



Headteacher Newsletter September 2026

Dear pupils and parents,

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and say welcome back to our returning children. We understand that starting school is a big step for everyone! The children have all returned from the summer holidays with great enthusiasm and it is lovely to hear all about their busy summers. We have lots of exciting learning planned over the coming weeks. Please check Dojo and the Class Newsletters for more information.

Diary Dates

Please see below dates and events planned for this half term.

Wednesday 16 th September	Class 1 Breedon Forest School
Wednesday 16 th September	Welcome Back Class Meetings (see details below)
Tuesday 22 nd September	KS2 Girls – This Girl Can – Longstone Primary School
Wednesday 23 rd September	Class 1 Breedon Forest School
Saturday 26 th September	Open Day 10am - 2pm
Tuesday 29 th September	Class 3 - Bikeability
Wednesday 30 th September	Class 1 Breedon Forest School
Tuesday 6 th October	Class 3 - Bikeability
Wednesday 7 th October	Class 1 Breedon Forest School
Wednesday 7 th October	Class 3 – Mini Soccer – Cavendish Fields
Wednesday 14 th October	Class 1 Breedon Forest School
Thursday 15 th October	A team from Y3 & Y4 – Football Festival – Anthony Gell
Wednesday 21 st October	Class 1 Breedon Forest School
Thursday 22 nd October	Harvest Festival – St Helens Church – All welcome – 2.30pm
Friday 23 rd October	Inset Day
Monday 2 nd November	First Day Back
Monday 2 nd November	Individual Photos
Monday 2 nd November	Class 3 Forest School

2026-2027 School Term Dates

4th September 2026 to 23rd October 2026

2nd November 2026 to 18th December 2026

4th January 2027 to 12th February 2027

22nd February 2027 to 25th March 2027

12th April 2027 to 28th May 2027 (Monday 3rd May 2027 is a bank holiday)

7th June 2027 to 26th July 2027 2026-2027

INSET Days (School Closed)

Friday 23rd October 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
Friday 28th May 2027
Monday 26th July 2027

Open Day – Saturday 26th September 2026 – 10am – 2pm

We are really excited to share details of our planned Open Day.

Please help us spread the word!

Potential parents and children are invited to look around our wonderful school where staff will be demonstrating some of the amazing activities that your children already enjoy. We would really appreciate any donations of baked or bought cakes/biscuits to be brought into school on Friday 25th September for us to provide refreshments during the event.



Mobile phones

Grindleford Primary is 'Phone Free'. Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices (such as tablets and smart watches) with them to school. However, we recognise that some pupils and their families may rely on mobile phones as a safety measure where children travel to and from school independently or when moving between dual homes. Where this is the case, pupils must ensure mobile phone is switched off and handed over to the class teacher on arrival to school. The mobile phone will be stored in a secure place and returned to the child at the end of the day. We request that you support us with this by sending a message informing us that your child has brought a phone in to school and by limiting the occasions mobile devices come into school as much as possible.

Welcome Back to Class Meetings

We are hosting a couple of 'Welcome Back to Class' meetings for all parents (new and established) to find out more information about how each classroom works and what the expectations are this year. We will cover: timetable of the day; homework; class expectations; the everyday running of the classroom and much more! We would love to see you all there, so we can kick start this year by working together.

Both of the meetings will be on Wednesday 16th September, following on from each other, to make it easier for parents with children in more than one class. Class One's meeting for parents of children in Early Years, Year One and Year Two will be at 3.15pm until 3.30pm and Class Two and Three are combined because they are both Key Stage Two classes, which will be at 3.30pm until 3.45pm.

The PowerPoints used in these meetings will be sent electronically, so if you cannot attend, do not worry as all the information covered will be sent to you after the meeting. However, where possible, we encourage attendance, as the session offers a valuable opportunity to connect with school and ask any questions directly.

New Sports Kit

A huge thank you to Chloe, our Chair of PTFA, organising the donation of this wonderful new school sport kit. The KS2 children were very excited to try it on and we can't wait to see them wearing it at the next sporting event.



School Information

Please ensure that you continue to tell us about any changes to medical needs for your children. You should also email the office with any changes to your contact details (e.g. email / phone numbers, addresses etc).

Allergy Safety in School

The new statutory guidance, Allergy Safety in School, came into effect from 1st September 2026.

We acknowledge that it is impractical to enforce an entirely allergen-free school. However, we are committed to reducing avoidable risks wherever possible. To support this, we would like to encourage pupils and staff to avoid certain high-risk foods that may increase the likelihood of a serious allergic reaction.

These foods include:

- Packaged nuts
- Cereal, granola or chocolate bars containing nuts
- Peanut butter or chocolate spreads containing nuts
- Peanut-based sauces, such as satay
- Sesame seeds and foods containing sesame seeds
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Your support in reinforcing these expectations at home will be greatly appreciated. By working together, we can help to promote a safer environment for pupils with allergies and improve awareness across the whole school community.

School Uniform

This is a polite reminder that we expect children to be dressed in full school uniform. Wearing a uniform unites us as a Grindleford family and the children enjoy showing that they belong to the school in this way. Many of the girls choose to wear leggings instead of tights with their skirts and shorts – which seems sensible and helps to protect knees. Please endeavour to keep these to plain colours (navy blue or black) rather than patterned or brightly coloured.

Please can you check that all items of clothing have your child's name in.

We are also really excited to share with you our first Grindleford hoodie, which is designed to be worn during those colder PE sessions. We think these look great and they match with the staff hoodies, which will unite us even more on school sporting events. If you would like to purchase one, they are available from Heatherhill Farm Embroidery [Grindleford School | Farm Embroidery](#).



Earrings

Please remember our earrings policy, that no earrings should be worn during any PE lesson. This is standard practice as set out by the Association for Physical Education Guidelines, 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.



Celebrating 150 years

To mark the official opening date of our school, 150 years ago, we are hosting a Victorian Christmas Market!

The market will be on Sunday 22nd November and we are very excited to share this event with our whole community.

We are therefore looking for anyone who may be able to help us to make this a successful event, hopefully becoming an annual tradition.

We are looking for people who may be able to help on the day, from serving drinks to running a craft activity or game. We are also looking for any local businesses who may be able to offer a raffle prize or would like to have a stall selling their produce.

We are opening this event to everyone, even if you are not directly involved with school so please share the message with family and friends!

Thank you so much for your support in making our school the amazing place it is!

Garden Works

You will have noticed that we have had a tidy up in the outdoor areas, mainly with the trees. Following our 5 yearly tree survey, two of the large trees were showing signs of ash dieback and the lower branches were overhanging the path and road. The work was completed during the summer holidays and was partly funded by the PTFA (thank you!). It was opened the garden up tremendously and the children are looking forward to starting a planting area.



PE Dress Code

On PE Days we are asking that children come into school in their PE kits. This saves valuable curriculum time when they can be enjoying more sports. If your child accesses one of the sporting after school clubs (football club or fitness club) please could they have an additional 'sporting type' t-shirt and shorts / leggings in school in a bag that they can change into.

School Attendance

The government has made it very clear that all children are expected to attend school full-time. 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 it hard to settle into class 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 at 8.40am and children are expected to be in school for 8.55am.

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office by phoning 01433 630528 or via beccy@grindleford.derbyshire.sch.uk This should happen before 8.30am. If your child is absent and we do not have a message, we are obliged to try to contact you by phone.

New Guidance on Screen Time

Over the Summer, the Government have delivered some guidance related to healthy screen time usage for children. The key messages:

- We should avoid screen time for under 2s.
- 2-5 year olds should be limited to 1 hour or less of screen time per day.
- Screen time should be purposeful and under the supervision of an adult.
- Although this is based on children 2-5 years old, it is important to consider the use of screen time for all children.

Please follow the link below to find out more information: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

Facebook



Please like, follow and share our Facebook page.

<https://facebook.com/61560770514176>

Sept 2027 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in Sept 2027 and you would like to visit then please contact the school office to book an appointment.

If you have friends or family with a child due to start school in Sept 2027, please let them know they are welcome to contact us to arrange a tour of our school.

Thank you all for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'KL Gemmell'.

Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)