



# Headteacher Newsletter September 2024

Dear pupils and parents,

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and say welcome back to our returning families. We are looking forward to hearing all about your summer break and we hope the pupils are as excited as we are to start the new term.

## School Attendance

The government has made it very clear that all children are expected to attend school full-time. Please see the letter sent out separately outlining the DfE's new guidance and amended laws. School is obliged to implement this policy.

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.

Doors open	8.40am
Registration closes	8.50am
Lunch	12 noon
KS1 home time	3.20pm
KS2 home time	3.30pm

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.

## Behaviour

We have refreshed our whole school Behaviour Policy and will share this with parents very soon. Bamford have adopted the following School rules:

- 1- We listen carefully
- 2- We follow instructions
- 3- We are kind to others
- 4- We respect people, places and things.

The pupils have focused on learning these new rules this week and they will continue to be included in our daily assemblies over the next half term.

## Staffing

Mrs Gemmell's normal working days at Bamford Primary School are Tuesdays and Thursdays with her time shared on Fridays. In her absence, she can be contacted as normal via email which is checked daily. Mrs Chapman, our Deputy Headteacher, is available every day between 8.30am-9am or in the afternoons by appointment. Please contact the office to book in if necessary.

## Classes in 2024-2025

The class structure for the year is as follows:

Class Oak	EYFS / Year 1 / Year 2	Mrs Coulson Mrs Farrell (PPA Cover) TA support: Miss Friend and Mrs Harding, Mrs Baker
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Class Ash	Year 3 / Year 4	Miss Flanagan Mrs Green (French) Mrs Taylor (PPA cover -music) Mrs Bland (PPA cover -PE) TA support: Mrs Knapp, Mrs Somerset
Class Willow	Year 5 / Year 6	Mr Gaffney/ Mrs Redfearn Mrs Green (French) Mrs Bland (PPA cover -PE) TA support: Mrs Somerset, Mrs Knapp

### Medical Information

Please ensure that you continue to tell us about any changes to medical needs for your children. Forms are in the office if your child requires medication to be administered in school. Please speak to Mrs Stoddart if this is the case.

### School Website

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. All term dates, including INSET days and sporting activities are on the calendar for the upcoming year. We will be adding more to it over the next week or so, so please revisit this often to stay up-to-date with all our activities.

### School Uniform 2024-2025

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 adds an extra layer of warmth and comfort.

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!

**PE DRESS CODE on PE Days** will continue this year as the children like it and it saves valuable curriculum time. Please 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 - spring / summer only
- 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 organised carefully, so please help to keep it tidy!

### Earrings

Please remember our earrings policy, that no earrings should be worn during any PE lesson. This 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 Thursday.

### Sports



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We want to keep your children as active and healthy as possible. We hope to start our cluster events at Hope Valley College soon and will aim to send out to keep active which is great to see. For afternoon events, we do ask that parents collect from HVC 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.

We value the varied opportunities the children get by attending many of the HVC events, but we also appreciate the cost, whilst kept minimal, can mount up over the year. As a result, the staff have taken the decision to be more selective about the events we attend, and we will aim to vary the children who attend in order to make the whole experience more manageable for families. If you are struggling to pay for these trips please speak to Mrs Gemmell in confidence.

### **School Dinners**

All school dinners are prepared freshly on site. Dinners are currently £3.25 per day which is payable in advance via Parent Pay. If you wish to make any changes to your meal pattern, please contact Mrs Stoddart in the office, giving at least two weeks' notice. 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. The full menu along with its nutritional value can be found on our school website under 'Parents/School lunches' tab.

### **Heathy Schools**

Please send your child to school with a bottle of water (no juice please) that can be topped up during the day. 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**

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 run from 15:30 – 16:30. Staff would appreciate prompt collection. There are very limited places left so please contact Mrs Stoddart if you need further information on clubs.

### **Parent Helpers**

In school life 'before Covid,' it was usual to invite parents into school to help with regular tasks such as listening to readers, supporting Forest school, swimming and other activities. We would very much like to resurrect this practice as the benefits to both the children and school life are huge. If you think you could spare an hour or so on a regular basis to support school in this way, please let Mrs Stoddart know, and we will start the process.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for supporting the school team last year. It was greatly appreciated, and we are looking forward to an equally successful year ahead.

Kind regards

Jen Chapman



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Deputy Headteacher

Kate Gemmell  
Executive Headteacher