



Headteacher Newsletter September 2023

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. We are looking forward to hearing all about their summer break and we hope they are as excited as we are to start the new term.

As you have already noticed, we are in the midst of building renovations. The top building is being fitted with a much-needed new roof. The works will continue for much of the first half term so we ask for your support in keeping everyone safe by minimising foot-traffic around the scaffolding, and instead use the path around the grassed area and around the vegetable garden to access areas around school such as the office and the lower yard.

As access around school is restricted, we would like parents of the infant children **to gather on the lower yard at pick-up** to keep the footpaths by the Parent Shelter clear. This is to enable the junior children to exit the bottom building after 3.15pm assembly safely. We also ask that you help us to keep the infant playground safe by supervising your child closely at the end of the day and to discourage them from using the play equipment so that it does not get damaged.

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 few years. In order to reduce illnesses, 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 to limit the spread.

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. We have been told that we should adhere to the guidelines and where necessary, issue fines. The full guidance on term-time absence is available on the website or on the Government [School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/school-attendance-and-absence) (www.gov.uk)

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
Assembly	3pm
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. 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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Staffing

Mrs Gemmell’s normal working days at Bamford Primary School are Tuesdays and Fridays with her time shared on Thursdays. In her absence, she can be contacted as normal via email which is checked daily. Mrs Chapman, our Assistant 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 2023-2024

The class structure for the year is as follows:

Class Oak	EYFS / Year 1 / Year 2	Mrs Coulson Mrs Chapman (Yr1/Yr2 mornings) Mrs Farrell (PPA Cover) TA support: Mrs Gartside, Miss Friend and Mrs Knapp
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, Miss Friend and Mrs Somerset
Class Willow	Year 5 / Year 6	Mr Friend Mrs Green (French) Mrs Taylor (PPA cover -music) Mrs Bland (PPA cover -PE) TA support: Mrs Somerset

We are pleased to welcome trainee teachers in 2023-2024. 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 Chapman and Mrs Coulson.

Medical Information

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

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 2023-2024

This is a polite reminder that we expect children to be dressed in full school uniform. Children may 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!



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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 Friday.

Sports

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. Mrs Bland will send out further communication detailing sporting events for this term.

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

Mrs Mason (supported by Mrs Fathers) provide our school dinner service with all dinners 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.

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.

We offer fruit snack for break times. Children in Oak class receive this for free.

For children in Ash and Willow we ask for 80p a week. If you would like to sign up for Ash and Willow Fruit Snack please contact Mrs. Stoddart in the office info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk or fill in the form that has been shared on Dojo.



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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 and are as follows:

Tuesday	Chill Club	Y2-Y6 with Miss Flanagan - Free. Maximum of 16 children. A time to relax and hang out with friends. Choose from activities such as board games, drawing and reading
Wednesday	Sports Club	Y3-Y6 with Mrs Bland (PE kit required) - £21.30 for 6 weeks
Thursday	T'ai Chi	Y1-Y6 with Snap Dragon T'ai Chi - £24.85 for 7 weeks. Maximum of 20 children.
Friday	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 Mrs Stoddart in the office via info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk

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

Parent Helpers

In school life 'before Covid,' it was common practice to invite parents in to school to help with regular tasks such as listening to readers, supporting Forest school, gardening 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.

PTA

We are lucky to have such an active and creative group of parents who support our school. The current PTA are busy planning future events and would love to hear from you so please speak to Bonnie (Skyla and Isobel's mum) if you have any ideas or time you can offer.

Finally, we 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 and we are looking forward to an equally successful year ahead.

Kind regards
Jen Chapman
Deputy Headteacher