



Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Families.

Welcome to our third newsletter and the end of our first half term. It has been a challenging half term for schools and education in lots of ways, in the current situation we are in. However, I am in complete awe of how our school community has risen to this challenge and made the return to school at Birdsedge such a wonderful thing to be a part of. Children have worked hard, shown such positivity and made each and every day at school such a pleasure. We have built our whole school vision, developed our attitudes to learning and grown an active school council who are such leaders of pupil voice in school. Thank you, to each and every one of you who has shown such positivity, such support and engaged in school life at a time when this is often more difficult. I want to finish the half term summarising the work I have started since my appointment and my plans for moving forward.

Please find this attached. I hope you all have a restful half term and find time to do the things that make your hearts full. We will all hugely look forward to welcoming children back on the 2nd of November. Until then, stay safe and have a lovely break. Mrs Waddington



Covid 19 Updates

Remember, symptoms of Covid 19 are:

1. New, continuous cough
2. High Temperature
3. Loss of, or change in, usual sense of smell and taste

In the event of symptoms developing children should remain off school until a test has taken place and results communicated with school.

School and Trust protocol is to inform families if there has been a positive case in school – either pupil or staff. This will be communicated swiftly and with instruction, following Public Health guidance, of what everyone needs to do.

Out of School Clubs

Next half term we will be continuing with another 6 week block of multi-skills after school on Thursdays and are offering a Street Dance Club on Wednesdays. Please email the office if you are interested in registering your child for either of these.

Coming Up!

Wednesday 11th November we will be marking remembrance in school with children and holding our own service.

Friday 13th November is Children in Need. School Council will be in touch after the holiday with their plans for the day.

Monday 16th November begins Anti-Bullying Week. We will be marking this in school led by school council

Friends of Birdsedge

Friends of Birdsedge will be holding their first meeting after half term on Thursday 5th November at 2:15pm via Teams. We are hoping to make plans for Christmas events for children and decide on our key fundraising projects for the year ahead.

Recruitment

I am delighted to inform parents that Mrs Kristi Saunders will be joining the office team at school after half term after successfully being appointed as Part Time Business Support Officer.

Communication

We have a new school website platform that is currently being updated, due to be ready after the half term holiday. Remember to follow our social media platforms to stay updated
<https://twitter.com/birdsedgefirst>
<https://birdsedgefirst.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/BirdsedgeFirstSchool>

Governors

Some more great news this month to share in that the following recruitments have been made to the school Governing Body: John Thompson and Caroline Stevens have been appointed as Parent Governors and Miss Katie Hutton as Staff Governor

Dear Families

I wanted to share with you, transparently and honestly my views and plans for Birdsedge First School now I am at the end of my first half term here. Through this, I also hope to address, the concerns I understand a number of our parents and families have regarding the low pupil numbers in school.



I remain completely loyal to my vision of 'Birdsedge BEST' and have done since the day of my interview. From first reading the job description, I felt so strongly that never before was there something more I should be doing. Being here and driving Birdsedge First School to the place it deserves to be, is completely my purpose. I just know that everything I have done in my life and career so far has led me to here and I couldn't be more thrilled and excited about that. This is a journey, a journey to being the best.

Here are some the key parts of the journey so far...

In our first half term my energy has been focused on ensuring there is quality and consistent provision on the ground in the day to day routines and lessons for all children. In our planned marketing drive for next half term we want to be sure that provisions are of high quality and that what we share is strong. We have worked hard on this already in such a few weeks. Here are the things we have achieved so far:

- Helping children return to school safely and happily
- Establishing a shared vision and school culture for behaviours and attitudes with children
- Developing an active school council so pupil voice is a strong part of our school improvements
- Make sure the school house system is strong and motivates children in their learning and behaviours
- Establish clear baseline assessments so teachers can plan for good progress for all children
- Provide Continuous Professional Development for staff to develop the English curriculum and the whole school provision for reading for all children
- Streamline home learning across school
- Re-design Individual Education Plans for children with an additional need so there is a stronger triangulation between school, the pupil and parents
- Set up a building project for new internal doors to be fitted during October Half term
- Put together a bid for improved security with new parameter fencing and a safer entrance to the school grounds with an intercom system
- Begin plans for moving towards the Out of School Club being integrated and led by school
- Put plans in place for a virtual Christmas Performance for all children

The path from dreams
to success does exist.
May you have the
vision to find it, the
courage to get on to
it, and the
perseverance to follow
it.

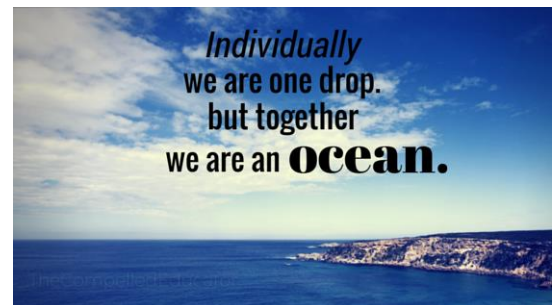
KALPANA CHAWLA

The journey to come...Outlined over the page is a table of the broad School Improvement Strands with some of the key plans for the year ahead for achievement of them.

<p><i>There is a curriculum that is ambitious and supports pupils to gain the knowledge to succeed (Brilliance in our Knowledge)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the wider curriculum across school • Enhance provisions and opportunities for outdoor learning and work towards offering a Forest School Provision by the end of the year • Continuous Professional Development for staff in curriculum
<p><i>The curriculum is delivered through high quality, well planned and consistent lessons (Excellence in our Education)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of teaching principles for daily lessons through use of Rosenshine Research • Share with parents how we teach phonics and spelling in school so this can be supported at home • Implement our new cycles for the teaching of reading and monitor the effectiveness of this
<p><i>A clear and ambitious whole school vision is in place for providing high quality education (Success in our Lives)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and continuous drive of 'Birdsedge Behaviours' to help create aspirational learners • Habitude work to support children in their attitudes and motivation
<p><i>The school is a central driver for a collaborative wider community (Trust in each other)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative work with Friends of Birdsedge and support for new members • Maintain and build on links with local community through celebrations and events (in a way we are allowed this year with the aim to have full community events next year) • Make links with local early years providers, offering use of our improved outdoor area for school visits • Marketing video, of a virtual tour of our school, led by pupils • Involvement of local media to share plans the school has for improvement • Share more widely a new school prospectus for prospective families sharing with settings and homes across a wider area

As I share with you strategically my plans for school above, please know they are driven with a belief and determination so strong to make them happen. This is my dream, this half term I am fully on that path to achieve it and I hope I can rally your support as I persevere to achieve it this year.

I understand current low numbers are a concern but we have a support network in The Mast to make sure that there is security in continuing to provide an education and a school for our families. As you can see, we also have plans to build this over the years ahead and time to be able to do that. Word of mouth is a powerful tool and one thing that families can support is sharing our marketing drive over this next half term on social media platforms and with people you know. I know so many of you do this already and I thank you, immensely, for that.



Birdsedge is going places.

We want it to be the BEST for everyone and together we can totally make that happen.

Sending you all my thanks for your continued support, as always.

Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Waddington".

Mrs D Waddington