



Headteacher Newsletter – Spring 1 2026

Dear pupils and parents,

A warm welcome back to what will be a full and varied spring term!

As you know we made the difficult decision to close the school on Friday 9th January. Please be assured that this was not a decision taken lightly. We understand the inconvenience this may have caused to your family and sincerely apologise for any disruption to your plans. The safety of our pupils and staff remains our utmost priority. We are grateful for your understanding and support.

As we return to school, please ensure your children have weather appropriate clothing and indoor shoes for snowy days.

Diary Dates (Please watch DoJo for updates):

Mon 12th January	Artist Ann Kelly assembly - community project
Thurs 15th January	Basketball HVC (Y6)
Thurs 22nd January	Sportshall Athletics HVC (Willow)
Wed 28th January	RDSSP County Finals
Thurs 29th January	Ash Class Trip to Western Park Museum
Mon 2nd February	Puppet Assembly
9th Feb – 12th Feb	Mental Health Awareness Week
Tues 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Fri 13th February	INSET DAY – School Closed
16th Feb – 20th Feb	Half Term

Uniform

School uniform with the new school logo is now ordered directly from our supplier here:

www.farmembroidery.co.uk/bamford-primary-school

There is no obligation to buy branded products, plain navy or royal blue is perfectly fine. We also have plenty of 2nd hand uniform with the old logo (uniform with the old logo is also absolutely fine!)

Staffing Update

Mrs Stoddart has made the (hopefully difficult) decision to retire this Spring! She will be finishing at half term. Carol has been an amazing member of our team since joining in February 2022. She has done a brilliant job of keeping us all in check and ensuring that we are all looked after. She will be hugely missed by everyone, especially the staff and children. We wish her all the very best and hope she will still be popping in to see us!

Congratulations to Mrs Ibbotson from Grindleford Primary School, who will be promoted to School Business Manager with responsibility for both schools. She brings many years of experience and will be a huge asset to the school. We are intending to recruit a second person to the team, to be based at Bamford. We are sure you will welcome both new team members!

If you are interested in the position at Bamford, please speak to Mrs Gemmell or Mrs Stoddart. It's a lovely but extremely busy job, no two days are the same! The vacancy is suitable for a person experienced in business processes. Alternatively, for someone with less experience but lots of enthusiasm, we can offer a School Business Officer Apprenticeship (Level 4). Regardless, you need to be organised, with a good sense of humour and a big warm coat!



Headteacher Newsletter – Spring 1 2026

Attendance

Advice Leaflet for Parents (Aug 2024) has been re-issued via DoJo. A copy can also be found on our website under Parents/Virtual School Office/Policies. Please read this before booking term time holidays.

Here is a link to the advice on attendance from Derbyshire County Council [School attendance - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Best Start Parent Hub

From pregnancy to childcare right through to starting school, get advice and support for your child's development. <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

Breakfast Club- Data Collection week

As you know school are in the pilot "Early Adopters" breakfast club scheme. We can offer all children FREE breakfast from 08:10.

AN IMPORTANT APPEAL – Government funding for Spring is based on attendance at Breakfast club for the week of **2nd-6th February**. As last term, we are appealing for as many as possible to attend Breakfast Club during this week! Please let Mrs Stoddart know if you are not a "regular" but would like to try Breakfast Club during this week.

After school Clubs

There are a few spaces remaining on afterschool clubs. Please message Mrs Stoddart if you would like to book.

Parent Pay

Your prompt payments are appreciated and help school to run smoothly. As always, if you are struggling to pay, please come and speak to Mrs Gemmell or Mrs Stoddart in strict confidence.

Sept 2026 intake

If you have a child who is due to start school in Sept 2026 applications are made via the Council website with a deadline of 15th January 2026. Please let friends, family and neighbours with little ones know too!

Kind regards,

Jen Chapman, Deputy Headteacher

Kate Gemmell, Executive Headteacher