



Headteacher Newsletter Easter 2023

Dear pupils and parents,

Time has flown by and it's hard to believe that we are already closing of the spring term in readiness for the summer term! This will be a very busy term, as always, so a good time to send an update.

Dates for your diary (remember there is a link on the school website to the calendar)

Mon 17 th April	Back to School. Swimming starts for Class Ash and some of Class Willow.
Mon 1 st May	Bank Holiday – School closed
Tues 2 nd May	Photo Day! Leavers and class photos – clean uniform and tidy hair please!
Friday 5 th May	Cricket Day at school. Celebration Coronation picnic (more information to follow)
Mon 8 th May	Bank Holiday to celebrate the coronation of King Charles – School closed
Tues 9 th May – Fri 12 th May	Year 6 SATS
Mon 15 th May – Fri 19 th May	Year 2 SATS* (<i>PLEASE DO NOT TELL YOUR CHILD THIS</i>)
Fri 26 th May	INSET DAY – School closed (staff complete twilight training)
Mon 29 th May – Fri 2 nd May	Half Term
Mon 5 th June	Back to school
Mon 19 th – 23 rd June	Y6 Lea Green Residential
Wed 28 th – Fri 30 th June	Y4/Y5 Castleton Residential
Wed 5 th July	Ash and Willow Let's Learn Moor trip
Wed 12 th July – Fri 14 th July	Transition – children to their new classes
Mon 17 th July	Whole school trip to the seaside! (<i>Shhh..its a secret!</i>)
Fri 21 st July	Last Day of Term 1:30 Leavers Assembly – Y6 parents invited

****If unwell, we can alter the date of the SAT for KS1, unlike KS2***

Term Dates for Next Year

2023-2024 School Term Dates

4th September 2023 to 27st October 2023 (NOTE Children start on 5th September)

6th November 2023 to 22nd December 2023

8th January 2024 to 16th February 2024

26th February 2024 to 28th March 2024

15th April 2024 to 24th May 2024 (Monday 6th May 2024 is a bank holiday)

3rd June 2024 to 23rd July 2024

2023-2024 INSET Days (School Closed)

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 27th October 2023

Friday 22nd December 2023

Friday 16th February 2024

Friday 24th May 2024



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Staffing

We have been very lucky again this term and have been allocated student teacher Mr. Porter who is currently working in Oak Class. We also have two Occupational Health students on a short placement with us; Ms. Proust and Ms. Short and we are excited to see how they can help the children in our school. We extend a warm welcome to them all. Our students are mentored by Mrs Coulson and Mrs Chapman.

We have also welcomed Mrs Farrell, an experienced teacher, who is providing PPA cover for Oak Class.

My normal working days at Bamford Primary School continue to be 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 role as Assistant Headteacher. In practice – my diary is more fluid.

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.

We have waved goodbye to Hannah Knapp and wish her all the very best as she launches her career in child psychology. We are certain that our loss is someone else's gain!

Grindleford Update

Our developing working relationship with the team at Grindleford is proving positive and the two governing boards are working together to explore forming a federation. Nothing will happen without consultation with all stakeholders, including parents. We expect this process to begin soon after the Easter holidays. Please keep an eye open for information from our governing board.

Supporting your child with their learning – a reminder

The pandemic is thankfully over but we are still seeing the impact on this disruption on our children's learning. Parental support for home learning is therefore very important as we try to support the children in their learning. We have recently been working with specialists at Read Write Inc to help ensure that our phonics provision is effective of high quality.

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

There is plenty of evidence to support the view that a child who is a confident and fluent reader is well placed to be successful in their learning, particularly in the Junior Phase and importantly, for secondary school. Learning to read is a difficult task and the children who are supported at home with this, make the fastest progress. Some children appear to be 'natural readers' whilst others find this task difficult. However, with consistency and frequency, all children can achieve this aim. The single biggest impact on achieving reading fluency is practice and we are asking all our parents to help.

For infants: this is regular reading of their home reader coupled with regular story time at home – where a parent can read to their child. This is very important as it opens up new experiences and vocabulary for the children.

For juniors: the same is true. Your child still needs to be encouraged and supported with their reading. They should aim for at least 4 reading sessions at home per week – even if they are very fluent readers. Each session can be just 10 minutes and the children have access to a wide range of texts that they can borrow from school. They then undertake the Accelerated Reader quizzes at school which checks their comprehension. **We are asking parents to monitor and ensure that children regularly read at home.**



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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. 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.

Sports

We would like to try and really push to achieve 60 mins of activity every day. We know many of your children are fantastic sportspersons and need little encouragement to keep active which is great to see.

We are well underway with our cluster events at Hope Valley College. 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.

Sports Dates

19th April	Cyclo Cross
26th April	Orienteering
17th May	SSP Girls Football
18th May	Y5/6 Quadkids
25th May	Y5/6 Mixed Cricket
5th June	Orienteering Day Grindleford
6th June	EIS (English Institute of Sport) - Juniors
15th June	Infant Sports Festival
22nd June	Rounders

Please check with the website / Dojo for any changes / alterations to this plan

Swimming Lessons

Class Ash and some of Willow are starting swimming lessons on Mondays this half term. Children in Class Willow who are joining in will have bought a letter home.

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.

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.



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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 are trailing buying our own fruit, hoping to make it more exciting and offer greater variety. We ask for 80p a week. If you would like to sign up for Fruit Snack please contact Mrs. Stoddart in the office info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk.

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.

School Website

We are looking to upgrade our website this year.

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.

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. 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 – Snap Dragon T'ai Chi Club - £21.30 for 6 weeks.

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their hard work and support. The support that you provide to our team is very much appreciated.

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

Kate Gemmell
Headteacher