



Headteacher Newsletter September 2023

Dear pupils and parents,

As we approach the end of the fourth week of the new year school year I wanted to take the opportunity to give you all an update on the things that are happening in school. The children have all returned from the summer holidays with great enthusiasm and have settled into their new year groups and classes. At the start of term we welcomed our new Reception children and a number of in year transfer pupils all of whom have had an amazing start at Grindleford.

Diary Dates

Please see below dates and events planned for the start of the new academic year.

Wednesday 27th September	Tag Rugby Sessions for Class 2 & 3 delivered in school by Rural Derbyshire School Sports
Thursday 28th September	Year 4 - 6 Swimming Hathersage
Monday 2nd October	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 4th October	Y5 & Y6 Tag Rugby HVC 1.30pm - 3pm
Thursday 12th October	Rec and KS1 Fundamentals festival HVC 1.30pm - 3pm
Saturday 14th October	The Grindleford Gallop
Wednesday 18th October	KS1 and KS2 Cross Country Qualifier HVC 1.30pm - 3pm
Monday 23rd October	Year 6 Bikeability PM (school)
Tuesday 24th October	Year 6 Bikeability All Day (school)
Tuesday 24th October	Spooky Walk and Disco
Friday 27th October	Inset Day
Monday 6th November	First Day back to school
Wednesday 8th November	Bags2School Collection

Staffing Updates

School continues to work in partnership with Bamford Primary School as we approach the federation date of the 1st January 2024. The staff shared a ½ day joint inset when we began to think about how to shape our federation so that it provides tangible benefits for all. A key theme was for staff to work together more for subject leadership and professional development and this is a theme that we will continue to revisit.

Following the decision to federate the governors have started the recruitment process for a Deputy Headteacher. All the staff in school have been consulted about this post and since there are no internal candidates, we have now advertised for the post Deputy Headteacher. We have been pleased with the interest generated by the recruitment exercise and have shortlisted candidates and hope to conclude this recruitment by the end of October 2023. We will keep you updated.

School Updates



We are extremely grateful to have received our Defibrillator which is located in the most accessible area in school, outside the school office.

We are all trained in using the device but truly hope we never have to use it.



During the summer holidays the amazing High Peak Access Ltd (Evie's Dad and Grandad) installed a new fence at the bottom of the playground. They supplied all the materials and installed the new fence free of charge! A huge thank you to them we are very grateful.



Another amazing change that has happened over the holidays is that our hall has had a makeover. It looks amazing. A lovely bright clean space which is so welcoming.

This is all thanks to our fantastic cleaner Helen. Thank you so much.

PPA Cover

PPA cover for Class 1 is on a Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Bacon

PPA cover for Class 2 and Class 3 is on Tuesday afternoons. Mrs Bacon teaches each class RE and we are pleased to introduce Mrs Green who is teaching both classes french.



Mrs Green has been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and positive attitude to language learning. She started her teaching career as a secondary school languages teacher and since then has taught in a range of schools across the full age range. After taking a career break to look after her 3 children, she ran a primary French club and then started teaching in primary schools within The Hope Valley. She has been a junior teacher at Litton Primary School for the last 12 years.

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).

Class Newsletters

Class Newsletters were sent out at the beginning of term detailing the learning your child will be doing in class and how you can support them. These letters are available to view on our website through the following links.

[Class 1 September Newsletter](#)

[Class 2 September Newsletter](#)

[Class 3 September Newsletter](#)

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

School Uniform 2023-2024

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](#).

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 2024 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in Sept 2024 and you would like to visit then please contact the school office to book an appointment.

If you have friends or family with a child due to start school in Sept 2024, please let them know they are welcome to contact us to arrange a tour of our school.

The Gallop Saturday 14th October

The Gallop is only a few weeks away, on Saturday 14th October and we need bakers and volunteers! We really appreciate all the baking you did back in March when the event was snowed off, (the cakes were sold and raised hundreds of pounds for the school!).

We're asking bakers to pledge traybakes. We need pledges for 1500 slices of cake, so if you could make just two traybakes per family that would get us over the line!

**** As we need to plan for numbers, please can you reply 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/1FAIpQLSdqV_K0AE7-TQdgaFuy4dnrfXR8c8vKuOVqX-NPi0yvpj4HFw/viewform

Just in case you've forgotten, the Gallop is Grindleford Primary School's biggest fundraiser of the year – we raise up to ten thousand pounds, for the good of our kids, in a single day, by making fell racers run 31k over some pretty tough terrain and pay for the pleasure – they love it, trust me. As a small school, these funds are vital to create the school our children love and it will only take a few hours of your time!

TRAYBAKES

Please can you divide your bakes into slices (roughly 4x7 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 Thursday 12th or Friday 13th October 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.

VOLUNTEERS

We are still after volunteers for the following roles:

- Registration (8-10am down at the Pavilion)
- Marshalls (needed for a few hours in a scenic location!)
- 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.

Thank you all for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Gemmell". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)