

Weekly Parents Bulletin



Autumn 2 Week 1 News

Welcome Back to School

Hopefully, you are reading this bulletin after it has conveniently dropped into your inbox! Our IT team currently believe the former issue is resolved and that there should be no more barriers to school communication. If you have any issues with this bulletin, please inform school as soon as possible so we can take the issue back to our IT team. To help mitigate any future communication issues, we would like to relaunch...

...Parent Forum

Following the issues we had with communication in Autumn Term 1, we would like to try and re-launch the idea of a parent forum. A parent forum is basically the choosing of a parent to represent each class in school. They are someone who other parents can approach to double check dates or communication with and who can then raise issues with myself so that there is a manageable level of feedback and communication between what school sends out and what parents wish to know.

A parent representative should not be used for individual concerns, such as a child's behaviour for example. They are there to help the majority of parent voices to be heard, especially when you may find it difficult to speak to school because of work commitments.

A parent has already approached me to volunteer for this role in Year 3. Should you wish to volunteer to represent your class then please get in touch with me or speak with me face to face.



Attendance (Target 97%)

Reception	88.7%
Year 1	88.2%
Year 2	93.9%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	93.8%
Year 5	91.4%
Year 6	95.4%
Total	95.7%

After School Clubs

Mon	Forest School	Mrs Barrott
	Mindfulness	Mrs Millington
	Young Voices	Mrs Rees
Tue	Sports Club	Shawny
	Graphics Club	Mr Swallow
Thu	Dance	Shawny
	Yoga	Mrs Moody

Sign up for after-school clubs on the Arbor app now or contact Shawny directly for Fitness & Dance (poster attached)

Attendance

As you can see from our attendance chart this week, we have faced a spate of chicken pox and flu on our first week back to school and attendance this week has been at the lowest point for several years. We have always promoted the value we place on good attendance and the impact that poor attendance has on outcomes and learning for children. We would therefore like to launch a positive attendance initiative on the build up to Christmas.



Each week, every child who attends 100% for that week will have their name entered into the prize draw for that week. On Friday, in our celebration assembly, we will draw a name out of the box and that person will win a cosy night in hamper-so they can charge their batteries over the weekend! Every name entered in the draw will also be eligible to win the star prize at the end of the term...the more times your name is in the box, the more chance you have of winning!

Birdwell Kindness Week

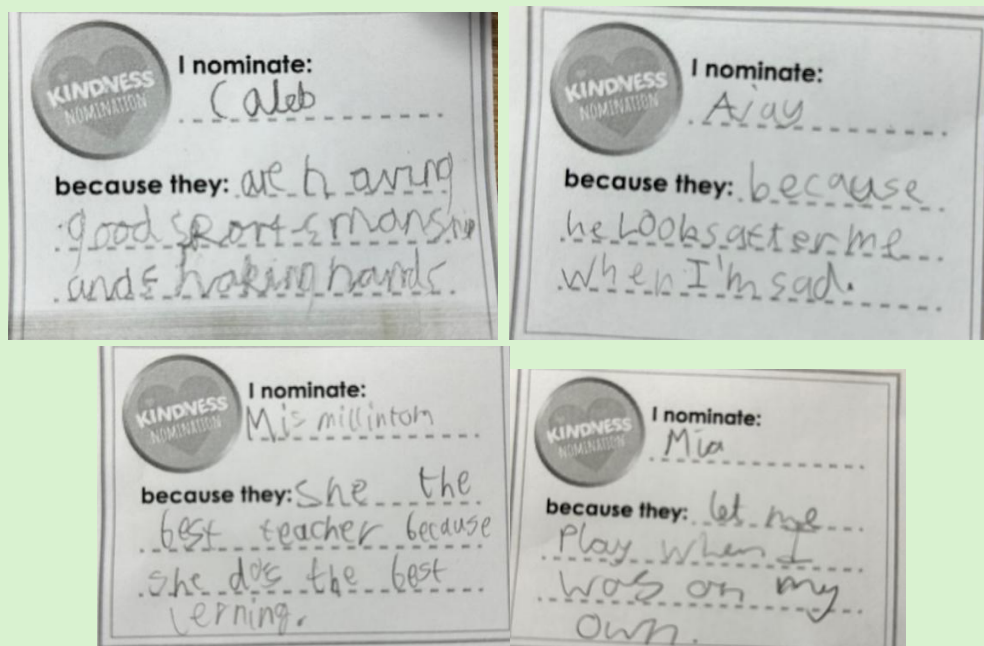
This week has been Kindness Week at Birdwell Primary. This is our second year of this event and it is a favourite week of mine in the calendar. It is wonderful to see the best come out of our school community. The children had to nominate other pupils for small acts of kindness that have made a difference to their week. The slips posted in the post box are a pleasure to read. Mrs Atkinson-Swift was in tears at some of the comments. Each assembly, we lucky dip into the box and whoever was nominated wins a chocolate bar as a thank you. We also read out a selection of nominations. Here are a few examples to share with you:

"I nominate Caleb for having good sportsmanship and shaking hands"

"I nominate Ajay because he looks after me when I'm sad"

"I nominate Mrs Millington, she is the best teacher because she does the best learning"

"I nominate Mia because she let me play when I was on my own"



Pupil Leadership Roles

I don't think we share and celebrate enough, the difference that pupil leader roles make to our school. In our most recent school review, a visiting head teacher commented that they have never been in a school in which pupils show such ownership and dedication to their school because they know their role is genuinely valued. This week, I would like to share some of the contributions made by our pupils at playtimes:



You can see older pupils engaging and playing with our younger children, setting up or tidying away games and activities for them and even building obstacle courses and supporting their play on the EYFS playground.

Thank you to all of our play leaders...you make a massive difference to playtimes at Birdwell Primary.

Fire Drills and Lockdown Drill

Next week, we will practise our termly fire alarm drill.


We shall also be practising a partial lockdown drill, later this term. This procedure is used to close down school when there is a potential danger in the local area. This includes everything from a stray dog on the school grounds to a police incident in the community. It is initiated by a double ring of the school bell.

All children are brought inside the building to continue their school day, registers are taken and the school grounds secured until the all-clear is given. Lessons continue as normal for the children.

Whilst lockdowns are a pretty recent school safety development, we have used them for real when there have been causes for concern in the Birdwell community and it is important to practise these procedures so they are not scary for the pupils when we do need to use them. As always, please feel free to ask me further details when you see me at drop off or collection time on the yard.

Lunch Menus

New Menus start next week.

Autumn / Winter Term (Week 1)				
All our kitchens operate under a Nut-free environment				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Southern style burger with diced potatoes (V)	Keema curry and rice with a naan	Chicken fillet with Yorkshire pudding and mashed potato	Traditional all day breakfast	Fish fingers with chips or salmon fingers
Pizza pin wheel with diced potatoes (V)	Rich tomato and cheese pasta bake (V)	Mighty meatballs with Yorkshire pudding and mashed potato (V)	Hearty breakfast (V)	Golden Cheese and onion roll with chips (V)
Jacket potato with a choice of cheese (V), beans (VE), or coleslaw (V)	Jacket potato with a choice of cheese (V), beans (VE), coleslaw (V) or tuna mayonnaise	Jacket potato with a choice of cheese (V), beans (VE), coleslaw (V) or tuna mayonnaise	Jacket potato with a choice of cheese (V), beans (VE), coleslaw (V) or tuna mayonnaise	Jacket potato with a choice of cheese (V), beans (VE), coleslaw (V) or tuna mayonnaise
Served with a choice of seasonal vegetables (VE)	Served with a choice of seasonal vegetables (VE)	Served with a choice of seasonal vegetables (VE)	Served with beans, mushrooms and tomatoes (VE)	Served with beans or peas (VE)
Chefs choice of home bake (V)	Chocolate sponge with chocolate sauce (V)	Fruit and Jelly (V) or Yoghurt (V)	Honeywell Biscuit (V)	Fruity Friday (VE) or Yoghurt (V)
Please be aware that we are unable to guarantee a completely food allergen-free environment, as foods containing allergens are used in our kitchens				
Weeks Commencing: 10th Nov / 01 st Dec / 12 th Jan / 02 nd Feb / 23 rd Feb / 16 th Mar				
Available daily: Unlimited vegetables (VE) Unlimited fresh water. Selection of fruit (VE). Bread basket (V).				
				

Spanish Open evening

Thursday evening is our Spanish open Evening. Mrs Atkinson teaches Spanish throughout Key stage 2 and this open evening is a chance for us to share and celebrate the work that they have done in class as well as to explore the fun activities and lessons that Mrs Atkinson teaches throughout the year. There is always a good selection of fun things to do, clothes to wear and Spanish food to try. Mrs Atkinson always puts on a great show and there is very rarely any food left at the end of the evening.



Save the Date

Autumn 2	Events
3.11.25	Return to school- Birdwell kindness week Birdwell History subject focus- "British History"
11.11.25	Remembrance Day assembly (for pupils)
11.11.25 on	Anti-bullying week
13.11.25	Spanish open evening- in the school hall 3:30-4:30
14.11.25	World Diabetes Day- dress in blue. Sponsored walk.
14.11.25	Children in Need- Design a new Pudsey! -Competition Winner
18.11.25	SATS workshop- Year 2 & Year 6 - 3:30pm in classes
18.11.25 on	Assessment week in school
24.11.25	Year 6 Crucial Crew visit
24.11.25	Bike-ability- Year 5 pupils (All week)
1.12.25	Advent Assembly (pupils only)
8.12.25 on	Birdwell Food technology subject focus
8.12.25 & 9.12.25	Parents consultations 3:30 - 6:30 by appointment on Arbor
TBC	Whole School Christingle service At St Mary's church (pupils only)
15.12.25 & 16.12.25	Nativity performance- 9:30 onwards
17.12.25	Christmas dinner & Jumper Day
18.12.25	Whole school pantomime/cinema trip
19.12.25	Christmas fair
	Last day of term
Key events	Curriculum coverage In-school events Sports events