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Dear Parents/Carers

We have had some great things going on in school this month. Unfortunately there are also some things that I need to remind you of.

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Parking and Lateness

Please can I make sure you start the New Year off with parking sensibly and not putting our children at risk and also make sure your child is **on time**. It has only been a few weeks back and I have noticed parking across the yellow lines, and children being dropped off in the middle of the road! Our JRSO's are monitoring all of these this term so please help us by leaving a few minutes earlier in the morning, which means your child arrives on time and you can park safely. School starts at **8.50am**. Thank you.

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Hairbands / Hair and Uniform Policy



While we have a uniform policy which relates to children's clothing – Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo, white shirt/ blouse or polo shirt with grey skirt or shorts/ trousers, it currently does not include hairstyles and wearing of hair accessories.

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We have had put in our suggestion box a suggestion that hair bands and clips should be black or white only. We would like to remind all parents that hair (boys and girls) should be tied back away from the face or cut sufficiently short to keep it out of children's eyes during class. Any hair clips or hair bands should be small and discreet in keeping with the hair colour.

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Red Class Rainforest Explorers

Mrs Pownall made the most fantastic 'Jungle Explorers' Jeep from an old cardboard box which has been in our role play corner. Our children are really enjoying being explorers in the rainforest as part of their topic work.



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Communication

We are introducing new guidelines detailing ways in which we communicate with parents. As we now use 8 different methods of communication, it will be helpful for parents to know how best to find the information they need. Please keep an eye open for this arriving during the next half term.

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A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School

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Sickness

A reminder, if your child is unwell, please ensure that you telephone or email in to the office by 9.15am for every day of sickness. Messages can be left on the answering machine overnight and they will be delivered to class teachers the next morning.

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Football Club

There are many spaces left on both the KS1 (YR – Y2) and KS2 (Y3 – Y6) after school clubs. The company that operates them for us will stop them at half term if we don't have the required 10 children attending each session which they cannot combine due to the differing ages of the children.



Equally, if your child attends either football session and you haven't told Mrs Owen or signed them up through the parents evening system, then please can you do so. Letting us know that your child is attending means we can let you know if the club is cancelled for any reason.

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Treasures of the World

We recently took all our children to see the play 'Treasures of the World' at the Riverside Theatre, Chichester College. The play was performed by drama students from the college as part of their coursework. As the theatre is so tiny, it is almost like you are in the play!

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All the children had a brilliant time, and thank you to our FPTA who paid for the coaches.

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Paying for Trips online



We are considering a method of online payment using bank transfers at the moment just for school trips only. As this is a bolt on module to our school texting system it will not come for free and it would involve an increase in the voluntary contributions for school trips of approximately 65p per child per trip to account for the extra charges.

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Any parents that were unable to or unwilling to use this method could, of course, still pay by cash or cheque to school as usual.

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To make this system viable, we would need at least 90% of parents to commit to using it for every trip, so if you think you would like to pay for school trips this way in the future, please click the *Feedback pencil* on the left hand side of our website where you will find a question added to the feedback form. If we

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have enough uptake then we aim to have the system up and running at the beginning of the summer term. There are no plans to roll out the school gateway app at this time.

If the system works well, then we can consider adding a uniform 'shop' to this system too.

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Yellow Class



As part of their Fair Trade work, Mrs Quest arranged for a local jeweller to visit the children and talk to them about how the precious metals are mined in Peru and how their lives are so very different from ours up in the mountains of Peru.

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There are an estimated 100 million families and their dependants involved in small scale mining throughout the world. These miners produce just 15% of global gold supplies but make up 90% of the workforce.

Pre-School Breakfast Club

In the summer term, *Birdham Pre-School* are starting a new breakfast club for children who already attend Birdham School. Please see the attached flyer for more details if you are interested in using this service.

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Red Class Cake Sale

Red class are holding a cake sale and raffle on **Friday 10th February** to raise funds for a 'classroom rug' like the one shown here. They need to raise approx. £300 for this rug so if you can support them by either baking a cake or coming along to the sale and buying from the children, they would be very grateful.



Kind regards

Mark McCadden
HEADTEACHER

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Dates For your Diary:

7th February

8th February

10th February

13th February

14th February

15th February

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17th February

20th – 24th February

27th February

23rd March

Petersfield

7th April

E-Safety presentation at Chichester High School at 6.30pm

Yellow Class visit to East Head Beach

Red Class Cake Sale

Parents evening 1 of 2

Parents evening 2 of 2

Yellow Class visit from the Harbour Conservancy

INSET day

Half Term

No Archery after school club tonight

Blue & Yellow class visit to the sustainability centre,

End of term church service, St James, Birdham

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Breakfast Club

Available from 8am at Birdham Pre-School!

Birdham School children will be able to join us for breakfast before being dropped off at school for the start of each day

£4.50 per session including breakfast to be booked in advance.

Starting from the Summer term

Please pop in, call 01243 514 562 or email office@birdham-preschool.co.uk

to enquire and get a registration form