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## Special Events and Dates:

### INSET Days:

- **Monday 3rd June 2013**
- **Friday 21st June 2013**

#### Thursday 10th January—

- Lollipop Interviews

#### Wednesday 16th January—

- PTA meeting, 7.30pm, Sir William

#### Friday 18th January—

- Cross Country Tournament at HVC, 1.45-3.00pm

#### Monday 21st January—

- Young Voices Concert, Sheffield

#### Wednesday 23rd January—

- PTA meeting, 7.30pm, Sir William

#### Friday 15th February—

Close for half term at 3.15pm

#### Monday 25th February—

- School opens for Spring 2

#### Week of 4th March—

- Parent's Evenings

#### Wed 6th March—Fri 8th March -

- Class 3 Residential trip to White Hall

#### Saturday 9th March—

- Grindleford Gallop

#### Thursday 28th March—

- Easter Egg Competition

- Great Easter Egg Hunt

- Close for Easter holidays at 3.15pm

#### Monday 15th April —

- School opens for Summer 1

#### Wednesday 17th April —

- PTA meeting, 7.30pm, Sir William

#### Friday 19th April —

- KS1 Ball Game Festival at HVC—TBC



# Grindleford Primary School Newsletter

10 January 2014

## Spring Term 3



Welcome back to our third term of the school year. I hope you all had a happy Christmas and New Year break, it feels so far away now! Thank you so much to everyone who sent best wishes and gifts to school and staff before Christmas, they were much appreciated.

As you can see from the diary dates list, this is due to be another busy term. There are lots of exciting events happening for the children and yourselves, so please keep the dates safe! I have tried to give as much advance notice as possible, so please check all three diary date pages—they run until next September!

### THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to St Helen's Church and Rev Katie for allowing us to finish the term on such a lovely note, with the Nativity and Carol Concert being held in the Church. It really made both events quite special.



A special thank you should also go to The Maynard for inviting the whole school for another excellent day of making Christmas Puddings. The children were all extremely well behaved and lunch was very nice!

A big thank you to our PTA volunteers for organising our Secret Santa event again for the children. Thank you for all the lovely donated gifts and I hope that you all enjoyed opening your secret gifts—I know that the children absolutely love being able to make a small purchase to give to you.



### URGENT

Do you need to apply for a school Reception place for September 2013? (Child born between 01.09.08 and 31.08.09) Or do you know of anyone within the village who will need to apply? The deadline for applications is midnight on **Tuesday 15th January 2013**. It has recently come to my attention that some parents may be unaware of this deadline, so please spread the word. Applications can be made online at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions) or by ringing **Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058**.

All parents need to submit an application, regardless of which school they want to attend or whether they want to defer the place, so it is very important that this deadline is met by everybody.

### Lollipop Bob

As you know Bob retired just before Christmas after 12 years of Lollipop service for the village. We were very lucky that Bob managed to join us in St Helen's, so that we could say a proper big thank you to him. On behalf of all the parents and school community, we presented Bob with a voucher for a meal at the Sir William, a golfing voucher to spend and a bottle of wine, alongside a lovely card containing messages from parents and pupils. We shall all miss Bob, but wish him all the best in his travels. Thank you Bob!

Please be aware that for the next couple of weeks there will be no crossing patrol—so be safe out there!

On a brighter note, interviews are being held shortly for Bob's replacement, so watch this space!



## Special Events and Dates:-

Continued:

### Mon 22nd April—Tues 23rd April—

- Class 2 Residential trip to Castleton—TBC

### Friday 3rd May—

- Y3/4 Multi-Team Games Festival at HVC—TBC

### Monday 6th May—

- School Closed—Bank Holiday

### Week of 13th May—

- SATs and Testing week

### Thursday 23rd May—

- Football 6-a-side at Bamford—TBC

### Friday 24th May—

- School closes for half term at 3.15pm

### Monday 3rd June—

- INSET DAY

### Tuesday 4th June—

- School open for Summer 2

### Wednesday 5th June—

- PTA meeting, 7.30pm, Sir William

### Thursday 6th June—

- KS2 Rounders Tournament at HVC—TBC

### Sunday 9th June—

- Carnival Opening Ceremony—TBC

### Wednesday 12th July—

- Infant Sports Day at HVC—TBC

### Friday 14th June—

- Carnival Disco—TBC

### Saturday 15th June—

- Carnival Day—TBC

### Thursday 20th June—

- KS2 Sports at EIS, Sheffield—TBC

### Friday 21st June—

- INSET DAY

### Monday 15th July—

- KS2 Production, afternoon and evening

### Tuesday 16th July—

- KS2 Production, evening

### Friday 19th July—

- Leaver's Meal

[WWW.grindlefordprimarieschool.co.uk](http://www.grindlefordprimarieschool.co.uk)



As you all know our school website is now up and running and being developed and tweaked all the time. Our next mission is to put all our school policies live on the site. This is being done as a rolling programme as the policies come up for review—so please bear with us. As always copies of policies can always be obtained from Mrs Callis or myself in paper form.

If you click on the 'Office' button you will find a lot of general forms are available for download from the site e.g. medical forms, trip consent forms, plus archived newsletters and information on 'Infection Controls in Schools' which gives advice on how long to keep your child off school if they are sick etc.

Each class also has a 'blog' page where lots of information and pictures can be found regarding the work that is being completed within the classrooms.

Every Friday we hold our Awards Ceremony and celebrate good news from home and school. This information is then published on the main part of the website for you to see. Any exciting events concerning the whole school are also posted on this main part.

It is lovely to have this resource to be able to tell you what we are doing in school, but it is also very nice to hear your comments too. Please feel free to comment on any class blogs or any of the main events—it makes blogging very worthwhile and rewarding when the staff can see people are reading the website and taking time out of very busy lives to comment.

If you would like anything adding to the website to ease communication or have any comments on it then please either pop in and see me or speak to Mr Petts.

## School Trips

As you already know school trips are an incredibly important part of our school curriculum. We are one of the few schools left who actively try to enhance all aspects of a broad and balanced curriculum through outside experiences. However, trips are becoming more and more expensive and with recent cuts to school budgets we are starting to feel the pinch and therefore will not be able to subsidise trips as much as we have done in the past.

The trip documentation that was sent out before Christmas showed clearly that we do not make any profit at all on school outings. The cost of the coach is always the biggest expense and that is divided up by every pupil, therefore if anybody chooses not to pay the trips automatically run at a loss to the school budget. In the future, if parents do not bring in trip money we will have to cancel the proposed visit. As I am sure you can appreciate this will be very upsetting for the children as well as school staff who put a lot of time and effort into trip organisation. In order to help us to make a decision on whether trips go ahead or not please can all parents make sure they adhere to payment deadlines detailed on trip letters.

I am aware that sometimes trips are organised at very short notice if we have been specifically invited to take part in events ,e.g. at Chatsworth, that we haven't organised ourselves. As for all trips, if getting payment together is too problematic, just pop into school and we can organise a payment plan or alternative deadline that suits you. This would definitely not be a problem and would help avoid trip cancellations. As the cost of school trips are steadily rising we always try to keep costs down by thinking about alternative transport. This includes staff cars for sporting events, which staff do willingly without incurring any costs to school or parents.



## ***Special Events and Dates:-***

*Continued:*

### **Monday 22nd July—**

- Whole School trip out—TBC

### **Tuesday 23rd July—**

- Sports Day afternoon
- Close for the summer holidays

### **Wednesday 4th September —**

- INSET DAY

### **Thursday 5th September—**

- School begins for Autumn 1 2013

## **School Trips—continued**

We aim to have three trips per class over the academic year tied into relevant topic work, plus sporting fixtures for the local school cluster, plus the whole school trips to the pantomime and at the end of the summer. Any trips that occur above this are the ones that we are specifically invited to.

We always use reputable coach companies who are approved by Derbyshire County Council and are fully seat-belted, cleaned etc. Unfortunately the cost of a coach is approximately £250 every trip. A mini-bus is too small for the class sizes and a small bus (25 seater) is roughly the same cost as a full coach and are quite often not available.

When booking each trip we try to find venues that are not too expensive whilst still being educationally what we require. This is getting to be quite a hard task in the current economic climate.

For every trip we evaluate our school risk assessments, fill in a computerised risk assessment that is held by Derbyshire County Council and obviously create group lists etc to ensure the children are safe at all times. Please can parents make sure that if their children have asthma or allergies that school is made fully aware and that inhalers are up to date and in school at all times.

The 'Parental Consent for School Visit Form' that is sent out for completion for all trips can be seen as paper work for paper work's sake. However, this form should be filled in specifically for where parents can be contacted on the day of the trip. Whilst I dearly hope the situation will never arise, please remember that if an emergency situation does occur, it may not actually be a member of school staff who need to read the contact details to get in touch with you. This is why it is important that you fill them in correctly, for the actual trip day, because the person accessing them will not have the knowledge that we have in order to track you down through other parents or places. This trip form can be found if you click on the 'Office' tab on the website if you would prefer to type it or lose it.

I hope that this all makes sense and that some of your questions regarding school trips and their planning have been answered. As always, we fully appreciate your help and support in enabling us to continue to offer such a diverse and exciting school experience.

## **Free School Dinners**

Children may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain support payments. Currently around 3,000 eligible children in Derbyshire are not claiming their entitlement to free school meals. Derbyshire County Council have now made it easier for parents to apply for free school meals by simply going to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/quidsin](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/quidsin) to complete and submit the form.

Parents can contact DCCs benefit helpline on 0845 120 2985 for more information about entitlement to benefits.



## After-School Clubs

*Young Voices* - the last session for choir is Monday the 14th of January as the actual *Young Voices* event is happening on Monday the 21st of January.

All new clubs will begin after half term due to the dark nights and cold weather. The new clubs will include Chess, Netball, Recorders and Creative Club.

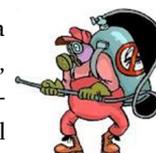
*Thank you.*

## Head lice

As with any environment filled with children, head lice are a potential visitor. To help keep these unwanted pests at bay please do regular checks of your child's scalp. If found treat immediately to prevent their spread. There is a wealth of advice online: the NHS Choices pages are particularly useful.

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

We ask that any long hair is tied up to help prevent their spread. The best treatment is to wash hair and then use a nit comb through conditioned hair at least two times a week. Head lice can become resistant to chemical treatments, therefore these should be used as a last resort. If you find your child does have head lice then all their bedding, clothing, coats, hats, hoodies that come into contact with their hair should be washed at the same time, otherwise they will just become re-infected.



## Winter Clothing

As the weather is still quite inclement the children will need to bring in a suitably warm and waterproof coat, hats and gloves. We try to let the children get lots of fresh air so we do all go outside in all sorts of weather. As always please make sure all items of clothing are named!



The children will be going out for PE in all weathers so a warm tracksuit may also be put into PE bags.

If it snows, the children will also need waterproof footwear with good grips.

## School Closure

If we get heavy snow fall or severely icy conditions then school may be forced to close. Please make sure that your contact details are up to date and that your mobile phone number is the one that is on the school text system. School closures are now posted to the Derbyshire County Council website, so please check there before listening to the radio stations. If you know that you do not always receive school texts please arrange to contact other parents for information or pop into school so that we can arrange a different way of getting in touch with you. Thank you.

## CHESS COMPETITION!



Yes, it's back! Due to the very popular and extremely well fought Chess Tournament over the last few years, we have decided to enter it again. The school-based tournament will take place during the Spring terms and those taking part will be playing for the title of School Champion 2013. Depending on their final score, they may have the opportunity to take part in a regional tournament against children from other schools. There are lots of prizes to be won for all who take part. If your child is interested then they need to see Mr Petts to register an interest. The games are self-managed so it is important that your child understands the basics of chess in order to take part. Please feel free to play lots of chess at home! Benny is the current school champion—is anyone going to take his crown this year?! Game on!