sure enough, September sees us with 12 first choice places for Reception and 13 new children joining our school. A significant upward trend from the last few years. A reflection on what has been a complete team effort from staff, our children and you as parents who have trusted, stayed with us and championed our little school throughout. Another huge part of this team has been The Mast, who have supported many parts of running Birdsedge centrally, in the background and often unnoticed, to ensure that our little school has grown and flourished in a way that simply would not have been possible over the last few challenging years in terms of pupil numbers.

As we see these numbers start to pick up, it is important that I make sure school becomes self sufficient and is run in a structure that ensures long term growth and sustainability of the 'small school' ethos we love and want to protect. Over the last year I have been working hard on my own professional development and seeking opportunities for my own outward facing work in and with other schools. Anything I can do like this supports school financially and also in the insight and skills I can gain as a Headteacher – something I have always known would be so important leading such a small school. I am delighted to share with you a brilliant opportunity for 12 months for some school to school support work and right here within our own Trust. As of September, I will be supporting Shelley First School whilst the school undertakes a recruitment process for a substantive Headteacher. My commitment to Birdsedge remains and my role as substantive Headteacher will be the same. We have grown a strong staffing team here to support this and I am equally delighted to share that Katie Hutton will become Assistant Headteacher, a role very well deserved and reflective of her continuous support to not just her class but the whole school. Having completed her National SENDCo qualification Katie will be taking over in this role and lead school in any times I am offsite. She will continue to be class 1 teacher, with Sports Coaches and Subject Specialist Teachers overseen by myself for any cover for this extra responsibility. We also, as you know, welcome Phil Newing officially to our school team full time in September, who will be adding his expertise and skill set as he takes on more subject leadership for school too.

I thank you once again for your continued support to school and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Kindest Regards

Mrs D Waddington
Headteacher

