



Headteacher Newsletter June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are feeling rested following the half term break. This last half term is looking very busy. In order to help, we have uploaded the list of key dates to the school website which can be found at:

[Bamford Primary School, Hope Valley, Derbyshire](#)

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

Ofsted Report

The report from our recent Ofsted inspection (April 2022) is due to be published on the Ofsted Website in the next few days. This report can also be found by following a link on our website.

SATs 2022

The Government has re-introduced formal SATs this year for the first time since the academic year 2018-2019. This means that the following have now taken place in school:

- Year 1 Phonics test – administered by the class teacher
- Year 2 Phonics resit tests administered by the class teacher (only children who did not meet the required levels in October will have retaken the assessments)
- Year 2 SATS – English Reading and Writing and Maths (formal papers, marked in school and used to support teacher assessment judgements)
- Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Test (online – taking place in June 2022)
- Year 6 SATs – English Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (EGPaS) and Maths – marked externally and reported alongside teacher assessments. English Writing is based on teacher assessment of writing undertaken in class.

All the children have tried really hard with their learning and have conducted themselves very well during the SATs. We try not to make the younger children aware of the SATs and by the time they sit them, they are used to the format of the assessments. We will always ensure that the message going out to the children is one that they should 'try their best – as always'. The year 2 children seemed genuinely surprised when they were informed that they had indeed done their SATs! The year 6 pupils are more aware of the SATs and they are more formal – however the children were very positive about their experience too. We always tell the children that this is about helping us to 'work out what to teach next and where to provide extra help' and that they are simply a reflection of what they managed on the day.

The SATs results will be formally reported to parents along with the end of school reports, which will be with you on Friday 15th July 2022.

Staffing Updates

We would like to thank our three current students: Eleanor Westwood, Abi Watterson and Kirsten Lewis. All three have made a huge contribution to our school life and will soon graduate as Early Career Teachers via the Sheffield Teaching School Alliance (in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University). Their last official day with us as students is Wednesday 15th June. We wish them well as they take their careers forward and thank them for their hard work and service to school.

Mrs Coulson is going to be taking some time away from the classroom from Wednesday 13th June 2022. She is scheduled for surgery following a recent diagnosis for Breast Cancer. Mrs Coulson has

asked that this information be shared with parents openly. She (and we) are very positive as this cancer has been caught very early and the prognosis is very good. We expect Mrs Coulson to be back with us, if everything goes to plan, at the beginning of the next school year. We will keep you updated.

Mrs Coulson has asked that the children are not told about the detail of her absence. She will tell them that she is going to have 'an operation to make her better'. She will tell them personally next week so that they have a chance to 'sign off' their year with her.

Cover for Mrs Coulson

We have been very lucky as Miss Lewis has agreed to stay on for the remaining weeks of the year – working with Miss Gartside, Mrs Somerset, Ms Knapp and Mrs Knapp to cover Mrs Coulson's absence. The children know Miss Lewis very well and are very used to having the lessons planned and taught by her. The children are also very familiar with all the TAs who work in the class. In agreeing to step into the full time teacher role, Miss Lewis has been able to provide continuity and stability for all our children and we are grateful to the whole team for their help in making this continuity possible.

Finally, Mrs Coulson has asked that people 'treat me as normal' over the next few days as this will be the best way of supporting her and the children.

Safeguarding and Residentials

We have two school residential trips taking place this half term. The Y6 children will be at Lea Green next week (13 – 17th June 2022) and the Y4/5 pupils will be at Ravenstor (29 June – 1st July 2022).

Please ensure that you have completed all paperwork (permissions, medication etc) urgently. Also, if you need to discuss, in confidence, any particular needs (sleep, medication, food), please contact either the class teacher or myself in confidence.

Two important reminders:

- There is an absolute ban on children taking phones or cameras to residentials. This is for safeguarding purposes. If you need to speak with your child (or they with you) – this will be facilitated by the adults using their own phones. Any child breaking this rule will be sent home immediately. The only exception to this rule will be where a child requires a phone to support a particular medical need.
- Please do not allow your child to take 'secret snacks' with them for a 'midnight feast'. Again, to support safeguarding (and choking risks) no food or sweets are allowed in the bedrooms. Instead we have sweets and snacks together as an evening treat which is managed and supported by staff. Please **do** send your child with a packet of buns / snacks to share and a sharing bag of sweets. We collect them in prior to departure and distribute throughout the trips. Again, we ask for your support in safeguarding all the children by adhering strictly to this policy.

I know that the children are really excited to be going on residentials. In response to lockdown – if your child has never 'had a sleep over' – it would be really helpful if they have done this before going on residential – even if this is with a family member or close family friends rather than with school friends.

Kind regards

Kate Gemmell
Headteacher