



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Dear Families.

Welcome to our second newsletter of the school year. Coming up to the end of my first month in school, it is complete pride that I feel when I reflect on what has been achieved already. Your children are a real treasure to work with and completely make Birdsedge as special as it is. I have loved getting to know them this month and feel so lucky to be working with such enthusiastic, engaging and hard-working pupils. It has been a pleasure getting to know families more too. Every conversation and interaction is helping me understand the school a bit more and fills me with positivity in what we can achieve together moving forwards. I understand that a number of parents are concerned about the low pupil numbers at school and the future of Birdsedge First. A concern I completely understand and want to address with you all. Please know, that I am here to drive this school forward and ensure it gets to where it should and so rightly deserves to be. My aim over the next month is share with families my long term plan for the school to help reassure parents transparently of how I aim to move the school forward. I will be in touch during October with more details of this. Until then, thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you all more this month. Mrs Waddington

### **Covid 19 Updates**

Thank you to all families for working so sensibly with us in the current situation. There has been a number of colds going around school and we thank you for working so well with school if children have been unwell. 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.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend the chapel for Harvest this year, however, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding a special Harvest service in school for all children. Donations of tinned and dried packets of food will be gratefully received any time on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> to be sent to the foodbank. We are also planning something spooky for October, in the absence of usual celebrations around the 31<sup>st</sup> that children can join in with, within current restrictions. Likewise, I am also keeping in mind the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Being the daughter of an ex-forces, this day is as important to me as I know it always has been for Birdsedge. I hope that we are able to do something to mark this day within the current restrictions. I will be in touch separately about both of these events.

### **Friends of Birdsedge**

Please look out for a letter coming home soon about this wonderful group. After meeting some of the members recently, I understand what an important and supportive group this is for the school. I look forward to hopefully welcoming more members on board this year and develop how we work together to get the best for our children.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Children have settled remarkably well back into school life and we have been able to start assessing where children are at in their learning and are this week working on plans for future teaching, closing gaps and providing additional intervention for those who need it. After this week, myself or your child's teacher will be in touch with all parents of children who have an EHCP or IEP to arrange for new plans and targets to be shared and agreed. Soon after this, we then aim to make arrangements for parent meetings for all parents before the end of the half term – however these may need to look. In the meantime though, if you have any questions, concerns or wish to discuss your child's learning in school, I welcome any conversation warmly – please do not hesitate to contact me on the school phone number or by email [dwaddington@themast.co.uk](mailto:dwaddington@themast.co.uk)

### **Recruitment**

We have a vacancy in school for a part time Business Support Assistant. Application packs are available online and from the school office should you know anyone who is interested.

### **Communication**

Remember, our facebook page, twitter page and school website is updated regularly to keep you informed and involved in what is happening in school. Be sure to follow them to stay updated  
<https://twitter.com/birdsedgefirst> <https://birdsedgefirst.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/BirdsedgeFirstSchool>