**Bamford Primary School**

Newsletter 1 – September 2014

**Welcome to all…**

A very warm welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome is extended to new children and their families starting in reception this week.  We look forward to working closely with you to provide the best possible education for your child.  As you can see from the dates at the end of this newsletter, there is a great deal going on in school this term to look forward to.

If you have any concerns at all, please make an appointment with your child’s teacher as soon as you can so that they can be resolved straight away.

**Staffing News**

Neil Hobson is not returning to school at present. The Governors are following the Derbyshire Policy for managing absence through ill health.  In reality, this can often take over a year to resolve so for the foreseeable future, Alison Perkins will continue to provide leadership support working closely with Kate Gemmell, Governors and the Local Authority.  She will usually be in school Tuesdays and Thursdays. The staff is well prepared for a fresh start this term and looking forward to delivering the new National Curriculum together.

Fran Carmichael has decided not just to reduce her hours but to move on all together.  We are very sad to see her leave and would like to thank her for all her hard work and humour.  We understand that she has made this decision and wish her well with her new ventures.   We will be looking to appoint a new team for the office shortly.  In the meantime, thank you for your patience and understanding.  Any letters, money or forms should be sent in with pupils in clearly labelled envelopes if necessary and handed to each class teacher first thing at registration.  For other post there is a postbox by the office door and there is an answerphone for messages.

Robert Somerset, our caretaker has also made the decision to move on and we extend our grateful thanks to him for many years of hard work and support for the school.  He has been active in the community over a long period, served as a governor in the past and helped teachers out on visits. We wish him all the best for the future.

We continue to require lunch time supervisors, so if you could be available midday or know someone who could be who enjoys working with children, please let school know.

**School Website**

Please take a moment to look at our new school website which has dates and information for you.

[www.bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk/)

There are also class pages which staff will gradually develop with the children along with  areas for useful forms, letters etc.

**Data Collection**

Please don’t forget to return your updated pupil information forms to school so that we can update our records and know how to contact you in the event of an emergency.  It is especially important that we have correct mobile phone numbers for text messages and email addresses so that information can now be sent home electronically. This is often more reliable than ‘pupil post’ and saves on paper and photocopying charges.  We have received positive feedback regarding our switch to text services.  Where paper forms of communication are still required, we will try to make this a Thursday.

**What is your child learning?**

We have revised the topics which we will be covering in line with new national Curriculum requirements. Our first topic this year is Living on the Edge (Bamford Edge!).  Oak Class (Reception and Year 1) will be learning about and visiting our local area; Beech Class (Year 2 and Year 3) are learning about the hills and valleys around us and the geology of the area; Ash Class (Year 4 and Year 5) are learning about leisure and tourism in the Hope Valley and why people visit; Willow Class (Year 5 and Year 6) are learning about changes around Bamford Edge over time and their causes (Geography and History),  including visits to the edge and the reservoir.

With such a local topic base, please do get in touch with your child’s class if you have artefacts, contacts or ideas to contribute to our learning.  Local contacts, support and knowledge are very welcome, particularly since many of our teaching staff are not village based.

Teachers will shortly be providing information for each class about topic, homework, PE days and how you can help your child. We will text when these are on the website/emailed home.

**Extra Activities**

Many of you will be familiar with and have enjoyed our Bamford Primary School Choir. Naomi Baynes has very kindly agreed to continue and is very much looking forward to starting choir at 8.15 on Wednesday 17th September 2014 (Juniors Y3 – Y6).  The children all enjoy the sessions whilst learning to sing beautifully.  If unsure, children can go along to try it out – Everyone is welcome!  If you are dropping off children for choir, other siblings may also be dropped to school at this time so there is only one drop-off required.

‘Extra time’ are running 3 sports clubs: Running on Tuesday lunchtime; Multisports after school on Tuesday; Dodgeball after school on Friday. There is a charge of £3.50 for after school clubs. Letters have been sent home and further copies can be obtained from the office.

Street dance Club will start after school on Mondays with Francesca Mitchell and will also cost £3.50. Again, letters have been sent home but please ask if you have not received one.

**Building and Grounds**

I hope you have noticed the recently maintained grounds which the children are so lucky to have for use in lessons and at break times. During the holidays, our wall was repaired (again) and hopefully the new layout of the Café car park will go some way to preventing any further damage.  We have also had new windows in the toilets, quiet room and kitchen. Currently we are hoping to have the junior toilets refurbished in the holidays and some further improvements to the playground.

**Time out of School**

A reminder that Schools cannot authorise any holiday during term time unless there are extenuating circumstances, and not at all during the Year 6 SATs week commencing Monday 11th May 2015.

**Free School Meals**

If your child is (or you think they may be) eligible for free school meals, please contact the school or look at the Derbyshire County Council Website:

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your_child_at_school/meals/school_meals/default.asp?VD=freeschoolmeals>

There are benefits for your child which extend beyond just meals so please get in touch if you wish to discuss.

**Dates for your Diary**

September

5  INSET DAY - School closed

8   Term starts

29  Governors Meeting

October

6   Individual school photographs;      Cross Country 1.30 HVC

15  Classes 1 & 2 Chatsworth Visit

16  Willow Sculptor in school

17  Classes 3 & 4 Yorkshire Sculpture Park Visit

21 Parents' Evening

23 Parents' Evening

24 Harvest Festival 2pm

27-31 HALF TERM

November

3 INSET DAY School Closed

5   Class 4 Longshaw Visit

10-14 WW1 Song Festival TBC

December

4   Dance Platform HVC;       Pantomime Visit to school

9  Christmas Concert 2pm and 6.30pm

15 Classes 1 & 2 Party

16 Classes 3 & 4 Party

19 Christmas Service 1.45

     Last Day of term

20-5 Jan CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

January

5  INSET School Closed

6  Term Starts