



Headteacher Newsletter February 2023

Dear pupils and parents,

I hope you all had a lovely half term break and enjoyed the first signs of Spring arriving. We welcomed the children back to school yesterday for a short but busy half term.

Firstly, a massive thank you for your continued support which meant that we raised an amazing amount of £105.00 from the recent Bags2School collection. This money will be used to purchase new resources for the outside area.

I thought that it might be very useful to bring you all up to speed the events that are happening this half term.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st March	Y3 and Y4 Quidditch Festival - Pavilion field
Tuesday 28th February	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day
Wednesday 2nd March	Y5 and Y6 Hockey HVC
Tuesday 7th March	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Wednesday 8th March	Y4 - Y6 Girls Football HVC
Saturday 11th March	The Grindleford Gallop
Monday 13th March	Parents Evening Week
Tuesday 14th March	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Tuesday 14th March	Y3 - Y6 Pentathlon HVC
Friday 17th March	Comic Relief
Tuesday 21st March	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Wednesday 22nd March	Y5 and Y6 Netball HVC
Thursday 23rd March	Y3 and Y4 Sports Hall Athletics
Tuesday 28th March	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Friday 31st March	Last Day of Term
Monday 17th April	School Re opens

Headteacher drop-ins

Thank you to all those that attend the Headteacher drop-in sessions. It was lovely to meet more of the parents and have a chance to talk through things that are happening in school and listen to your feedback.

Please remember that if you want to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher, or to see me at another time, please email Beccy in the office to arrange a time info@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk. The normal, term 2 parent meetings are scheduled (see above) and further information will be coming out to you very soon.

As always, outside of the cycle of parents evenings, 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.

Staffing Updates

School continues to work in partnership with Bamford Primary School. This is proving positive and the two governing boards are working together to explore the possibility of (including benefits/pitfalls) of continuing this through a federation approach. Nothing will happen without a full governor-led consultation with all stakeholders, including parents and staff.



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Our priority is to provide continued stability to the children and their learning. We are grateful for the amazing job that Miss Grant is doing in Class 3. She is working alongside and being fully supported by Mrs Hanley, a very experienced (but recently retired) headteacher.

Nominally, Mrs Gemmell continues to be based at Grindleford on Mondays and Wednesdays and Bamford on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thursdays are more flexible but in practice, she is normally on site for part of Thursday and/or Friday and appointments can be made outside of this timetable as there is flexibility within the partnership. To support Mrs Gemmell, Miss Moore is the school's Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Slack is the nominated Senior Teacher on site (given Mr Pett's ongoing absence).

PPA Cover

PPA cover continues to be 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).

School Website

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.

After School Clubs

We are pleased to inform you that our After School Clubs are starting this week with Lego Club on Tuesdays, Board Game Club on Wednesdays and Crochet Club on Thursday. We hope the children that are signed up are looking forward to attending and we will post pictures on ClassDojo of the activities that they are doing. We continue to explore further options for additional after school opportunities.

National Strikes

You may be aware from media coverage that The National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action, which is scheduled to take place on the following three dates in our region: March 1st 2023; March 15th 2023; March 16th 2023.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the union and the government over school funding and teachers' pay. We can confirm that on this occasion, following a risk assessment and taking into account staff members wishes and union direction, that the school will remain open as normal on March 1st 2023 and we anticipate this to be the same for the other March dates but at this stage, we cannot confirm this. Staff in school have given this full and careful consideration. The school will not frustrate disruption caused by legitimate strike action. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

Grindleford Gallop Saturday 11th March

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to bake for the Gallop. We need at least **1500 slices** for our hungry walkers and runners which is roughly **30-40 slices per family** at Grindleford school. You do not need to be a Great British Star Baker to supply us with cake! **Remember you can freeze your traybakes if you want to bake in advance.**



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Please can you divide your bakes into slices (roughly 4 x 7 cm), wrap them individually in clingfilm (we recognise this is not environmentally friendly but it's for food hygiene) and **drop them off at school on Friday 10th March in the morning**. It would be helpful if each slice can be labelled as to the type of traybake /flapjack etc and if they are gluten free or vegan friendly.

****** As we need to plan for numbers, please can you reply ASAP via the Google form below, to let us know how many slices you will be able to bake – thank you! ******

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRt6oW_1eB6-q19AxQ1br1OyByczvu94mOwbYiE84IH-dXbw/viewform?usp=sf_link

We are still after volunteers for the following roles:

- Envelope stuffing, if you can spare an hour, 8pm on Tuesday 7th March
- Setting up at the Pavilion, after school, 3.15pm on Friday 10th March
- Registration (an early start from 7-10am down at the Pavilion)
- Marshalls (a few hours in a scenic location!)
- Hassop Food Station, feeding the runners, 10-1pm
- Photographers (any keen photographers to capture the action)
- Tidying up at the Pavilion, 3-5pm on the Saturday

Don't be afraid to volunteer for any of the above, you'll be part of an experienced team who'll show you the ropes.

Speak to Dave Kumar, Bryn and Rufus' Dad (07854 673970) or Liz Dew, Betsy's Mum (07852 974986), our volunteer coordinators if you can help with the volunteer roles or have any questions! Or email Beccy Ibbotson and she'll pass your details on.

Once again thank you all for your continued support,

Kate Gemmell (Headteacher)