



**Fidlers Well
Bamford
Hope Valley
S33 0AR**

18th October 2019

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Dear Parents,

As the half term holiday is fast approaching I thought it would be a good time to write to you all to update you on school news.

Staffing

We have welcomed a few students to school this term, all of whom are training to be teachers:

Class Oak: Emily Shaw (a former pupil) has joined us as a final year student from Leeds Beckett University and she is completing her final placement towards her teaching degree. Emily completed voluntary work in school many years ago and we were delighted to be able to offer her this placement.

Class Ash: We have also been very lucky to have two Schools Direct student teachers. Students who train through Schools Direct training basically have some day release to University and spend the remaining part of their week based in schools with an experienced mentor. They all do two placements in the year: a main placement (all year except Autumn 2 half term) and a complementary placement in another school (Autumn 2 half term). Patrick Hallworth is doing his main placement with us but is away until Christmas on his complementary placement and we have Clare Hines who has come to work with us for the Autumn 2 half term for her complementary placement. We welcome them both.

Jo Jewell has now joined us in the Office as the School's Business Administrative Officer and she is doing very well – there is an awful lot to learn and many systems to master! Jo can be contacted through the usual info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk email address – **PLEASE DO NOT USE DOJO to contact Jo**. This year, Jo is not working on Wednesdays and Kate Miller has kindly offered to continue to provide office cover for Jo's absence.

Communication with School

We really appreciate the time that you take to keep us updated with your news and keeping us informed of changes that may affect your child's happiness during the day. Knowing when they are unusually tired or a bit 'out of sorts' really helps. We welcome your ongoing feedback too – we try to get things right but if we haven't got things quite right – a quick conversation helps us to improve things before major issues arise. If your child tells you that they are unhappy about something, please do continue to share with us.

I thought that it would be useful to update all of our parents about our preferred methods of communication. We try to be flexible but we also need to ensure that teaching isn't interrupted during the day and that the workload for our teachers and TAs remains manageable.

1. Website <https://www.bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

We have recently been updating our website, an ongoing task! The Website is the main place where you can find past newsletters (which we send out via email originally), policies, general information and notices. In particular, it contains useful information about our Governing Body and there is a Parents Section – covering many areas including Uniform, Term Dates, Sports, Curriculum etc. The Sports page contains the School's **Sporting Calendar** so that you can keep up to date with scheduled events and competitions. There is also a separate calendar which has Whole School Events listed – such as dates for residentials, themed days, parent consultations, visitors and deadlines.

2. DOJO

Dojo is used as our main site for communicating with parents on a day to day basis and is a **closed site**. It is very important that you do not share images from this site as we need to safeguard the children and staff. Access is provided by school to you by invitation and we ask that in order to be given access, you agree to our Safeguarding Rules of:

- Not including children's names in any comments you make
- Not sharing any photos or images from the site to other sites or individuals

Safeguarding is of paramount importance so any breaches of these rules will automatically block your access. We use the site to share photos and information with you about your child, including class specific information. There is a messaging function that you can use to contact your child's teacher or myself. **Please note the following:**

- Teachers are not expected to respond to any messages received after 4.00pm (Monday to Friday) or at weekends
- DOJO should not be used to contact the office – please only use it for contacting your class teacher using the **message function**
- Teachers and the Headteacher are not encouraged to have long conversations via DOJO – it is more of a quick message function or to request a meeting (in person or by phone) for more complex issues or for passing to school quick information
- We welcome your positive comments but staff are not required to respond to them
- Staff and parents are encouraged to set 'Quiet Hours' – see the setting – between 16.30 and 08:00 on weekdays and for the weekend.
- Mrs Gemmell does not routinely check the DOJO message function

In an emergency please use email to info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk or headteacher@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk (not DOJO) as these are checked regularly or phone the office 01433 651267.

Clubs and extra-curricular activities.

The clubs will be continuing after half term on the same basis as this term. Martial Arts will continue as it is proving very popular – new members can join too but please contact the office to see availability of places.

Choir – Mandy Ashmore has kindly offered to run our Choir and she has been working with Sue Firth who has been 'showing her the ropes'. Choir is available to junior children (Year 3 and above) but towards the summer term, we usually invite year 2s to join if they wish to, in preparation for the following year. At the moment this club is running on a Wednesday morning before school (8.10 am in Class Beech) although we are looking into the possibility of moving this to an after school slot. Until further notice, you can assume it remains a morning club.

Morning Maths – This invitation club is aimed at Y6 and Y5 and will normally run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting at 8.10am. This session is free and we strongly advise **all Y6 to attend**. This club is subject to cancellation when Mrs Gemmell is away from school. Short notice paid places at Breakfast Club will be available when this happens. It will start week commencing Monday 9th September. Where a Y5 or Y6 child attends, their younger sibling is able to attend to facilitate a single drop off but this is by arrangement with Mrs Gemmell.

Wednesday After School Sports Club- This session is open to all junior children (yr3-6) and runs from 3.30-4.30pm. Mrs Bland does various sports throughout the year and it's a fun opportunity to continue improving your sports skills and teamwork! Please ask at the office if your child would like to come.

Running Club – We really want to restart running club following the success of both the Stand Up Derbyshire Run the Rec morning and the Cross Country event today. If you could offer any support for this club, please contact Mrs Gemmell. The children have asked us to set up a Monthly Run the Rec event but need volunteers!

Homework Club – Mrs Gemmell and Mr Friend will run an afterschool homework club which is free to attend and open to all junior pupils. Please note, there is an expectation that children attending will undertake quiet homework during the session and support is available from Mrs Gemmell/Mr Friend. Permission slips are required. If a junior child attends, younger siblings may also attend by agreement with Mrs Gemmell.

Gardening Club - The children will continue their excellent work on Friday afternoons. The next major project will be the pond. We are very short of wellies – so if you (or family friends) have any spare old ones to donate, we are particularly keen to obtain spares in sizes 1 to 6 – for the older children. Thank you to everyone that turned up this weekend – the Pond is well on its way to being restored!

Doodle Club – continues as agreed for the next half term. Please contact the office if you wish to join.

Swimming: All Y3 & Y4 swimming has now stopped and will restart after Easter 2020.

Instrument Tuition: We offer the following music tuition, violin, clarinet and brass, guitar and Piano. Payment is direct to the music teachers. If you would want your child to play an instrument please let the office know. Please enquire at the office if your child is keen – the music teachers do set age limits but we are always willing to approach them on an individual basis and add names in readiness for the future.

School Dinners

Mrs Mason, our school cook continues to produce delicious school dinners, cooked fresh on-site daily. All children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) until the end of Y2. For children in Y3-Y6, the daily charge is £2.10. Payment should be made through Parent Pay. This next half term is 7 weeks long and you are expected to pay in advance for dinners. Please note that we reserve the right to refuse to serve dinners if the outstanding debt rises above £30 for any child.

1 day per week	£14.70	4 days per week	£58.80
2 days per week	£29.40	5 days per week	£73.50
3 days per week	£44.10		

We ask that parents commit to regular dinner patterns and two weeks' notice of change is required.

It would be very helpful if you could aim to pre-pay the majority of dinners so that you only have to reconcile a small amount of debt at the end of each half term as this saves us a lot of administrative work and resources.

Children who are eligible for Free School Meals (including UFSM) are assumed to require a school meal every day if they are in or unless you have requested packed lunches (normal notice to switch applies).

Uniform

Please can you ensure that your child is following the official Uniform of the school (information on our website). **Brightly** coloured shoes and PE shoes are not allowed. Please name your child's clothing especially the sweatshirts as we regularly bring 5 or 6 in at break times unnamed! Please order new uniform via the office. Once your order is received, the amount is added to your Parent Pay account. Once paid, the order is sent and the turnaround for orders is normally 8-12 working days. Lost property is located outside Miss Allsop's room and on the pegs on the left near to the Hall (infant building).

Off-Site Visits – Consent Forms

We recently contacted a few parents via DOJO to request local visit update forms which have not been returned. This enables us to take your child in the immediate vicinity of school eg. the church, a nature walk or the rec. If you do not complete the form, your child will not be able to participate on local visits around the community. Ask at the office or your class teacher if you are unsure.

PE Kit and Uniform

Some children still do not have a PE shoes at school. A change of shoe is required for children in order for them to participate in PE. If you are struggling to find some, please see your class teacher in confidence as we do have some spares which we can donate. Please ensure that your child's PE shoes still fit and are still available as valuable PE time is being lost due to children not having the correct PE equipment at school.

Derbyshire Healthy Schools

We are keen to promote healthy snacks only during the school day. If you do send a snack in, please can you ensure that it is healthy. Children are not allowed to bring in sweets, chocolate or any other sugar-based products (including fruit winders etc) for snack time. We encourage fruit or a bread-based snack. Infant children are offered fresh fruit free of charge on a daily basis and snack is served for a small contribution in Oak Class. We recently asked our junior parents if they would like to purchase fresh fruit from school for a small charge per week (50p) and the response was very positive. This service will start after half term and those parents who responded asking for fruit will have this charge added to their Parent Pay for the next half term. It will be an initial trial and will cost £3.50 for the next half term. If you didn't respond and do want fruit for your child (Y3-Y6 only) – please email the office to add your child to the list. If you have changed your mind and no longer wish to participate, please also email the office to let us know. Infant children will continue to receive their Free fruit and their added snack (for which a small charge is already paid).

Your child should also have a water bottle (containing water) and we encourage them to drink regularly throughout the day. Research has proven that children who are well hydrated are ready to learn. It has come to our attention that many children are not sticking to water and this is causing some problems. Can I please ask for your support with this matter and if your child really cannot drink water, please ensure that you talk to their class teacher in confidence.

Coats

Please ensure that your child has a coat at school every day. They are normally expected to go outside at playtime for fresh air and exercise even when it is cold or wet.

Residentials

Lea Green Residential for Y6's – 15th-19th June 2020

Revenstor Residential for Y4/5's – 1st-3rd July 2020

Parent Pay and trips

Please can I clarify the process for trips as there was considerable confusion today at the Cross Country event. We are really sorry for the difficulties and in reviewing the process, we hope to avoid future confusion.

Whole Class Trips (all going as part of the curriculum) – you will be added to ParentPay automatically and consent can be given through the system.

Residentials – You will not secure a place unless you return the forms which commit you to the payments. At this point you will have the costs added to ParentPay and once your deposit is paid, your child's place is secured. You need to make all of the payments by the stated deadlines in order for your child to attend. Financial support is available if needed and you should contact Mrs Gemmell, in confidence, prior to committing to the trip.

After School Clubs – including sports clubs – where a fee is charged – you should confirm your place by either returning a permission slip or emailing the office (info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk). The payment will then be added to your account and payment acts as consent.

One-off Sporting events – including events at HVC

We aim to send letters (email) out about 2 weeks prior to the event. You should print and return the slip to the office or email a response (info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk). Once you have submitted your form, any costs will be added to your ParentPay account. Payment is then required and your form provides consent. Please do not do this via DOJO. To avoid further difficulties in future, the deadline for returning slips to school to secure a place on a sporting event which is not whole class will be **two** days before the event at 15.30. For example, a trip going on Friday will have a deadline of Wed 15:30. Teachers may remind parents via DOJO but we try to avoid last minute changes as this consumes vast amounts of admin time which we don't have and more importantly, causes distress for children which we are keen to avoid. Can I thank those parents who have helped out last week with transport to HVC. We took 46 children which is a record for us and they were brilliant! Well done to all. The children do have a great time at these events and as a small school, it is a good opportunity to widen their sporting experiences.

Governor Questionnaire

Thank you to those parents who completed the Governor Questionnaire. Your input was very helpful and we have been using the feedback to inform our School Improvement Plans for the coming year. I will be providing a more in-depth analysis of the results and an action plan to you by the end of November 2011.

Harvest Festival – will take place at 09.30 on Wednesday 23rd October in the church with donations to the local Homeless Charity (letter already sent).

Half Term

Can I remind you all that we restart school for all on Monday 4th Nov (no INSET). I would like to wish you all a very happy and relaxing half term break.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. School feels a very happy and safe place and we hope the above info and clarification will help keep it this way.

Kind Regards



Kate Gemmell
Headteacher