



Headteacher Newsletter March 2024

Dear pupils and parents,

We hope that you all had a lovely half term. Already we are one week into a short but very busy half term.

We have lots of events planned including The Grindleford Gallop. Please see details of diary dates in the calendar below.

Diary Dates

Monday 4th March	OT Students Start in School
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Friday 8th March	PCSO Boswell Year 6 talk
Thursday 14th March	Class 3 Hockey Event HVC
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Saturday 16th March	Grindleford Gallop
Monday 18th March	Parents Evening Week
Wednesday 27th March	Easter Extravaganza
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of term
Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 15th April	First day of term

The Gallop Saturday 16th March

The Gallop is only a few weeks away, on Saturday 16th March and we need bakers and volunteers!

We're asking bakers to pledge traybakes. We need pledges for 1200 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

World Book Day Thursday 7th March

It is that time of year again where we are getting ready to celebrate World Book Day. The event itself will take place on Thursday 7th March 2024 and on this day, children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. This year, we would love the children to bring the book along, which matches their chosen character, so that they can share this with their class and it helps put meaning to their costume. We can't wait to see all your imaginative ideas and you can find some creative inspiration at worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas. Please do not feel you have to buy a costume, using items from around your home can be just as great!

During the day itself, we will be carrying out book-related activities in class and each child will bring their chosen free book home. We feel that children get more from taking the physical book home, than a £1 gift voucher.



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We are also going to hold our successful 'book swap' again this year. Bring a book that you have read time and time again, and swap it for one that you haven't read. Tables will be out for this on the playground before school, lunchtime and after school.

We're looking forward to being able to celebrate World Book Day and you can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly and joining your local library, if you are not yet a member. For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home, visit worldbookday.com. Children are never too young to start their journey with books, and the benefits of reading are enormous—so we hope, like us, you will use World Book Day to celebrate it with your child/children.

We also recognise that World Book Day could not happen without the support of parents, so a huge thank you - you make it happen! We look forward to sharing more information about World Book Day and reading very soon.

Red Nose Day for Comic Relief Friday 15th March



For us, it is a day to raise awareness of our differences and remind us of the impact we can have on the world.

On the 15th March, we would love to 'paint' Grindleford Primary School red with a sea of children all wearing as much red as possible. As well as this, children will have the opportunity to decorate a biscuit with all sorts of wonderful delights and we will also be holding a competition to design a new red nose. The designs will be judged by the whole school and the winning design from each class will receive a certificate and a pin badge. There will also be a red nose hunt around the playground with hidden red nose pictures for children to find throughout the day. If you are able, we ask for a donation of £1 per child to help us fundraise for Comic Relief.

Parents Evenings w/c 18th March

This term's parents evenings are happening week commencing 18th March. Details of days, times and how to book appointments will be sent out nearer the time.

Easter Extravaganza Wednesday 27th March

We are planning to hold our annual Easter Egg Competition and Treasure Hunt on Wednesday 27th March.

All children are invited to enter the Easter Egg Competition and entries need to be brought into school on the morning of Wednesday 27th March. There will be a yummy treat for everyone who enters and a winning prize for each Class. Entry is £1.00 per child entering.

- You need to decorate an egg (*hard-boiled or blown please!*) in whatever way you wish! We usually have a variety of artistic, modern and funny entries.
- Maximum size of design to be a shoe box size
- Prizes will be awarded per class and a treat for all entries
- Judges tip: *try to make it as much of the children's work as possible*



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Inclement weather

We want to thank you all for your support last half term during our early closure due to the snow. It is never an easy decision to make when snow is forecast and with some staff travelling more than 10 miles to get into work, we have difficult decisions to make to ensure everyone's safety. For clarity, we would like to confirm that parents will always have the right to risk assess their own situation first. Any absence due to adverse weather will not be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

Forest School

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

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.

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.

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)