



Headteacher Newsletter January 2025

Dear pupils and parents,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that, despite the snow disruption this week, you had a lovely relaxing break and are refreshed for the new term. Thank you to all parents who helped us this week by being so flexible. We always endeavour to open school where possible but with a significant number of staff travelling from the Chapel area and Sheffield, it can prove challenging when trying to ensure the safety of all concerned. We really do appreciate your support – a special thank you to the Watsons and anyone else who helped to clear the school grounds. As a school with no caretaking staff, this is extremely helpful and greatly appreciated by all of us!

Here is a reminder of some upcoming events:

Mon 13 th Jan	Trainee teachers join Class Ash and Class Oak
Thurs 16 th Jan	Willow Class mini basketball (new date due to weather)
Thur 23 rd Jan	Ash class gymnastics @ The Ark (afternoon)
Thur 23 rd Jan	Willow class sportshall athletics @ HVC (afternoon)
Tue 28 th Jan	Willow class trip – Western Park Museum TBC
Thur 30 th Jan	Ash class trip – Magna
Mon 3 rd Feb	Children’s Mental Health Awareness week
Fri 7 th Feb	Wear Your Scarf to School Day
Mon 10 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Thurs 13 th Feb	End of half term
Fri 14 th Feb	School closed (INSET)

Inset days • Fri 14th Feb 2025 • Fri 23rd May 2025 • Thurs 24th July 2025

Advance notice of term dates Sept 2025

We wish to give you advance notice that Thursday 4th Sept and Friday 5th Sept will be normal school days for the children. This is to ensure that the children benefit from a more settled start to the new school year. There will be 5 INSET days spread out over the course of the school year after Sept 2025, tagged onto half terms to enable families to get away, hopefully on reduced rates, if they choose to.

After School Clubs

The after-school clubs offer for this half term remains the same and you should have been notified if your child does not have a place if you requested one. It is still very difficult to identify faces across a dark playground. It would help us greatly if parents would come onto the school premises to collect children rather than waiting outside the gate on the road. This enables us to be 100% certain that all our children have been collected by their expected adult. It also allows us to pass on any messages.

Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week

We take the mental health of our pupils very seriously and this year, we are supporting Place2Be in raising awareness for children’s mental health using their theme of ‘Know yourself, grow yourself’. We will use this week to improve our understanding and importance of listening to our own bodies and thoughts, and how to support ourselves when times get tough.

How can this year’s theme support our pupils?

Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel joy and what may cause us sadness. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and



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talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way.

We will also be challenging ourselves physically during this week by aiming to complete a daily mile. Physical activity has a huge potential to enhance our well-being. Even a short burst of 10 minutes of brisk walking increases our mental alertness, energy and positive mood. Participation in regular physical activity can increase our self-esteem and can reduce stress and anxiety. The children have taken to this challenge with great gusto in previous years so we know they will be fantastic once more.

Healthy Eating

Eating well is closely linked to physical health and our general wellbeing so we are using the New Year to relaunch our pledge to be a 'Healthy School'. To help us with this, we kindly request that sweet treats for birthdays are kept for home celebrations only rather than being brought into school. We understand that some children love sharing their special day with their class friends and we have plans that will ensure they still feel special during the school day without the need for food items.

We are also re-introducing fruit snacks for the junior children. The infants really enjoy their fruit snacks provided by the Government and we want to encourage the healthy eating snack options that begin in Oak class to continue throughout the school years. This has been extremely popular in the past and we are hopeful that we can offer this at a reduced rate of 50p per week, please sign-up using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/9L6qH7VDPB>

Please support our approach to healthy eating by refraining from sending in chocolate-based snacks, crisps or biscuits. Fruit only please.

Request for support

As we approach the spring months, it is the perfect time to be thinking about planting up our school garden. We have ambitious plans for growing more food that can be used in our delicious school dinners. If you are able to support us with this, please let Mrs Stoddart know in the office.

Nurture

We adopt and embrace the 'Nurture philosophy' at Bamford. This is the belief that when children feel safe and secure, they are able to learn and achieve. Nurture groups offer the opportunity for children who may have barriers to learning arising from social, emotional, or mental health difficulties, to get more help in an inclusive, supportive manner. This gives them the skills to do well at school, have positive relationships and deal more confidently and calmly with the trials and tribulations of life, for life. Staff have recently undertaken further training with this and we are looking to offer these sessions in school. If you think this is something your child would benefit from, please speak to Mrs Chapman.

Kind regards

Jen Chapman, Deputy Headteacher

Kate Gemmell, Executive Headteacher