



# Headteacher Newsletter September 2022

**Dear pupils and parents,**

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and a welcome back to our returning families. I thought that it would be very useful to bring you all up to speed on events that have been happening at school and about the plans for the half term. The children have settled back into school life very quickly and we are enjoying being fully open.

We continue to take advice from the director of Public Health England (PHE), the Government and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and constantly review our Risk Assessments accordingly: we are now in the 'living with Covid' phase and thankfully, most disruptions to school life are gone.

I am aware that I have been very absent from school since Friday (when I saw many of you on the yard). This is partly due to starting my work with Grindleford School but mostly due to the fact that I have (after 2 ½ years and 5 vaccinations) finally been struck down with COVID. I'm afraid that this has affected me quite badly but I am definitely improving with every day that passes and working from home when able to. I will be in school as soon as I can but I am still registering positive for COVID on the LFTs.

As Covid is still present in the community we will continue to advocate sensible preventative measures such as good hygiene and ventilation in school. To help minimise school disruptions, please don't send your child to school if they are unwell. This is particularly true for sickness and diarrhoea when we ask that you observe the 48 hour clear rule.

## **School Attendance**

The government has made it very clear that all children are expected to attend school full-time. This is particularly important considering the disruptions to education that have been experienced by all over the past 19 months.

Our website contains our term dates and has a list of the agreed INSET dates when school is closed to pupils. Please avoid taking children out of school in term time. The Government has issued very strict guidelines to schools following the pandemic disruptions. We have been told that we should adhere to the guidelines and where necessary, fines will be issued. The full guidance on term-time absence is available on the website or on the Government [School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/school-attendance-and-absence-overview)

The rules regarding term-time holidays have not changed and only in exceptional circumstances are these allowed. There is a form to complete if you need to request time off during term time and this is available from the office or on our website. Please note, 14 days' notice is required. If you are unsure about the rules, please contact the school office.

A critical part of attendance management is ensuring that your child arrives in good time for school and ready to learn. Children who arrive late find this very embarrassing and it disrupts their learning. Please do try to be on time and if you are struggling with this, please contact the school as support may be available.

## **Staffing**

We have been very lucky again this year and have been allocated student teachers in 2022-2023. Our first set of students will be with us until Christmas. Each class teacher will introduce you to their student and I know that our pupils and parents will extend a warm welcome to them all. Our students are mentored by Mrs Coulson and Mrs Chapman.

My normal working days at Bamford Primary School are Tuesdays and Fridays with my time shared on Thursdays. In my absence I can be contacted as normal via my email which is checked daily. Mrs. Chapman is available every day in her new role as Assistant Headteacher.



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## Classes in 2022-2023

The class structure for the year is as follows:

Class Oak	EYFS / Year 1 / Year 2	Mrs Coulson Miss Gartside Mrs Helen Axelby (PPA Cover)  Additional TA support from Mrs Somerset and Mrs Knapp
Class Ash	Year 3 / Year 4	Miss Rebecca Flanagan Mrs Chapman (Classroom support and Early Career Teacher non contact Cover) Additional TA support Mrs Sarah Knapp and Mrs Somerset
Class Willow	Year 5 / Year 6	Mr Friend Additional TA support Mrs Somerset, Mrs Knapp

## PPA Cover

PPA cover for the juniors will be provided by Mrs Bland (Sports) and Mrs Taylor and by Mrs Helen Axelby (until Christmas) for the infants

Mrs Axelby, Mrs Bland and Mrs Chapman will continue to provide additional catch up support across the year groups, along with interventions led by our teaching assistants.

## Medical Information

Please ensure that you continue to tell us about any changes to medical needs for your children.

## Pupil Update Forms (sent out at the end of last year)

We have almost completed our update of these important forms – which include medical update and contact information. If you have not yet returned yours (sent out last year in July) – please do so at your earliest convenience. We also ask that if there is a significant change of circumstances with your family arrangements, that you let us know in writing – sending to [info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk).

## School Website

We are currently updating our school website and are looking to upgrade this during the year. If anyone has particular skills in website design – or would like to get involved in helping us to redesign the site – please contact Mrs Gemmell.

We encourage you to use the website frequently as it contains a wealth of information, particularly about the curriculum that your child studies and the formal information that schools are required to publish.

## School Uniform 2022-2023

This is a polite reminder that we expect children to be dressed in full school uniform. Many of the girls choose to wear leggings instead of tights with their skirts and shorts – which given the added ventilation seems sensible and we are happy for this to continue going forwards.

Please can you check that all items of clothing have your child's name in – we have plenty of black sharpies that can be borrowed if you need to renew the markings!



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We have decided to retain the **PE DRESS CODE on PE Days** during the next academic year. The children like it and it saves valuable curriculum time. So going forwards, we ask that you send your child in PE clothing on their PE days.

The PE Uniform is:

- a black or blue tracksuit or jogging trousers / leggings
- a blue or black fleece or usual school round neck sweatshirt
- a white round neck t-shirt (we would **prefer** a school logo on the t-shirt but it is not a requirement)
- navy or black shorts - as we are often outside, this is advised for the spring / summer only
- shoes should be trainers or plimsolls – in black, navy or grey

*Please note that you are able to purchase non-branded items in place of the branded items for sale on the school's own purchase forms. Forms for branded items are available from the office.*

*We also have second hand uniform which you are welcome to look through. It has all been folded neatly, so please help to keep it tidy!*

### Sports

As usual, we want to keep your children as active and healthy as possible. Government guidance still maintains that all children should be active for at least 30 minutes a day and ideally 60 minutes. We would like to try and really push to achieve 60 mins of activity every day. We know many of your children are fantastic sportspeople and need little encouragement to keep active which is great to see.

We had a really successful walk to school week at the end of last term and we will endeavour to do this termly but obviously the more you can make this an everyday experience, the better, although we know it is not possible for everyone. Thank you for making such an effort that week.

We know many children belong to clubs out of school which is brilliant and we have an afterschool sports club on a Wednesday which is open to all junior children, years 3-6.

We are delighted to hear that the Girl's football club has begun, with training at Bradwell on Saturday mornings. After the National women's team success, let's hope we have some budding stars!

Class Ash and some of Willow are swimming again this half term and Willow class will be having coached tennis sessions at the Tennis Club on Fridays for this half term. We are hoping to keep some gardening sessions going as well.

So, we are making a good start to the year!

### Earring wearers

Please remember our earrings policy, that no earrings should be worn during any PE lesson. This again is standard practice, so please send your child with a little pouch or purse to put their earrings in or don't send them with earrings in on PE and swimming days. For Oak class, this is Friday. For Ash class, this is Monday (swimming) and Wednesday. For Willow class this is Wednesday and Friday.

We hope to start our cluster events at Hope Valley College soon and will aim to send out consent forms with at least a week's notice. We are waiting for a finalised timetable from HVC. For afternoon events, we do ask that parents collect as we struggle to book buses at this time and it also means we can attend more events and provide your children with more opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this and please do ask if you are struggling because many parents are willing to offer lifts if they have space.



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## Communications

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 651267 or via [info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk). This should happen before 08:30. If your child is absent and we do not have a message, we are obliged to try to contact you by phone. This is very time consuming and it is really helpful if we know by the start of the day.

## School Dinners

Mrs Mason (supported by Mrs Fathers) provide our school dinner service with all dinners prepared freshly on site. Dinners are currently £2.30 per day which is payable in advance via Parent Pay. All children in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 are offered Universal Free School Meals – which means that the government pays the school for providing these meals. We would strongly advise all parents to take up this offer as this money supports maintaining our onsite service. There is going to be a special 'Big Breakfast' themed lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> October which the children especially love!

## Heathy Schools

Please send your child to school with a bottle of water (no juice please).

We offer fruit snack for break times.

Children in Oak class receive this for free.

For children in Ash and Willow we ask for 60p a week. If you would like to sign up for Fruit Snack please contact Mrs. Stoddart in the office [info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk) or fill in the form that will be shared on DoJo.

For those who prefer to bring their own snack, please keep it healthy. No sweets, crisps or chocolate please.

## Nut Free School

We are a nut free school, so please keep lunches and snacks nut free. Thank you.

## Breakfast Club

We now have full opening of Breakfast Club and there are places available should you need them. This can be either regular bookings or one-off emergency cover. Please contact the office for further information or our website.

## After School Clubs

Clubs for this term:

Tuesdays - Chill Club for Y2-Y6 with Miss Flanagan - Free. Maximum of 15 children. A time to relax and hang out with friends. Choose from activities such as board games, drawing and reading.

Wednesdays - Sports Club for Y3-Y6 with Mrs.Bland (PE kit required) - £21.30 for 6 weeks.

Thursdays - Doodle Club for Y2-Y6 with Mr Friend - Free. Maximum of 15 children. A time for mindful doodling. A lovely relaxing activity.

Fridays - Homework Club Y5-Y6 with Mrs Gemmell - Free (subject to cancellation with 24h notice, if Headteacher called away). Siblings who are in Ash class can also attend. An opportunity to get homework done with teacher support before the weekend.

Sign up for club bookings is via the form sent via Class DOJO. If you are struggling to access DOJO, please contact Carol Stoddart via [info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk)

**Story Keepers.** This is not a school run club, Story Keepers After School Club is led by Children and Families' Worker, Karen Perry and will begin on Wednesday 14th September at 3.30 - 5.00 pm in the Methodist hall next to



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the school. Children in the Infants are escorted to the hall. Cost £1 per child. For further information telephone Jennifer Fox, 651663.

### School Times

Doors open at 08:40 and registration is at 08:50 am for all children

Collection is as follows:

Class Oak 15:20

Class Ash and Willow 15:30

**After school clubs close at 16:30. Staff would appreciate prompt collection. Thanks.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their hard work and support last year. The support that you have provided to our team has been very appreciated in difficult and demanding times. I'm really looking forward to getting back out and seeing you all again very soon.

Kate Gemmell  
Headteacher