



Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Families

At the end of a challenging half term, it would be easy to think about how difficult recent times have been but instead I wanted to reflect with you on all the achievements we should feel proud to have made together as a school community. We have had some fantastic engagement in remote learning, seeing and interacting with all children virtually every day is a real positive for us here at school and we thank you for supporting this so well. We have managed to stay connected through assemblies and Forest Friday challenges and seen some brilliant attitudes and progress in learning. As we break for the half term today, I wanted to wish you all a restful week next week, a chance to recharge, reduce screen time and do the things you love as a family as best as you can. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 22nd February, be that virtually or in person, where our remote learning set up will continue. I will be in touch with as much notice as possible in the new half term as government updates are given regarding any changes or new guidance around schools re-opening. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work and support. Sending you my very best wishes as always. 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 needs to happen

An Update from our Governors

Hello again from the Birdsedge Governors! As we all battle through these very challenging times, in the midst of a cold and snowy Winter, we wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone, school staff, parents and pupils, for all your hard work and efforts to carry on 'carrying on'. It's really tough at the moment to be resilient, but somehow you're all managing brilliantly, despite the difficult days. Well done for digging deep (and we don't just mean the snow!). We truly hope that the darkest days are behind us now.

We also wanted to share with you how we're doing our best to support the school team via a new initiative, BEST Connections, which aims to build closer relationships between staff and governors, to make sure that there is always a friendly ear available for our hard-working team in these tougher times.

Finally, we are looking for some new Community Governors! So if you're interested in having a chat about the role, please do contact our Chair, Sian Allen, at sallen@themast.co.uk. Happy half term!

Communication

Remember to follow our social media platforms to stay updated

<https://twitter.com/birdsedgefirst>

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

All information and updates during this lockdown period are in the COVID-19 School Closure Arrangements banner at the top of the school website home page.

<https://birdsedgefirst.org>

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 4th March World Book Day. Children are invited to dress as any character from a book on this day
Friday 19th March Red Nose Day – School Council will be in touch with any plans for the day soon!

Friends of Birdsedge

The Friends of Birdsedge have organised a Mothers Day Shop of £3 presents (with up to 3 presents per child) to be ordered and paid for via ParentPay. The gifts will be collected on 12th March – however, if we continue to be in a period of remote learning at this point, a Teams will be organised for gifts to be chosen by children and then available for collection on the 10th March with Reading Folders. FoB have also set up a Facebook Page to help keep families updated with projects, events and fundraising, give it a "like" to stay up to date here:

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

I have also sent with this letter a poster with a link to a School Lottery the group has set up – please do take a look and get your ticket if you can for a chance to win and to support the group