



Headteacher / Governor Newsletter 15th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

This last half term is rushing past and life is getting very hectic for all. We wanted to share a last update for the year.

Can we remind all that the website has a list of key dates and information.

The last Headteacher newsletter (and this one) are also now also available on the website.

Staffing Updates for 2022-2023

As mentioned in previous communications, Katt Allen and Hannah Knapp are moving to pastures new and we thank them both for their support, friendship and commitment to the school and our children over many years. They are both moving on to new and exciting challenges.

Emma Coulson has returned to school for the last two weeks of term following her initial surgery. Whilst the surgery went well and the prognosis remains very good, Emma has got to have a follow up surgery. She is waiting for a date and will be at school until this next surgery. It is envisaged that she is likely to need a further short recuperation of 3-4 weeks following her surgery and we will keep you informed as soon as we know dates.

From September, Kate Gemmell will be taking on the temporary role of Executive Headteacher – providing overall leadership to both Grindleford Primary School (whilst they recruit their next Headteacher) and Bamford Primary School.

In order to pro-actively manage these temporary changes, the Governing Board has reviewed our financial position and have taken the decision to ‘Back-fill’ some of the Headteacher responsibilities and take on additional teacher hours so that we may:

- Minimise disruptions to Class Oak by having internal supply rather than external supply to cover Emma Coulson’s next absence
- Provide additional teacher support to the EYFS/Y1/Y2 class to support the teaching of English and Maths for the year
- Provide stability in all the classrooms

We have recently advertised for a full time teacher (one-year contract initially) and are delighted to announce that Miss Rebecca Flanagan will be joining us in September and will be the class teacher for Class Ash. She will be supported and mentored by Jen Chapman who will now take on the temporary promotion to ‘Acting Assistant Headteacher’.

Jen Chapman has recently completed her National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership and this opportunity will enable her to continue to develop her career. She is also a fully qualified SENCO and soon to be fully qualified Designated Safeguarding lead so will also provide support to me for these roles in school.

Jen Chapman will provide the cover for Class Oak when Emma is away from school, supported by Anne Gartside and the other TAs in school.

When not providing cover for Emma, Jen will be supporting the delivery of key subjects for some of the morning timetable and will provide interventions and input across school for any remaining time.

Jen will also provide cover for Miss Flanagan who will need time to complete her ongoing training, so Jen will lead one afternoon per week in Class Ash.

Mr Friend and Mrs Coulson will continue to lead their own areas of responsibility and maintain their classes for the year, ably supported by Anne Gartside, Sue Somerset and Sarah Knapp.

Miss Flanagan is very excited about working with her new class and joining us and she will be in school to complete additional transition with the children who are due in Ash Class (Current Y2 and Y3) on Monday and Tuesday. The Year 3 and 4 children have already met her as she taught them as part of the interview process this week. We were very fortunate as we received over 30 applications for the role and Emma Coulson, Jen Chapman and I (the interview panel) were united in its choice of new teacher for Class Ash. I'm sure that you will make Miss Flanagan feel very welcome.

Finally, we would like to say huge thanks to Kirsten Lewis who has successfully completed her teacher training and has provided support and stability to Class Oak during Mrs Coulson's recent leave. She has been a brilliant Student Teacher and we wish her every good luck in her new, permanent teaching role in Sheffield.

Sports Day – Monday 4th July

Thank you to everyone who supported the Sports Day on Monday 4th July – it was so lovely to be able to have an 'open event' with our families our Sports Leaders and volunteers helped Mrs Bland pull off a great day for all. Mrs Mason and Mrs Fathers did a brilliant job of providing a picnic lunch and we even managed to keep the plastic packaging to a minimum.

Platinum Sports Award

Huge congratulations must be given to all the children and Mrs Bland for their superb sporting achievements this year. We are thrilled that we have been awarded the very special 'Platinum Sports Award' this year. Mrs Bland has provided further information via DOJO School Story.

Leavers

We will be bidding a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils as we close our doors on Friday 22nd July 2022. The Year 6 pupils will perform their leavers play to the rest of the school as their dress rehearsal and will share with their parents / guests on Friday. Please limit guests to 4 per Y6 leaver. The Y6 will be able to take a 'soft leave' after the performance and parents and carers of Y6 will be invited to pop in and say a fond farewell. If you have a sibling at school, you will of course be able to take siblings at the same time as your y6 leavers.

For all other children, pick-up is at the normal time.

Hot Weather

Please ensure that your child comes to school in clothing suitable for the forecast hot weather and that they have a hat and sun cream. Their time 'outside' may be limited due to heat but the staff will do their utmost to keep them cool and safe in the heat. We have not been given any other advice about opening to this point.

School Re-opening

School will reopen on Thursday 1st September for STAFF INSET TRAINING and we will open fully to all children on Friday 2nd September 2022.

Governors

We would like to welcome John Irwin to our Governing Board. He is now a serving member of our Governing Board and the Resources Committee – a subcommittee that reviews Health and Safety, Human Resources, Safeguarding and Finances. If you think that you would like to get involved with our Governing Board, please contact Kate Gemmell or Yasmin Knight in strict confidence for an informal discussion.

End of Year Reports

End of year reports are being given out today and staff and classrooms will be open to parents on Monday for an informal drop-in session until 4.30. Please do pop in and say hello and look at your children's work.

ParentPay

Please help us to minimize the administration costs by reviewing and paying for any outstanding debts by the end of Monday. We have end of year accounts to reconcile and report.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Kate Gemmell or the class teachers. We would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to our leaving families and wish our other families a restful and enjoyable summer. Thank you for all that you do to support our children and our staff. It is really appreciated.

Kind regards

Kate Gemmell

Headteacher / DSL / SENCO

Yasmin Knight

Chair of Governors