



Tuesday 1st December 2020

Dear Families

I can't quite believe we find ourselves in December today. Christmas time has always been my favourite time of year and I always feel very lucky to be in a school environment at this time, where the magic is always very much alive. This year I am determined to make this no different for the children of Birdsedge. We have started putting together a Christmas performance ready for filming, Friends of Birdsedge have a Christmas fair planned for all classes to visit, there are Christmas parties and presents planned and last night we decorated school ready to enter December with a big bang this morning! As well as Christmas magic, something else this time of year can sometimes bring is snow! Attached to this newsletter, please find my updated snow letter to clearly outline procedures for school closure, should we need to, due to bad weather (hopefully not!). You will continue to hear from me through my weekly reminders of things happening in school each week. May I take this opportunity though, to wish all our families a very merry Christmas. School reopens for pupils on Tuesday 5th January and we look forward to seeing you all then. 2020 may have been a challenging year, for lots of people in lots of ways. However, I will be forever grateful to 2020 to bringing me here to Birdsedge First and the opportunity to lead and work with such amazing children and families. Sending you all my best wishes as always and thanks for your continued support.

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.

Half Termly Update from your Governors

Wow, it's been a busy time for your Governors! We've had lots of time together this half term, sharing ideas and putting new structures and plans in place. Some of the governors are newly appointed and there's more information about who we all are on the school's website (which, by the way, is looking great). We're delighted that, as a group, we bring a real energy and commitment to supporting the whole school team and the Trust with its plans.

We're going to be meeting with the School Council next term, to ensure that the children's thoughts are front and centre of our work. If your children have ideas or views that they'd like to share with us, please do encourage them to discuss these with their class Councillors. Or talk to us directly!

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Waddington and all the staff, who've worked so hard this year to improve and enhance our school, a very restful and happy Christmas. Let's hope that 2021 brings a more peaceful and settled time for all of us.

Communication

Remember to follow our social media platforms to stay updated

- <https://twitter.com/birdsedgefirst>
- <https://www.facebook.com/BirdsedgeFirstSchool>

Our new website is also live and updated weekly with news, things to know and class blogs.

<https://birdsedgefirst.org>

Out of School Clubs

Unfortunately, we are having to stall the Art Club to February. Multi-skills will continue with a another 6 week block in January and the Street Dance class will begin too.

Parent Survey

Thank you for any completed parent surveys on the school website. Your views and voice are really important. If you haven't had chance to do this yet, it is still live on the school website on the Parents Tab under 'Parent Survey'

Friends of Birdsedge

Friends of Birdsedge are busy planning events for some festive fun for children and to raise money for school fund. Check the parent weekly reminders for anything you need to know regarding Christmas events in school.



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Tuesday 30th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach that time of year when snow and severe weather can occur, I wanted to outline clearly the arrangements that would be in place should school need to close to pupils before or during the school day.

In the event of severe weather, as Headteacher, I will make an assessment about whether it is safe and practical to open the school to pupils. This decision will also consider and assess the provisions for catering and cleaning as well as safe adult to pupil ratios. Please be assured that closing the school will not be a decision taken lightly and the safety and wellbeing of pupils, their families and staff will be put at the centre of this decision. On occasion this may be due to the availability of teaching/support staff who travel some distance to reach school, rather than purely conditions for pupils getting to school.

Should I ever make the decision for school to close, you will be informed, by text message, early in the morning – usually by 7:30am. On occasion, it can take longer to make a decision as the ice is not always apparent and issues arise as staff are leaving home. In these circumstances, we will respond as quickly as possible. Other ways you can check reports of closure are through:

- Checking the School Website
- Checking the School Facebook and Twitter Page
- Checking the council website <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolclosures>
www.kirklees.gov.uk/winter or following them on twitter
- Listening to local radio stations: BBC Radio Leeds and Pulse 1/Greatest Hits Radio West Yorkshire

If we have to close school during the day due to changes in weather, we will inform you immediately by text message. We only decide to close the school during the day in exceptional circumstances where we are informed that roads are becoming dangerous and transport is encountering difficulties. Staff will remain with children until such time as you, or someone delegated by you, can come and pick children up. If there is any variation to your normal collection arrangements please notify the school office.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above further with me, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs D Waddington