



Headteacher Newsletter November 2022

Dear pupils and parents,

I thought that it might be very useful to bring you all up to speed on events that have been happening at school recently. The children have settled back to school so well after half term.

Parents Evenings

Thank you to all our parents for being so flexible with the parents evening arrangements. I hope that everybody has been able to meet with their child/children's class teacher and that you feel that you have been updated with individual progress. Can I remind you that whilst it is lovely to conduct the sessions face to face – we can also offer remote sessions for parents who are away from home or required to work at the times offered and that our doors remain firmly open. As always, outside of the cycle of parents evening, if you do have any concerns about your child or their learning, please do let us know and we will find a mutually convenient time to talk about your concerns and hopefully be able to offer support.

Supporting your child with their learning

The way that the children are taught at school may be very different from the way that you learnt. However, parental support for home learning remains a very important part of the school-home partnership. We are often asked by parents 'How can we help?' Whilst there is no single answer, there are some answers that may be useful:

- Reading is key – all children need to read regularly at home and fluent reading is rarely achieved without consistent parental support. Even fluent readers benefit from a light-touch approach to parental support. For younger readers – making the reading session short, sharp and fun is hugely beneficial and if your child is struggling to read or resisting reading at home – please do contact the class teacher who may be able to offer some suggestions to make it easier. Home reading should not be a battle!
- Maths – spending time to support the acquisition of the 'four rules of arithmetic' is never wasted time. The more confident children are with their mental maths (including times tables) the better and the Government expects all children to have rapid recall of all times tables by the end of year 4. After year 4, we still need to work to maintain the rapid recall! There are many free apps that can be used to support times tables learning – and the White Rose Maths Minute Maths games really do make a difference. You can equally do maths without technology – through repetition or games.

School Attendance

Good attendance at school is critical to success in learning. This includes being on time for lessons in the morning as children who are 'rushed into school' or habitually the last to arrive can find this very unsettling. Please do try to be on time although we do understand, there are always 'those mornings' when things do go wrong. Your child will not be told off for being late so please do reassure them of this if needed. If you are struggling with arriving on time, please contact the school as support may be available.

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)

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.

School Opening:

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



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Staffing Updates

School continues to work in partnership with Grindleford Primary School. This has been very positive for all staff and we have recently begun to look at how the staff can work to support each other more through collaborative CPD work. Mrs Gemmell continues to be based at Bamford on Tuesdays and Fridays and Grindleford on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thursdays are more flexible but appointments can be made outside of this timetable as there is flexibility within the system. Jen Chapman remains in place as Acting Assistant Headteacher. She is also a fully qualified SENCo and DSL and is sharing much of this workload with Kate Gemmell.

PPA Cover

PPA cover for the juniors continues to be provided by Mrs Bland (Sports) and Mrs Taylor and by Miss Rose Heathcote for the infants. I am sure that you will make Miss Heathcote very welcome as she joins our team.

School Information

Please ensure that you continue to tell us about any changes to medical needs for your children. You should also email the office with any changes to your contact details (e.g. email / phone numbers, addresses etc).

Dojo

Can I please remind parents about the protocols for using Class DOJO:

- Class Stories – are for your whole class. Everyone linked to your class can see the Class Story and any messages. This is where you will get a feel for what the class have been learning about and helps you to follow the curriculum
- Messages – are for short and brief communication with the teacher or TA. This might include a brief message to pass on information but should not be in depth or personal. It is helpful for example to message if:
 - Someone else is picking up or dropping off
 - You need to arrange a meeting or conversation
 - Your child has been under the weather / had a bad or late night / something is worrying them etc. This helps us to support their emotional needs in school.
 - You have positive news that you would like to help your child share
- Portfolio – can contain images of your child at work. You can equally upload pictures from home to show us – for example if you have visited somewhere linked to learning or achieved something at home

You should continue to contact school via the telephone (01433651267) or email

info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk for the following:

- Change of details (address, email, phone etc)
- To notify for absence
- To contact Mrs Gemmell
- Emergency contact

Please do not post anything onto DOJO that you consider urgent or very personal.

We know that DOJO messages can become all consuming. To support everyone, I suggest that you:

- Turn off notifications and/or set quiet hours
- Limit the times that you access the app – nothing is that urgent that it can't wait
- Do not expect an answer on DOJO – it's main purpose is to message and inform. Teachers endeavour to respond quickly but it may be 24 hours or more so if you require an urgent response, please use the school office.

To maintain a healthy work-life balance, staff are not required or expected to look at DOJO outside of their working hours or at weekends. If you send a message to your child's class teacher – only their class teacher can see it. Please also keep messages short and procedural. If you need to talk to someone then you should use the DOJO system to schedule a conversation.



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Please remember that the DOJO system is a closed system by invite only. In using the DOJO, parents agree not to copy or distribute information from DOJO outside of the system. Anyone breaching this agreement will be removed from access.

Please also remember that the school website contains a lot of information for parents – including a diary of key events for your diary.

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.

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 seems sensible and helps to protect knees.

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!

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.

Sports

We continue to offer a very full programme of study for sports. Thank you to all parents and carers who help us to achieve this by offering lifts to the children. Unfortunately, the cost of transport is something that has really increased over the past 6 months and this does impact us when booking events. School swimming has now finished for the term and will restart after Easter. The tennis has also finished until the summer.

The upcoming events are:

15th November – Cross Country Final! Good Luck Team Bamford!

16th November – Football Final! Good Luck Team Bamford!

24th November – Yr 3-4 Dodgeball at Hope Valley College

8th December – Yr 5-6 Karate at Hope Valley College

19th December – Oak class Dance Festival at Hope Valley College

We continue to do very well with our sports and are delighted to have been awarded the Platinum Award for School Sports – the highest level that you can achieve. Well done to the children and Mrs Bland for all of their hard work and commitment.

Photo Day

Friday 11th November is school photo day. Please send children to school in school uniform. If you have younger children (not in school) who would like their photograph taking with their siblings please arrive at school at 8:30 and go straight to the hall.

NSPCC



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This term, we will be participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* online** programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

A letter containing further information will be sent out separately. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week runs from 14th – 18th November. This year's theme is all about reaching out – when you see bullying and when you need help. The children will take part in numerous activities on this topic throughout the week and we would encourage you at home, to reiterate our school message of seeking help from a trusted adult if you experience bullying in any form.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday. For Willow class this is Wednesday and Friday.

Christmas Events (Yes - I know it's not even December!)

Christmas officially starts in school on **Monday 5th December 2022** and from this date until the end of term, children may wear Christmas jumpers / t-shirts as part of their uniform. Please feel free to donate any spare items that no longer fit and we will recycle through the PTFA.

School Panto

We are off to Buxton Opera House to watch Sleeping Beauty. The PTFA have kindly offered to pay the cost of the coach **and** the tickets this year as a one off 'thank you and well done' to the children. They have missed out on Pantos and theatre over the pandemic and we are very grateful to them for this offer. I'm sure they will all enjoy this trip out (oh no they won't....oh yes they will!)

This trip will take place on **Thursday 15th December 2022**

Coach departs from school at 12:00 – Early dinner will be provided

Panto: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Coach returning late to school at approximately 16:45

Please give consent by completing the Panto form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/zBqiR8tQB3>

Flu Vaccines

Flu vaccines will take place in school on **Monday 28th November 2022**. The Flu nasal spray is offered to all children in **Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**

You need to provide consent via the link below in order for your child to receive the vaccine.

<https://www.derbyshireandcityimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

School code: DD112504

Christmas Dates



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Friday 11 th November	Photo Day
Friday 25 th November	PTFA Quiz Night at Sicklehome Golf Club
Monday 28 th November	Flu Vaccines
Monday 5 th December	Christmas Opens – Jumpers etc. from today
Tuesday 6 th December	13:30 Christmas Concert in the Church 18:30 Christmas Concert in the Church
Friday 9 th December	PTFA Film Night - for children
Wednesday 14 th December	School Christmas Dinner- open to all children
Thursday 15 th December	Whole school trip to the Panto. Returning to school at 16:45
Wednesday 21 st December	13:30 Carol Service and Nativity in the Church Children may go home after the service (release from school)
Thursday 22 nd December	INSET – School Closed to pupils and Staff (Twilights worked in place of INSET)
Monday 9 th January 2023	School re-opens

School Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 14th December

We traditionally have a whole school Christmas dinner which normally takes place on a Wednesday as this is the day of the week that a roast dinner is normally served. In order for Estelle Mason to buy and prepare the right quantities AND so that everyone has the option to join in please complete as per the instructions below:

- Please complete the survey once per child – your dinners will be added to ParentPay in the normal way.
- If you normally have a school dinner on Wednesdays – it will be assumed that they are having a Christmas dinner. You do not need to do anything
- If you don't normally have a school dinner on Wednesdays – Please complete the survey (even if your child does not want a Christmas dinner)
- If your child normally has a school dinner on Wednesdays but does not want the school Christmas Dinner, please complete the survey to opt out. Your child will need to bring a packed lunch on the day as this will be the only menu offer on this date.

Please complete the Christmas lunch form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/qk3qT5LFgK>

The survey takes one minute or less to complete!

Communications

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 651267 or via 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.

Heathy Schools

Please send your child to school with a bottle of water (no juice please). Keeping hydrated is shown to have a positive effect on learning. All children in Class Oak are offered fruit snack for break times.

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 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. This is so that we may safeguard the children effectively.



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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) - £17.75 for 5 weeks (no club on 2nd Nov, 16th Nov & 21st Dec)

Thursdays - Doodle Club for Y2-Y6 with Mr Friend - Free. Maximum of 15 children (Currently full – message the office to join the waiting list). 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

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

There will **be no after school club** on the **Wednesday 21st December 2022 (last day of term)** and **NO HOMEWORK CLUB on the Friday 16th December 2022.**

Sept 2023 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in Sept 2023 you can apply now for a place via www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions.

If you have friends or family with a child due to start school in Sept 2023, please let them know they are welcome to contact us to arrange a tour of our school.

Thank you all for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'KL Gemmell'.

Kate Gemmell (Headteacher)