**Dear pupils and parents,**

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families and a welcome back to our returning families. I thought that it would be very useful to bring you all up to speed on events that have been happening at school and about the plans for the half term. The children have settled back into school life very quickly and we are enjoying being fully open.

We continue to take advice from the director of Public Health England (PHE), the Government and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and constantly review our Risk Assessments accordingly: a cautious approach is being advised. With this in mind, some events that we normally schedule have been ‘tweaked’ due to COVID.

School trips have restarted and we have been able to resume our weekly Forest Schools (Class Oak), inter-school sporting events and tennis lessons (Class Willow).

**Covid Secure Schooling**

A questions and answers sheet has been produced which reflects the current advice. Hopefully, it should answer any questions that you may have about when your children can and cannot attend school. If your child needs to isolate, **but is clinically well**, they should **immediately switch to remote learning using your Teams login** and our website links. The Q&A will be posted the website and is included in this mailout.

Please don’t send your child to school if they have any of the symptoms of Covid until the symptoms have passed or you have undertaken a PCR test. Following the rules will keep our school disruptions to a minimum.

**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 19 months.

Our website contains our term dates and has a list of the agreed INSET dates. Please note that school has been given an additional extra ‘INSET/Holiday’ day. As this additional bank holiday for the Queen’s jubilee falls in our spring bank week, and following our parent and staff consultation at the end of last year, this extra holiday has now been set as Friday 22nd October 2021.

Furthermore, staff returned to work a day early this year and we moved this day to just before the official Christmas holiday – taking the 23rd December off instead of the 1st September 2021. This was to facilitate the resettling of children.

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 office or Mrs Gemmell.

**Online Safety – New for 2021**

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/bamford-primary-school>

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that **Bamford Primary School** have shown our commitment to protecting our pupils online by working with National Online Safety- providing resources for all parents and carers.

The resources include Parents & Carers courses (presented by Myleene Klass), online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Online Relationships * Fake Profiles & Social Bots * Online Bullying * Online Grooming * Child Sexual Exploitation * Sexual Harassment & Violence * Sexting * Live Streaming * Online Identity * Screen Addiction * Online Challenges * Overspending * Social Media Platforms | * Online Gambling * Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism * Age Inappropriate Content * Copyright & Ownership * Hacking * Fake News * Online Fraud * Online Reputation * Personal Data * Pornography * Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups * The Dark Web * Games & Trends |

To create your account, please follow **https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/bamford-primary-school** and complete your details. When you’re set up, you’ll be able to set ‘Parent/Carer’ as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via the NOS brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

Answers to frequently asked questions and customer service can be accessed at https://helpdesk.thenationalcollege.co.uk/helpcentre .

We hope that you will find this new resource helpful and we welcome feedback. Please do take a look and sign up. The parent information on popular games is very helpful!

**Staffing**

We have been very lucky again this year and have been allocated student teachers in 2021-2022. 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 Coulson and Mrs Chapman.

**Classes in 2021-2022**

The class structure for the year is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Class Oak | EYFS / Year 1 / Year 2 | Mrs Coulson  Miss Gartside  Additional TA support from Mrs Somerset, Miss H Knapp and Mrs Knapp |
| Class Ash | Year 3 / Year 4 | Mrs Chapman  Additional TA support Mrs Allen and Mrs Somerset |
| Class Willow | Year 5 / Year 6 | Mr Friend  Additional TA support Mrs Somerset, Mrs Knapp and Mrs Allen |

**PPA Cover**

PPA cover for the juniors will be provided by Mrs Bland (Sports) and Mrs Taylor and Mrs Allen(Music) for the junior pupils and for the infants by Mrs Gemmell (Year1 / Year2 science).

Mrs Axelby, Mrs Bland and Mrs Gemmell will continue to provide additional catch up support across the year groups, along with interventions led by our teaching assistants.

**Breakfast Club and After School Clubs**

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.

We anticipate that ‘After School Clubs’ will run fully this year and we are still hopeful that many of the restrictions will be reduced or limited. However, we are taking a cautious approach. Clubs offered are subject to numbers and availability and the prevailing COVID risk assessment.

**Medical Information**

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

**Accident Reporting – changes to our process**

Due to Data Protection, we have had to make changes to the way accidents are reported in school. If your child has an accident whilst under the care of School staff, whether a simple knee bump or a nasty head injury, the following process will take place:

* Your child will be given the necessary treatment.
* You will be called immediately if the injury requires it.
* The member of staff will fill in the accident slip in our new ‘duplicate books’ so we will also have a copy of the slip.
* The slip will be placed in your child's bag and a message will be put on Dojo to let you know they have a slip in their bag.
* We will endeavour to add a note to say if the incident was serious or not so you are not unduly worried.

All the teaching, teaching assistant and midday supervisors attend formal First Aid training which is renewed regularly as part of our commitment to safeguarding. Please be assured, you will be contacted by telephone if there is any urgent concern.

**Club Bookings**

Sign up for club bookings is via the links or Class DOJO. If you are struggling to access DOJO, please contact Jo Jewell via [info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk) .

**Pupil Update Forms (The blue forms!)**

We have almost completed our update of these important forms – which include medical update and contact information. If you have not yet returned yours (sent out last year in July) – please do so at your earliest convenience. We also ask that if there is a significant change of circumstances with your family arrangements, that you let us know in writing – sending to info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk.

**Feedback from Governor Questionnaire 2020-2021**

Unusually, we did not get a massive response to our Governor Questionnaire at the end of last year – perhaps life was busy! We have re-opened the survey and would be very grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete this survey if you haven’t already done so. The information is used to inform our strategic planning priorities.

Follow the link:

[**https://forms.office.com/r/cXLPEC5GxC**](https://forms.office.com/r/cXLPEC5GxC)

**This survey will close on the 25th September 2021 and the findings will be considered by our Full Governing Board on 29th September 2021**

**School Website**

We are currently updating our school website and are looking to upgrade this during the year. If anyone has particular skills in website design – or would like to get involved in helping us to redesign the site – please contact Mrs Gemmell.

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 2021-2022**

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 given the added ventilation seems sensible and we are happy for this to continue going forwards.

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!

We have decided to retain the **PE DRESS CODE on PE Days** during the next academic year. The children like it and it saves valuable curriculum time. So going forwards, we ask that you 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 - as we are often outside, this is advised for the spring / summer only
* shoes should be trainers or plimsolls – in black, navy or grey

**Communications**

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 651267 or via [info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto: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.

**Breakfast Club and After School Clubs**

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.

**School Times**

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

I 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 in difficult and demanding times.



Kate Gemmell

Headteacher

**Advice Re Self-Isolation and Covid19**

Please find a link here to the latest Government Guidance on Self-Isolation in England (April 2021)

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

**NOTE:** School will be closed to all pupils on **Friday 22nd October 2021. Updated term dates are now available on the website.**