



# Birdsedge First School Newsletter

## January 2019



Nurturing & kind, respectful, team, partnership, go the extra mile...

### Welcome back!

Welcome back to all our families at Birdsedge First School. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed the New Year celebrations. The children have made a fantastic start to the new year and have settled back into their learning well.



### A Christmas thank you...

Once again a **big** thank you for your support with regards to attending and supporting the Christmas concert and fair. Not only does this help us to raise vital funds for school, it is also loved by the children and they very much appreciate you coming to watch them perform and allow them to spend and enjoy the fair. We thank you for a great turn out at the 'carols by the tree' service and for your enthusiasm and good cheer when joining in with the songs.

### A new year and some things have changed slightly...

Thank you for your support with the slight time change for the Achievement Assemblies on Friday mornings. This has had a fantastic impact on how much learning time is handed back over to the children. The staff and the children are definitely benefiting from this. We do love to hear all the wonderful things that the children are doing each week, in this assembly, and giving the recognition to those who have gone the extra mile that week.

### Reading



For class 2 & 3, there is a slight change with how Group Guided Reading is happening and this is now well underway. This is a carousel of reading activities to ensure children are **reading and analysing** the texts they cover. Children will read with their class teacher. When not reading, they will complete an activity to support their understanding, widen vocabulary and perfect their ability to explain their thinking. They will rotate around the carousel each day. Those children who need extra support will be supported during **regular timetabled slots** throughout the week. Children in Class 1 are continuing to have lots of reading but mainly 1:1 support which suits their age and stage within their educational journey. We are delighted with how well our children read and appreciate the support from home. We will continue to ensure that they have a rich reading diet and promote the 'love' of books and reading.

### Books!



Thank you for your patience with the book banding process. It is indeed a lengthy job but a very worthwhile one. It is still an unfinished process, but the ladies helping are working very hard and are doing an amazing job! Books have now started to be sent home and you should see the new revised banding stickers on the bottom of the book spine. The new phonics scheme has been ordered and we are excited to receive this—any day now! This scheme will stay in school to ensure the children can get the most use and full access to the entire scheme. This is a scheme to support the learning of phonics and when your child is secure they will continue on the banding system.



### Homework

Many thanks for the surveys that you returned to us. It really helps to have your voice as a parent/carer. This allows us to work towards a 'best fit' procedure when considering what is sent home and the expectation that we have in school. We are discussing, in staff meetings, how we can meet the needs of our families and are looking to produce something that will be tailored to the responses that we received.

### Clubs

Our very popular Dodgeball club is now underway and children are extremely excited to have been selected and to be taking part. This is a process that is new to the senior leadership team and we will look to making this a more fair and orderly procedure next year. Thank you again for your survey responses, this is vital feedback to ensure we meet the needs of the children and families when we are planning clubs in the future.

### More exciting news...

Our Library is now 'up and running' so we are timetabling each class in there to take books out on a weekly basis. A huge thank you to Ms Spark and to our Year 5 Librarians for getting this up and running.



The books will now be scanned in and out of the system to enable us to keep a track on where books are and who has what. This will mean we will be relying on 'school librarians' to keep the library kept in an 'orderly fashion' and ensure this is a resource that is enjoyed by everyone.

*Your children are encouraged to join the local library as well as borrow from the school library. We want children to have access to as many texts out there as possible!*

THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE  
MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW.  
THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE  
MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO.

- DR. SEUSS

### Friends of Birdsedge

Happy New Year to all and a really big thankyou to everyone for all your donations, prizes, money and time given supporting our fundraising events that we put on for our children to enjoy and ultimately benefit from. We have a few events coming up over the coming months; some old favourites and even some new ones.....

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February: Valentines Fun & Games 3.30-4.30pm £3 per child via ParentPay

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Non-Uniform Day £1 per child to be paid on the day

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March: Mothers Day Shop £3 per child via ParentPay

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March: The Windmill Race – The school hosts this event and a team of volunteers help to serve refreshments throughout the day!

FOB are joining the school in becoming as cashless as possible so you will now be able to pay for some of our events via ParentPay.

Without volunteer parents and grandparents, we wouldn't be able to run events throughout the year so if you are able to help at any of the events or come along to our meetings, please let the school office know.

### Rewards system:

The children receive stamps in school for doing many different wonderful things. They then work towards achieving their Bronze, Silver & Gold awards. On completing their page of stamps, your children go to see Mrs Knowles or Miss Kaye to have a little chat and receive praise for their hard work.

**Bronze award:** Certificate, **Silver award:** Certificate and special sticker, **Gold award:** Certificate, special sticker and a prize.

### Celebrations:

Children are now celebrating their **birthdays** in the classrooms and teachers are able to ensure these are celebrated on the actual day rather than the children having to wait until the Friday to get the recognition. Children seem to appreciate the fact we celebrate with them on their important day and can really make them feel special. Their class is singing to them and they have more time to share what they have done/are doing to celebrate at home.

### Survey feedback:

From the survey your responses told us that you would like **regular homework** given with a week to complete, due to children having other commitments out of school. Children should not be sanctioned for not completing but be **praised when they return**. You appreciate the **importance of regular reading & learning number facts**—even in the holidays—but would like children to have a **break during their time off** of other subjects. You would like information prior to the following half term about what the children will be learning about so you can support at home. We will send some information in the form of a **curriculum newsletter** towards the end of this half term and we are in the process of putting together a structure for homework (tailored to each class) with expectations as to what you will receive on a weekly basis. This will be with you shortly.

### NSPCC day.

This year we will aim to raise money for the NSPCC on **Friday 7th February**. We would like to invite children to wear non-uniform for the day and make a suggested donation of £1.

Class 3 would also like to complete a 'coin trail' so we are asking all families to send in any loose change before Friday to enable them to get organised and start the process on the Friday (7th) morning. The rest of school will take part in the 'collecting' processes at some point throughout the afternoon. Once this has been done, the money will be taken to one of the coin counting machines by a staff member and we will get back to you with a total amount raised.

The theme for the day, as the charity suggests, will be **'Number Day'** and children will take part in some planned activities around this theme—particularly in their maths lessons.



### Reminders...

- ◆ ESafety week: Wk Beg **3rd Feb**—Safer Internet day (**5th Feb**)
- ◆ NSPCC day **7th Feb**
- ◆ Class photos **12th Feb**
- ◆ Break up for half term **14th Feb**
- ◆ Return to school after half term **24th Feb**
- ◆ World book day **3rd March**

