



Headteacher Newsletter October 2023

Dear pupils and parents,

We have had a busy half term and are so proud of how the children have settled into their new year groups and classes. How it is possible that it is less than 10 weeks until Christmas Day! We have lots of exciting things planned for next half term including a trip to the theatre, Christmas Party Day and the whole school Christmas concert in church.

Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 18th October	KS1 and KS2 Cross Country Qualifier HVC 1.30pm - 3pm
Monday 23rd October	Year 6 Bikeability PM (school)
Monday 23rd October	Open School Visit Sessions for Reception 2024 Starters 10am and 2pm
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
Monday 13th November	Parents Evening Week (details to be issued nearer the time)
Monday 20th November	Individual Photos
Thursday 23rd November	Class 1 Dance Festival Hope Valley collection 3.10pm HVC
Thursday 7th December	Pantomime Chesterfield Theatre
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas Dinner and Party Day
Thursday 21st December	Carol Concert, Nativity and Music Performances in Church
Friday 22nd December	Inset Day
Monday 8th January	First day back to school

Grindleford Gallop

A massive thank you to all the volunteers on the day and those that made traybakes. There has been some amazing feedback from the runners.

The date for the next Gallop has been set for Saturday 16th March 2024 so please save the date!

Spooky Disco

The Spooky Disco is booked for Tuesday 24th October 6.30pm - 7.30pm. All children are welcome to come and the event is run by staff so parents can have an hour to themselves! Prompt collection would be appreciated.

The disco is £2.00 per child and will include a hot dog (with dietary alternatives), a drink and some sweets.

If you would like your child to attend please make payment into the School Account.

Sort Code 601019 Account 95110143. Tickets will be sent home with the children before the event.

School Updates

We are pleased to let you know that we have completed our recruitment exercise to appoint a Deputy Headteacher for school. This is a new post, which will be very important to help take the Federation forwards as they will deputise for Mrs Gemmell when she is not in school. The appointee is Mrs Anna Crease and she will be the substantive Class 3 teacher as well as taking on additional duties. Mrs Crease is a very experienced class teacher who has many years experience, including teaching mixed-age classes and upper Key Stage 2. She has also got significant skills with regard to subject leadership and has taught in both large and small schools

Due to teacher contracts, Mrs Crease will not join us until January 2024 but the children will be introduced to her in the few weeks before Christmas. This will allow us to provide a planned and smooth transition between teachers. In order to support Class 3, we have not announced this to the children yet as there is a long time between now and January 2024. They have a good relationship with Miss Grant and they are working very hard and we do not want to unsettle them.

Mrs Scott is currently on a phased return to work and we are looking forward to welcoming her back in the near future. When she returns, she will initially be on a reduced contract and will initially work in Class 1. She is currently spending time in class to support her return to teaching and getting to know Class 1 pupils.

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 we are holding open sessions on Monday 23rd October at 10am and 2pm. If these are not convenient then please contact the school office to book an alternative 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 the open sessions or can arrange an alternative day for a tour of our school.

Thank you all for your continued support,



Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)