

Headteacher Newsletter September 2022



Dear pupils and parents,

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us and to welcome back to school our returning families. I hope that you have all been able to enjoy a restful break. I thought that it would be very useful to bring you all up to speed with school news and the plans that we have for the coming half term.

The children have settled back into school life very quickly and we are enjoying having them back into school.

Staffing Updates:

Headteacher Recruitment and Planning

Leonie Boulton has now left school. Having attended her leaving assembly at the end of the year and having recently been in contact with her, I know that she would wish me to convey her thanks for all the very kind messages of good luck and the very generous gifts that she received from the school community. I know that it was a difficult decision to go.

The recruitment of the next permanent headteacher for the school is ongoing. In the interim, the Governors of Grindleford Primary, in consultation with the Local Authority, have appointed me to the post of Executive Headteacher with effect from September 1st 2022. For those of you who don't know me, I am currently the Headteacher at Bamford Primary – a role that I will maintain whilst working in school, sharing my time equally between the two schools. I feel very honoured to have been asked to support school in this role and I hope to be able to meet many of you over the coming days and weeks. My normal days for working at Grindleford will initially be Monday and Wednesday with Thursday split between the schools. In reality, there is some flexibility in this arrangement to allow for meetings. I can be contacted via the school office or directly via email to mrsagemell@grindledfordprimaryschool.co.uk. As Executive Headteacher, I am also the school SENDCo and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

In the coming weeks, I hope to be able to set up a couple of drop-in sessions where parents can drop in to meet me. However, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need a private appointment.

Other Staffing News:

Many of you will be aware that Mr Petts was absent from school for a period of time at the end of last year. He returned to school ready for the start of the term but unfortunately, he has once again been signed off work. The team are acutely aware that the children in Class 3 have already experienced significant disruption to their schooling. Whilst further absence is difficult, it is really important that the school plans for stability for Class 3.

We are delighted that Mrs Jane Scott has kindly agreed to increase her hours temporarily and to step in to cover Class 3 in Mr Pett's absence. We are grateful to her and I am sure that you will all support her in this temporary new role. This is the only way that we can ensure that all classes have some degree of continuity and stability. Mrs Scott is an experienced teacher who has taught children of many different ages previously and she is looking forward to the challenge.

With Mrs Scott stepping up to cover Mr Petts (Class 3), there is obviously a need for us to get additional support into Class 1. We are currently in the process of securing this cover and are pleased that Mrs Slack has agreed to take on extra hours working Monday – Thursday. We are now in the process of recruiting additional staff for Friday, we are confident that the disruption will be minimal.

I will of course, keep you updated as events change.

Permissions and Parent/Carer update forms

Update forms were sent out to all parents via children yesterday. These are important forms which are data sensitive. Please look out for them and return them signed to school by 9th September 2022. Schools are required to maintain TWO SEPARATE emergency contacts for each child so if you have only one contact, please

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take the time to provide a second contact number. Once received, the information is updated on our Management Information System (See the school's Data Policy). These forms also provide us with permission to take children on Local Area School Trips (within walking distance of school). School trips, including swimming, sporting events and forest school are all restarting this week.

School Attendance

The government has made it very clear that all children are expected to attend school full-time. This is particularly important considering the disruptions to education that have been experienced by all over the past 19 months.

Our website contains our term dates and has a list of the agreed INSET dates when school is closed to pupils. Please avoid taking children out of school in term time. The Government has issued very strict guidelines to schools following the pandemic disruptions. We have been told that we should adhere to the guidelines and where necessary, fines will be issued. The full guidance on term-time absence is available on the website or on the Government [School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The rules regarding term-time holidays have not changed and only in exceptional circumstances are these allowed. There is a form to complete if you need to request time off during term time and this is available from the office or on our website. Please note, 14 days' notice is required. If you are unsure about the rules, please contact the school office.

A critical part of attendance management is ensuring that your child arrives in good time for school and ready to learn. Children who arrive late find this very embarrassing and it disrupts their learning. Please do try to be on time and if you are struggling with this, please contact the school as support may be available.

Classes in 2022-2023

The class structure for the year is as follows:

Class 1	EYFS / Year 1 / Year 2	Mrs Slack (Mrs Jane Scott)
Class 2	Year 3 / Year 4	Miss Holly Moore
Class 3	Year 5 / Year 6	Mr Richard Petts (Cover temp by Mrs Jane Scott)

PPA Cover

PPA cover for the school will be provided by Mrs Bacon as follows:

Class 1 - Wednesday afternoon

Class 2 – Tuesday afternoon

Class 3 – Thursday afternoon

Our School Music Lead is Ria Costello who delivers the music curriculum and provides opportunities for all children to receive expert tuition.

Our HLTA / Teaching Assistants work across the school and will support 'where directed' to help cover unforeseen absences and staff training. They will support individual children as well as providing more general TA support in class.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

The breakfast club and after-school clubs have restarted. Please contact the office for bookings.



Medical Information

Please ensure that you continue to tell us about any changes to medical needs for your children.

Accident Reporting – changes to our process

Due to Data Protection, we have had to make changes to the way accidents are reported in school. If your child has an accident whilst under the care of School staff, whether a simple knee bump or a nasty head injury, the following process will take place:

- Your child will be given the necessary treatment.
- You will be called immediately if the injury requires it.
- The member of staff will fill in the accident slip in our new 'duplicate books' so we will also have a copy of the slip.
- The slip will be placed in your child's bag. In the event of a head bump – you will also be notified by the office.

All the teaching, teaching assistant and midday supervisors attend formal First Aid training which is renewed regularly as part of our commitment to safeguarding. Please be assured, you will be contacted by telephone if there is any urgent concern.

Governor Questionnaire 2022-2023

We will shortly be sending out our Governor Questionnaire as an electronic survey and would be most grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete this survey. The information is used to inform our strategic planning and school priorities for the coming year. The outcomes of the survey will be discussed at the next Governor Meeting and we will feedback key themes in a newsletter to parents and carers. The forms are anonymous but there is the option to include your name – which allows us to respond individually to any points raised.

Follow the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/cXLPEC5GxC>

This survey will close on the 25th September 2022 and the findings will be considered by our Full Governing Board on 12th October 2022.

School Website

We are currently updating our school website but it is a very useful site for information. Copies of letters and newsletters are available on the site – along with published school information.

We encourage you to use the website frequently as it contains a wealth of information, particularly about the curriculum that your child studies and the formal information that schools are required to publish.

School Uniform 2022-2023

This is a polite reminder that we expect children to be dressed in full school uniform. Many of the girls choose to wear leggings instead of tights with their skirts and shorts – which given the added ventilation seems sensible and we are happy for this to continue.

Please can you check that all items of clothing have your child's name in – we have plenty of black sharpies that can be borrowed if you need to renew the markings!

The PE Uniform is:

- a black or blue tracksuit or jogging trousers / leggings
- a blue or black fleece or usual school round neck sweatshirt

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t-shirt but it

- a little blue or white round neck t-shirt (we would **prefer** a school logo on the is not a requirement)
- navy or black shorts - as we are often outside, this is advised for the spring / summer only
- shoes should be trainers or plimsolls – in black, navy or grey

Communications

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 630528 or via info@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk. This should happen before 08:30. If your child is absent and we do not have a message, we are obliged to try to contact you by phone. This is very time consuming and it is really helpful if we know by the start of the day.

School Times

Doors open at 08:55 and registration closes at 09:00 am for all children
Collection is 15:15 unless your child is booked into afterschool care.

Curriculum

Each class teacher will send out a copy of their timetable – which should be used as a guide. Timetables are subject to change due to events and staffing. We try to remain in routine as much as possible. On the website is a curriculum plan for each class – this provides additional information about what the children are learning about. The class newsletter will also provide you with a broad outline. Each class is expected to have regular homework which is age and stage related. Again, the class teachers will advise you about their individual routines and expectations. Please support your child with their homework as this is an important element of their schooling and helps them to prepare for future phases of learning. It is also part of the way that we work in partnership with our families.

Term Dates, Insets and Diary Dates

Please consult the school website for up to date events and dates.

Safeguarding Notice

Please note that all children should be delivered to the school gates ready to be received on the yard by staff members at 08:45. Until this time, you are responsible for your own child/children and children should not be left unaccompanied on the yard. If you need earlier care, please utilise the school's Breakfast Club. After 09:00 children should be taken in person to the school office to be signed in. Similarly, if your child is being collected by another family, please let the school office know in advance as we cannot release a child to another adult without your permission.

We expect that all children are accompanied to and from the school gate. If you wish your child to make their own way to and from school (which sometimes happens for the year 6 pupils ahead of transitioning to secondary school) – please contact Mrs Gemmell to discuss your preferences.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their hard work and support last year. The support that you have provided to our team has been very appreciated in difficult and demanding times.

Kate Gemmell
Executive Headteacher

