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Grindleford Primary School Newsletter

7th September 2016

Autumn Term 1

Special Events and Dates:

INSET

- ***Monday 5th September 2016***
- ***Tuesday 6th September 2016***
- ***Tuesday 3rd January 2017***
- ***Monday 24th April 2017***
- ***Friday 23rd June 2017***

Term Dates—2016/2017

Autumn 1—

Mon 5th Sept to Fri 21st Oct

Half Term—

Mon 24th Oct to Fri 28th Oct

Autumn 2—

Mon 31st Oct to Tues 20th Dec

Christmas Break—

Wed 21st Dec to Mon 2nd Jan

(Tues 3rd January—INSET)

Spring 3—

Tues 3rd Jan to Fri 10th Feb

Half Term—

Mon 13th Feb to Fri 17th Feb

Spring 4—

Mon 20th Feb to Fri 7th April

Easter—

Mon 10th April to Fri 21st April

(Mon 24th April—INSET)

Summer 5—

Mon 24th April to Fri 26th May

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year! I hope that you all had a lovely holiday and that the children are well rested and ready for another exciting year in school.

A really special welcome must go to our new Reception Year, who have started school extremely well—a big welcome also to our new parents and children in other years across the school! I know that all school staff, parents and children will make you feel very welcome both in school and out in the playground. Please don't be shy, feel free to pop in and see me at any time with any questions or queries—the door is always open and the kettle is always on!

The School Year

This year is set to be another very exciting one in school.

Our mornings are going to stay roughly the same taken up with assemblies, Literacy and Numeracy. Assemblies on Monday and Thursday will hopefully be written and delivered by the children again. Any parents who would like to share their achievements or what they do as a job/hobby will be warmly welcomed too! Just pop in and see me. Our phonics teaching is going back into the individual classrooms this year to incorporate the new changes to spelling assessment.

The whole school will be continuing to learn Tai Chi on a Friday morning, with the older children progressing to skills involving pads and more Kung Fu.

Every Monday afternoon the whole school will be learning all about Science or taking part in Forest Schools sessions.

Mrs Bacon is a fully trained Forest School Leader and our brilliant piece of forest up in Haywood Woods continues to go from strength to strength. Each class will have a full half term of Forest Schools across the year. **Class 1** will be Autumn 1 and Spring 4; **Class 2** will be Autumn 2 and Summer 5 and **Class 3** will be Spring 3 and Summer 6. More details will be shared on class blogs.

For the rest of the four afternoon sessions the staff will be teaching across the school to their specific strengths. Mrs Bacon will be continuing to teach PHSE, Citizenship and RE; Mrs Slack will be teaching Art and Design Technology; Miss Village will be teaching Spanish and Mr Petts will be teaching Computer Programming.

Class 3 will also continue to benefit from the Wider Opportunities Music Programme, transferring their skills from drumming to Ukulele playing—hopefully a bit easier on the ears!

Other Curriculum News

We are continuing to celebrate success with 'Star of the Week', 'Writer of the Week', 'Finer Diners', 'Right Choice Cards' and House Points. Every week our Friday Celebration Assemblies will be taken by the winning House Captains from the previous weeks collection of House points. 'Celebration Assembly' will be blogged on the main school part of the school website found at www.grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk.

'Wheelie Wednesdays' will continue this year. Please ensure that a properly fitting helmet is available in school on Wednesdays to help ensure safety.



Autumn Term 1—Continued



Special Events and Dates:

Term Dates—Continued

Half Term—

Mon 29th May to Fri 2nd June

Summer 6—

Mon 5th June to Fri 21st July.

Diary Dates:

Thursday 8th September—

- Class 3 begin swimming 9-9.30am, Hathersage Pool.

Sunday 11th September—

- A Celebration of Bob Stewart's Life, 12.30-15.00pm, Bishop pavilion

Wednesday 14th September—

- Guitar Assembly, 9.00am

Thursday 15th September—

- Class 3 swimming

Tuesday 20th September—

- Class 2 and 3 to Horrible Histories at Buxton. 1.15-3.45pm

Thursday 22nd September—

- Class 3 swimming
- Mini Soccer Tournament at HVC—1-3.30pm, Y5/6—TBC

Friday 23rd September—

- Ukulele starts in Class 3

Thursday 29th September—

- Class 3 swimming
- NON UNIFORM DAY for NSPCC—assemblies and workshop across the whole school

Friday 30th September—

- KS1 and KS2 Cross Country Competition at HVC, 1.30-3.30—TBC

We will also continue with 'Popcorn/Ice-cream Fridays'. Depending on the weather we will continue to offer either popcorn or ice-cream after school on a Friday. The cost will stay at £1 and all funds go to the PTA.

Welcome!

I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming Joanne Rucroft and Suzanne Clifton to our school team. Joanne will be based in Class 3 providing individual TA support. Suzanne is following the School's Direct programme, where you train to be a teacher whilst being based in a school environment. She will be based in Class 1, working closely with Mrs Slack and focussing on Year 1 predominantly.

The School Website

For those parents new to the school, every class has a 'blog' section on the website where you can find exciting news, photographs and events that have happened within the classrooms. If you go to the school website, the class blogs are down the right hand side of the screen.

The school website has a calendar on the home screen which will be updated regularly with new events and dates as they get added to the school diary.

The website also contains access to medical forms, trip forms and so on, if you click on the office button (instead of the drop down menu) it will take you to the relevant forms.

We always try our best to get as much information out to you as early as we can, either through newsletters like this one where the diary dates are written down, through the website or the text message system. Sometimes, as is life, exciting events may crop up at short notice so I apologise for that now!

If you are not receiving text messages from school and are expecting to, please pop into the school office to check whether our recorded contact details are correct or not.

Uniform

At the start of a new year it is always a good idea to check your uniform labels to see whether the names have faded or are still readable. Please make sure that all items (including PE kit and maybe even shoes!) are labelled clearly. If we find any items of clothing with a name in we will return it to your child. If clothing does not have a name then it goes into lost property or can be taken by someone else by mistake.

You can order new uniform online by going to www.schooltrends.co.uk and clicking on the 'Parents' area. Then just search for Grindleford and take it from there. Alternatively you can pop into the school office and fill in an order form at school.

We also have some 'sew on' logo badges in stock at school for £1. These can be added to clothing bought from other clothing retailers. Please check with the school uniform policy or pop in and see us before purchasing clothing that you wish to put a school logo on.

Our uniform policy is on the school website under the 'Information' tab.

Peripatetic Music Opportunities

We have lots of music teachers who come into school and offer various instrument lessons for the children. This is set up as a contract between parents and the music



Autumn Term 1– Continued



Diary Dates: - Continued!

Wednesday 5th October—

- ECO KIDS Collection/GREEN DAY
- HVC Open Evening—6-8.30pm

Thursday 6th October—

- Class 3 swimming

Friday 7th October—

- Individual Photographs from 8.30am

Thursday 13th October -

- Class 3 swimming

Friday 14th October—

- Tag Rugby Tournament at HVC, 1.30-3.30pm—TBC

Thursday 20th October—

- Class 3 swimming
- PTA Spooky Disco—TBC

Week beginning 7th November—

- Parent's Evening Week

Friday 11th November—

- Mini Basketball Tournament at HVC—TBC

Friday 18th November—

- CHILDREN IN NEED Day

Thursday 24th November—

- Mini Soccer Tournament Y3/4 at HVC—TBC

Thursday 8th December—

- Whole School Pantomime Trip, Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield

Monday 12th December—

- Class 1 Nativity—afternoon and evening performance

Tuesday 13th December—

- Class 1 Nativity—evening performance

Peripatetic Music Opportunities—continued

teachers themselves, school merely provide the environment for the lessons to take place. Currently we offer Guitar (Wednesday morning), Piano (Thursday afternoon), Woodwind (Thursday afternoon) and Penny Whistle (Thursday afternoon and Friday morning). If your child is interested in starting to learn an instrument please pop into school and we will pass your details on. Obviously these lessons require payment.

Holiday Requests

As I am sure you are all fully aware schools are no longer allowed to authorise holidays within term times. Our Absence Policy can be found on the website or feel free to pop into school and get a paper copy. Only 'Exceptional Circumstances' can be authorised. The following is from our Attendance Policy:

Authorised Absences

*a. **Illness, Medical and Dental Appointments** - If the school is satisfied that a pupil of compulsory school age is prevented from attending school by reason of illness then the absence will be treated as authorised. Leave for medical or dental appointments may be given (i.e. the absence may be authorised) where confirmation has been received from the parents (either in person, in writing or by a telephone call) or on production of an appointments card. A book is maintained by the School Office for the purpose of recording pupils leaving or returning to the site during the school day.*

*b. **Lateness** - The school policy is to encourage punctuality and to actively discourage lateness as it can seriously disrupt lessons and adversely affect the child's progress. If a child is late and misses registration, a late mark will be recorded (this is classed as an unauthorised absence). Obviously the school will be sympathetic if this is for a good reason. If however a pattern of lateness starts to emerge, parents will be invited to discuss the matter with the class teacher/Headteacher in order to reach a satisfactory solution. **Late is ten minutes after the start of the morning and afternoon school sessions.***

*c. **Exceptional Circumstances** - It is for schools to determine whether an absence in this category should be authorised or not: much will depend on the circumstances of the particular case. Generally the rule should be that only truly exceptional circumstances should be sanctioned through authorised absence after discussion with the Headteacher. The following are only guidelines and are not an exhaustive list:*

- Attending the wedding of a family member**
- Attending a family bereavement**
- Attending a prison visit**
- Significant family illness**
- Days of religious observance**
- Excluded pupils**

Unauthorised Absence (Non-exhaustive examples only)

- Birthdays of pupils or family members
- Availability of cheap holidays and cheap travel arrangements
- Days overlapping with the beginning or end of the school terms
- Looking after the home, brothers and sisters
- Shopping during School hours

After recent legal developments on the Isle of White I am hoping that this policy will change in the future, however the current notification from Derbyshire County Council is that no child should miss school therefore we have to keep following the policy until further notice. I hope this information helps clear up any confusion. All unauthorised absences will be sent through to Derbyshire County Council and fines may be incurred—sorry.



Diary Dates: - Continued!

Monday 19th December—

- Christmas Dinner and Party Day

Tuesday 20th December—

- Carol Concert TBC

Thursday 19th or 26th January—

- Sports Hall Athletics, Y5/6 at HVC, 1.30-3.15—TBC

Tuesday 7th February—

- SAFER INTERNET DAY

Week beginning 27th February—

- Parent's Evening Week

Thursday 2nd March—

- World Book Day

Thursday 9th March—

- High 5 Netball, 1.30-3.30pm at HVC—TBC

Saturday 11th March—

- Gallop—TBC

Friday 24th March—

- RED NOSE DAY

Friday 7th April—

- Easter Egg Competition
- Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 5th May—

- Quad Kids Competition, 1.30-3.30 at HVC—TBC

Week beginning 8th May—

- SATs week

Wednesday 24th May—

- Whole school and class photographs

Friday 26th May—

- Rounders Tournament, 1.30-3.30pm at HVC—TBC

Friday 8th June—

- Carnival Disco—TBC

Wed 14-Fri 16th June—

- White Hall Trip—Class 3

After-School Clubs

Monday:

- *Monday Club* - 3.20 till 4.15pm. Reception, Year 1, Year 2 children welcome to attend. The sessions will be a mixture of fun activities. Please see Mrs Slack for more information, To begin Monday 12th September and run until October half term.
- *Running Club* - For people who are prepared to work on **long distance running** only. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. This is preparation for the KS2 and KS1 Cross Country Competitions, so we will be running around the 'Sheep Field' to develop stamina and speed. Please see Mrs Callis for more information. To begin 12th September and run until Christmas.

Tuesday:

- *RuggerEds*- All children welcome. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. This club is delivered by outside specialists but is paid for by school, therefore run at no cost to yourselves. Please see Mrs Callis to sign up. To begin Tuesday 13th September and will run through the year.

Wednesday:

- *Basket Club* - Open to KS2. From 3.20 till 4.15pm. This will be a mixture of High5 Netball and Basketball sessions to get ready for the Inter-School competitions that will be held this term. There needs to be a minimum of 10 people sign up to make the club viable and those children who come along to train every week will have first chance to represent the school. Please see Mrs Callis for more information. To begin 14th September and will run, hopefully, until Christmas depending on weather conditions.

Thursday:

- *Sewing Club* - Open to everyone (who can thread a needle!) Maximum of 10. From 3.20 till 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Callis for more information. To begin 15th September and will run until Christmas.

*Any changes to the above information will be sent out either through text alerts or a letter. As always a **big thank you** must go to the staff who run these clubs in their own free time. Any children not making the 'Right Choices' during after school clubs will be asked not to attend. Different clubs will be run throughout the year.*

Thank you.

Security Reminder



Please may I take this opportunity to remind parents about before school rules. As you know there will be a member of staff out on duty at 8.45am each morning. Until this time parents are responsible for their own child/ren.

In previous years some children were being dropped off before 8.45am without any supervision. Please can you ensure that this situation does not happen, either by staying with your child/ren till 8.45am or arranging for another parent to keep an eye on them for you. I am sure that I can count on you for your continued help.

**Diary Dates: - Continued!****Thursday 15th June—**

- Tri Golf Competition, 1.30-3.30 at HVC—TBC

Friday 16th June—

- Infant Sport's Day at HVC—TBC

Wednesday 5th July—

- KS2 Sports Day at EIS

Thursday 13th July—

- Whole School Sports Afternoon

Friday 14th July—

- Y6 Leaver's Meal

Monday 17th July—

- KS2 Performance—afternoon and evening shows

Tuesday 18th July—

- KS2 Performance—evening show

Thursday 20th July—

- Whole School summer trip out

Friday 21st July—

- Leaver's Assembly
- Sports Afternoon

Transfer to Secondary Education—September 2017

How scary to have to think about this subject so early on in the new school year! If your child was born between **1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006** then you need to apply for a secondary school place for them to start in September 2017. It is preferable for parent's to apply online at **www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions** and this facility will be open from **12th September 2016 at 9.00am**. For any of you who have no access to the internet you are very welcome to come into school to apply or you can apply by phone by ringing Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190. Parent's who would prefer a paper application form can obtain one from the Admissions and Appeals team by emailing **admissions@derbyshire.gov.uk** or by ringing 01629 537499. **The closing date for the submission of applications is midnight on the 31st October 2016.** (Paper submissions need to be returned to ensure that they arrive **before the 31st of October**). Any application forms received after the closing date of midnight on the 31st of October 2016 will be deemed as 'late' and not be considered until after applications received by the closing date have all been dealt with. A placement offer letter will then be sent out to you during March 2017.

Beginning Reception Education—September 2017

If your child was born between **1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013** then they will be due to start Reception in September 2017. Applications can be made online (see above information) and the system will be open from **9am on the 14th November 2016**. The application process **closes during January 2017**. A placement letter will then be sent out to you during April 2017.

Spaces available

Due to house/job moves we do now have a little bit of breathing space within our school numbers. If you know of anybody who really wants to come to school and hasn't tried as we were previously full, then please don't hesitate to ask them to get

Thank You!

A massive thank you must go to all our parents, past and present, who helped the school during last year. Without this support the school would not function half as well as it does. The efforts of the PTA bring a very substantial (and extremely welcome) amount of money into school. The annual Gallop event alone raises between £7-8,000 every year! This money is used to subsidise school trips throughout the year for all the children, provide opportunities for visiting speakers to come into school, books, equipment, popcorn machines (!) and anything else we really fancy. The list of items purchased for us by the PTA is too long to mention here. This is also alongside helping to support local village groups and charities overseas.

As a parent within school you are automatically a member of the PTA, whether you want to take an active role coming to meetings or a quieter role helping behind the scenes. The meetings are very informal and take place in the Sir William. Most parents stay around after the meeting to have a drink and a chat which is a lovely way to get to know everyone.



Thank You! - Continued

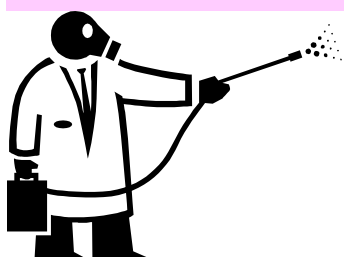
The next PTA meeting is on **Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm**. Everyone is very welcome to attend. We will be looking at planning the Halloween Disco and also, hopefully, a family social event for the run up to Christmas. Not to mention finalising what we would like to spend some money on!

Would you like to help out?

It was lovely to see how many of our parents, carers and friends of the school helped out with the children's learning during last year. The majority of help centred around hearing children to read, although it can be tailored to people's strengths e.g. Cooking, art and design etc. If you would like to help out in any of the classes, then please pop in to see the class teachers or myself and we'll see what we can work out.



Headlice!



Coming soon to a head near you.....or hopefully not!

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 (male or female) is tied up to help prevent their spread. The best treatment is to comb through wet hair with conditioner on it, using a proper head lice comb. If this action is repeated every time the hair is washed then any adult head lice are combed out and eggs do not have time to settle. If head lice are found, then all clothing, hoods, bed sheets etc (as well as all members of the family being treated) need to be washed to prevent re-infection. As soon as we are alerted to an outbreak, we will send a text out to all parents to check and treat.

It only takes **one** family not to check their children's hair when a text is sent out and the efforts of everyone else are wasted.

PLEASE can we all pull together to help keep these creatures out of our school.



School Dinners



As you know we have all our meals cooked on site by Emma and they are 'Gold Award Standard' gorgeous!

Please can I remind parents that you are required to give 2 weeks notice (in writing please) if you wish to change from school dinners to sandwiches or sandwiches to dinners.

Emma has to order her food two weeks in advance therefore requires two weeks notice of changes.

Any dinners that have been ordered but not eaten will unfortunately have to be paid for, as the ingredients will have already been ordered and costed. If you know your child will not be in school please inform school before **10am**. Thank you.



Free School Meals—Class 2 and Class 3 pupils—Are you entitled?

In these difficult financial times, we want to make sure you're getting all the help you're due. A lot of people don't claim free school meals even though they're entitled. You don't need to worry about other children knowing your child gets free school meals, only the school and catering staff will know. However, you could save £400 a year for each child and your children will benefit from a good hot meal at lunchtime. The school will benefit too – we'll get the pupil premium of £1,300 a year from the government for each child on free school meals.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit* and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- *You can get this help if you get Working Tax Credit and you are in the four week 'run-on' period where your WTC is due to stop because you have stopped work or reduced your hours
- Universal Credit (NB this benefit is only just being introduced in Derbyshire – see our [Universal Credit information](#)).

You will not be eligible if you are claiming Working Tax Credits.

Lunch Time Theme Meals

Sometimes we are treated to Theme Days when a special menu is followed and all our children are invited to take part. I will also advertise them in school assemblies. If sandwich children would like a dinner, all you have to do is ring up and book them in! The next one is on Wednesday the 14th September and is 'Harvest' themed. If your child would like to have Roast Turkey or Farmer's Vegetable Pie please see Tracey in the school office by Friday 9th September. Thank you.