



Headteacher Newsletter November 2022

Dear pupils and parents,

I thought that it might be very useful to bring you all up to speed on events that have been happening at school recently. The children have settled back to school so well after half term.

Parents Evenings

Thank you to all our parents for being so flexible with the parents evening arrangements. I hope that everybody has been able to meet with their child/children's class teacher and that you feel that you have been updated with individual progress. Can I remind you that whilst it is lovely to conduct the sessions face to face – we can also offer remote sessions for parents who are away from home or required to work at the times offered and that our doors remain firmly open. As always, outside of the cycle of parents evening, if you do have any concerns about your child or their learning, please do let us know and we will find a mutually convenient time to talk about your concerns and hopefully be able to offer support.

Supporting your child with their learning

The way that the children are taught at school may be very different from the way that you learnt. However, parental support for home learning remains a very important part of the school-home partnership. We are often asked by our parents 'How can we help?' Whilst there is no single answer, there are some answers that may be useful:

- Reading is key – all children need to read regularly at home and fluent reading is rarely achieved without consistent parental support. Even fluent readers benefit from a light-touch approach to parental support. For younger readers – making the reading session short, sharp and fun is hugely beneficial and if your child is struggling to read or resisting reading at home – please do contact the class teacher who may be able to offer some suggestions to make it easier. Home reading should not be a battle!
- Accelerated Reader - we have purchased Accelerated Reader which is a sophisticated programme to support reading. Children in Years 3 - 6 will use the Accelerated Reading programme to help manage their reading once they have completed their Early Reading programmes. This is being rolled out Class by Class and your Class Teacher will provide further information via Dojo in the coming weeks
- Maths – spending time to support the acquisition of the 'four rules of arithmetic' is never wasted time. The more confident children are with their mental maths (including times tables) the better and the Government expects all children to have rapid recall of all times tables by the end of year 4. After year 4, we still need to work to maintain the rapid recall! There are many free apps that can be used to support times tables learning. The White Rose Maths Minute Maths App is free and for older children Hit the Button is a great way to learn and targets times tables, Early maths and KS1. You can equally do maths without technology – through repetition or games.

School Attendance

Good attendance at school is critical to success in learning. This includes being on time for lessons in the morning as children who are 'rushed into school' or habitually the last to arrive can find this very unsettling. Please do try to be on time although we do understand, there are always 'those mornings' when things do go wrong. Your child will not be told off for being late so please do reassure them of this if needed. If you are struggling with arriving on time, please contact the school as support may be available.

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/government/consultations/school-attendance-and-absence)

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.

School Opening:

Gates open at 08:40 and registration is from 08:45 closing at 09:00 for all children

Collection at 15:15

Staffing Updates

School continues to work in partnership with Bamford Primary School. This has been very positive for all staff and we have recently begun to look at how the staff can work to support each other more through collaborative CPD work. Mrs Gemmell continues to be based at Grindleford on Mondays and Wednesdays and Bamford on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thursdays are more flexible but appointments can be made outside of this timetable as there is flexibility within the system.

PPA Cover

PPA cover for all classes is provided by Mrs Bacon.

Class 1 - Wednesday afternoon

Class 2 - Tuesday afternoon

Class 3 - Thursday afternoon

School Information

Please ensure that you continue to tell us about any changes to medical needs for your children. You should also email the office with any changes to your contact details (e.g. email / phone numbers, addresses etc).

Dojo

We have recently launched Class Dojo across the whole school. Thank you to all those that have already completed the User Agreement form and are now linked to their child's account. We are really looking forward to sharing the children's learning with you through this platform.

For more information please see the November Newsletter regarding School Communication which was emailed on 9th November 2022, the newsletter can also be viewed on our website

<https://grindleford.files.wordpress.com/2022/11/head-teacher-dojoletter-november-2022.pdf>

If you haven't completed The User Agreement form to sign up to Class Dojo please use the link below

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScq8oUkb5YJy17PHexzsDWH_5_DVYuFdL_fAPJDnDL_5tCNSQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Good to be Green and Great to be Gold

We have also recently launched across all three classrooms the 'Good to be Green and Great to be Gold' scheme to support behaviour management. All children start every day on a green card. If a child remains on green all week, they will receive a Dojo point for 'Good to be Green'. If the child then remains on Green for the whole term, they will receive a 'Great to be Gold' card in a whole school assembly. If the child then goes on to remain on 'Green' for the remaining terms, they will be awarded a certificate. This behaviour system ensures that the children who are persistently demonstrating positive behaviour are recognised and celebrated.

More information about the scheme can be found in the School Behaviour Policy, which will be updated at our Full Governing Board (16/11/22) and then shared with parents.

School Website

Please also remember that the school website contains a lot of information for parents – including a calendar of key events for your diary.

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 seems sensible and helps to protect knees.

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:

- Tracksuit, jogging trousers or legging in black or blue
- A fleece in blue or black or a round necked school sweatshirt
- Round neck t-shirt in white or blue (we would **prefer** a school logo on the t-shirt but it is not a requirement)
- Navy or black short (advised for Spring / Summer)
- Trainers or plimsolls in a dark colour

Please note that you are able to purchase non-branded items in place of the branded items. Items which include our School Logo can be ordered directly on our personalised page on the Gogna's Schoolwear website [Grindleford Primary School | Uniform | Gogna](#).

Sports

We continue to offer a programme of study for sports. Thank you to all parents and carers who help us to achieve this by offering lifts to the children. Unfortunately, the cost of transport is something that has really increased over the past 6 months and this does impact us when booking events. School swimming has now finished for the term and will restart after Easter.

The upcoming events are:

15th November – Cross Country Final! Good Luck Team Grindleford!

24th November – Yr 3-4 Dodgeball at Hope Valley College (we will attempt to book transport to this event but will need parents to pick up)

NSPCC

This term, we will be participating in the **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online** programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

A letter containing further information will be sent out separately. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week runs from 14th – 18th November. This year's theme is all about reaching out – when you see bullying and when you need help. The children will take part in numerous activities on this topic throughout the week and we would encourage you at home, to reiterate our school message of seeking help from a trusted adult if you experience bullying in any form.

Earring wearers

Please can we ask that no earrings are worn during any PE lesson. This is standard practice, so please send your child with a little pouch or purse to put their earrings in or don't send them with earrings in on PE and swimming

days. For Class 1, Monday and Fridays. For Class 2, Thursday and Fridays. For Class 3 Thursday and Friday.

Christmas Events (Yes - I know it's not even December!)

Christmas officially starts in school on **Monday 5th December 2022** and from this date until the end of term, children may wear Christmas jumpers / t-shirts as part of their uniform.

School Panto

We are off to Chesterfield Pomegranate Theatre to watch Sleeping Beauty. The PTA have kindly paying the cost of the coach **and** the tickets this year as a one off 'thank you and well done' to the children. They have missed out on Pantos and theatre over the pandemic and we are very grateful to them. I'm sure they will all enjoy this trip out (oh no they won't....oh yes they will!)

This trip will take place on **Thursday 8th December 2022**

Coach departs from school at 12:45 – Early dinner will be provided

Panto: Starts at 13:45

Coach returning late to school at approximately 17:00 - 17:15

Please give consent by returning the consent Panto email to beccy@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk

Christmas Dates

Monday 5 th December	Christmas Opens – Jumpers etc. from today
Thursday 8 th December	Whole school trip to the Panto.
Tuesday 20 th December	School Christmas Dinner / party day - open to all children
Wednesday 21 st December	13:00 Carol Service and Nativity in the Church Children may go home after the service (release from church or children will be walked back to school)
Thursday 22 nd December	INSET – School Closed to pupils and Staff (Twilights worked in place of INSET)
Monday 9 th January 2023	School re-opens

School Christmas Dinner – Tuesday 20th December

We traditionally have a whole school Christmas dinner where the whole school including staff eat together. In order for Louise to buy and prepare the right quantities AND so that everyone has the option to join in please complete as per the instructions below:

- If your child normally has a school dinner on Tuesdays – it will be assumed that they are having a Christmas dinner. You do not need to do anything
- If your child doesn't normally have a school dinner on Tuesdays – Please complete the survey (even if your child does not want a Christmas dinner)
- If your child normally has a school dinner on Tuesdays but does not want the school Christmas Dinner, please complete the survey to opt out. Your child will need to bring a packed lunch on the day as this will be the only menu offer on this date.

Please complete the Christmas lunch form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScO_UNboZwLbSHzY1K74UoIWpn2STS6OYQggBn7z9WSrSwyuA/viewform?usp=sf_link

The survey takes one minute or less to complete!

Communications

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 630528 or via beccy@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.

Healthy Schools

Please send your child to school with a bottle of water (no juice please). Keeping hydrated is shown to have a positive effect on learning. All children in Class 1 are offered fruit snack for break times.

For those who prefer to bring their own snack, please keep it healthy. No sweets, crisps or chocolate please.

Sept 2023 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in Sept 2023 you can apply now for a place via www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions.

If you have friends or family with a child due to start school in Sept 2023, please let them know they are welcome to contact us to arrange a tour of our school.

Thank you all for your continued support,



Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)