



Headteacher Newsletter January 2024

Dear pupils and parents,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and break. It was great to welcome the children back into school on Monday and they have all settled back to school so well this term.

I thought that it might be very useful to bring you all up to speed on events at school.

Diary Dates

Friday 26th January	Parents Garden Day
Friday 26th January	Headteacher Drop In Session 8.30am - 9.30am
Thursday 1st February	Class 3 Sports Hall Athletics HVC
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8th February	Young Voices Concert Sheffield
Friday 16th February	Inset Day - Closed to Pupils
Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February	Half Term - School Closed
Monday 26 th February	School re-opens

Headteacher drop-in

I am offering a headteacher drop-in session this half term;
Friday 26th January 8.30am - 9.30am

This is an informal session where you are welcome to pop in to ask any questions you may have. Younger siblings are welcome to accompany you if this helps and this does not replace our "door is open" policy! As a drop-in session – there is no format and you are free to dip in and out as suits your own busy lives.

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

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.

Updates to the Premises

We are pleased to let you know that we have had two new interactive whiteboards fitted in school. One in the hall and one in Class 1. These have been fully supported by the PTA. It means that we have two further teaching spaces in school and assemblies can now be held in the hall. A massive thank you to all those involved in the PTA and fundraising.





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Staffing Updates



We are pleased to welcome Mrs Crease who started with us on Monday. Mrs Crease is our Deputy Head Teacher and 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.

Mrs Crease will be arranging a parent drop in session in due course for parents in Class 3 but in the meantime she is at the gate on a Wednesday morning so please do say hello.



Also, we are pleased to inform you that Heather Coyle has started with us as an additional temporary Teaching Assistant. She will be in school on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and all day on Friday. Initially she will be working alongside the Class 1 team. She joins us with a wealth of experience having worked in children settings previously.

Ofsted Inspection Outcome

We are pleased to share with you the final inspection Ofsted report following our inspection which took place on the 21st and 22nd November 2023 which we received upon our return this week. It will be available to view on the Ofsted website within the next 8 days and we will link this to the School website once it is live. Please see the email that was sent out this morning.

Carol Concert and Nativity Donations

Thank you to everyone for their very generous donations at the end of year Carol and Nativity Concert. I am pleased to let you know that the collection totalled £70.25 of which we have donated half to St Helen's Church, Grindleford.

Forest School

The schedule for forest school sessions for the rest of the school year is as follows.

Spring 1 - 8/1/24 - 12/2/24 Year 2 and the remaining half of Year 1's (parents will be informed of those taking part)

Spring 2 - 26/2/24 - 25/3/24 Class 2

Summer 1 - 15/4/24 - 20/5/24 Class 1

Summer 2 - 3/6/24 - 15/7/24 (excluding Whitehall week) Class 3

Sessions take place on a Monday Afternoon.

School Opening

Gates open at 08:30 and close at 08:55. The doors open to pupils at 08:40 and the children are encouraged to enter class to settle themselves and to complete any morning work. Registration is from 08:45 closing at 09:00 for all children.



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Parents are able to supervise their own children on the grounds from 08:30 and a member of staff will come out to the yard at 08:40. Once parents leave, children are expected to enter the building.

Collection at 15:15

We would like to extend our thanks to parents for their help encouraging the children to enter school independently. This greatly helps to encourage independence and helps to maintain a calm and settled environment for those that have started their morning.

Safer Internet Day

Safer internet day runs on Tuesday 6th February. The children will take part in numerous activities on this topic throughout the week.

Absences

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 630528 or via info@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk. This should happen before 08:30.

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 a fruit snack for break times.

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

Thank you all for your continued support,

Kate Gemmell (Headteacher)