

Headteacher Newsletter 29th March 2023



Dear pupils and parents,

We are at the end of a very short but busy half term and wanted to give you a quick update before we break up for the Easter holidays.

I thought that it might be very useful to bring you all up to speed on the events that are planned for the next half term.

Diary Dates

Monday 17th April	Headteacher drop in session 8.15am - 9am
Tuesday 18th April	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Wednesday 19th April	Y5 and Y6 Cyclo Cross Bamford Rec
Thursday 20th April	Headteacher drop in session 2.45pm - 3.30pm
Friday 21st April	Gardening Club restarts at lunchtime
Tuesday 25th April	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Wednesday 26th April	Orienteering Y3 - Y6 HVC
Thursday 27th April	Whole School Great Crested Newt Workshop
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd May	Y6 Breakfast Booster Session
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 May - 12 May	SATS Week
Thursday 11th May	Y3 and Y4 Tennis Taster Session Grindleford
Thursday 11th May	Y5 and Y6 Quadkids HVC
Wednesday 17th May	Y4 - Y6 Girls football HVC
Thursday 25th May	Y4, Y5 and Y6 Swimming Hathersage
Thursday 25th May	Y5 and Y6 Cricket HVC
Friday 26th May	Last Day of Term
Monday 5th June	School Re opens

Headteacher drop-ins

The next scheduled dates are:

- 08:15 – 09:00 Monday 17th April 2023 (bring your children along to school breakfast club if this helps but please book a free place in advance for staffing purposes if attending this meeting)
- 14:45 – 15.30 Thursday 20th April 2023 (please note children can stay at after school club until 3.30 for free if attending this meeting – but please book for numbers)

These are open drop-in sessions with no fixed agenda. They are **not part of the formal consultation** about federation as separate meetings will be held for consultation and update purposes.

Staffing

Following some feedback we have put together a 'Meet the Staff' document which was posted on Class Dojo and can be seen below. We hope that this helps you to recognise faces in the playground and around school.



Meet the Staff



Mrs Gemmell
Executive Headteacher



Mrs Slack
Class 1 Teacher



Miss Moore
Class 2 Teacher



Miss Grant
Class 3 Teacher



Mrs Bacon
HLTA



Miss Adlington
HLTA



Mrs Costello
TA



Mrs Harriss
TA



Mrs Gascoyne
TA



Mrs Ibbotson
Business Officer



Mrs Hanley
Supply Teacher



Mrs Farrell
Supply Teacher

After School Clubs

We are really excited that after Easter we are able to offer an additional After School Club called 'Fitness Fun' on a Wednesday. We hope the children that have been attending have been enjoying the clubs and we will continue to post pictures on Class Dojo of the activities that they are doing.

Details of the clubs for next half term are as follows:

Monday with Mrs Slack 3.15pm - 4.30pm

Board Game club - Open to all - Max number 15 - £14.00 per child for 4 weeks

Tuesday with Miss Moore 3.15pm - 4.30pm



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Lego Club - Open to all - Max number 15 - £21.00 per child for 6 weeks

Wednesdays with Matty Cooper (an external sports coach) 3.15pm - 4.30pm

Fitness Fun - including obstacle courses, circuit training and group games.

Open to children in Class 2 & 3 - Max number 15 - funded provision from Sports Premium

Thursdays with Miss Grant 3.15 - 4.30pm

Crochet Club - Open to children in Class 2 & 3 - Max number 8 - £21.00 per child for 6 weeks

After school clubs close at 4.30pm. Staff appreciate prompt collection.

If your child is already in After School Provision and they would like to join a club on that day then please let Beccy know and they will join the club and then rejoin After School Provision if they are staying until 6pm. There is no additional charge. If they don't join a club but are staying for afterschool, it will be child-led play.

Places will be allocated on a first come basis and if your child misses out due to numbers they will be placed on the waiting list for next half term. Please contact Beccy to make a booking beccy@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk

After school care is also available on Friday via **Peak Time**, which is based at Hathersage School with a collection service available.

School Clubs

During the school day we continue to run choir on a Wednesday lunchtime and Gardening Club will restart on Friday lunchtimes after the Easter holidays.

School Improvements

Now that the weather has started to improve (slightly) we have been having a big tidy up of the outdoor spaces. PTA have very kindly offered to help organise a team of willing helpers to complete some jobs in the outside spaces like jet washing and pruning. We would be very grateful for any help anyone can offer! Please keep an eye out for details of possible dates. We are very keen to revamp the pond area, re-establish the raised beds and composting.

We are pleased to let you know that the funds from the PTA have enabled us to purchase a role play wooden corner shop for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. This is being erected during the Easter holidays so will hopefully be ready for them to enjoy in the new term. A massive thank you to the PTA and all parents for being so actively supportive in fundraising for the school.

We have also been able to purchase some new books for the libraries in Class 2 and 3 that the children were involved in choosing. Some of the books have deliberately been chosen as they are recommended for primary schools and include subject areas which cover protected characteristics. This is an important area of our curriculum which is delivered through PSHE sessions and assemblies. Protected Characteristics education in primary schools centres around the education of pupils that everyone has the right not to be treated less favourably, or subjected to an unfair disadvantage, by reason of that characteristic, for example, because of your age, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. In law, there are 9 protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 which are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity

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As always, the staff are responsible for ensuring that this is delivered in a caring environment and in a v
age and stage appropriate.

Science Curriculum

The team have been reviewing our science curriculum as part of our ongoing cycle of curriculum review. With the departure of Mr Petts (previously the science lead), Miss Moore has kindly agreed to take over the subject leadership of this core subject. Initially, she will work with Mrs Gemmell and the team and assume full curriculum leadership from September 2023.

We have been undertaking CPD with staff for science teaching and learning and our renewed curriculum will come into effect from September 2023. Until then, we are ensuring that key areas of learning that were missed in lock-down have been covered. We have been very fortunate to attend several training sessions which have been led by Jane Banham as part of the Valley Enthuse Bursary project. Having access to specialists in the subject to help us develop our curriculum and the teachers subject knowledge is hugely helpful and has been funded by the STEM bursary that we have. We are focusing on our Working Scientifically skills to ensure that we have good progression in skills and knowledge for our children. We are hoping to seek further parent input in the summer term through reinstating visits from parents who work in STEM related areas.

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.

Grindleford Gallop

It was such a shame but absolutely the right decision in view of the amount of snow that we had that the Gallop had to be postponed. The Gallop team did an amazing job selling the traybake and the mountain of bread rolls! A huge thank you to all those who baked and we really hope we can call on you again for the new date of the 14th October 2023.

Once again thank you all for your continued support,

Kate Gemmell (Headteacher)