



Headteacher Newsletter – Autumn 1 2026

Dear pupils and parents,

A very warm welcome to our new little ones and their families, we are really looking forward to getting to know you all. We understand that starting school is a big step for everyone! Please speak to us if you have any questions - we're happy to help. And a warm welcome back to everyone else! It's lovely to see you all and hear all about your busy summers and it's been wonderful to see the children return to school refreshed, happy, and ready for the new term ahead. We have lots of exciting learning planned over the coming weeks. Please check Dojo for up-to-date messages and class newsletters.

Dates for your diaries:

Monday 14th September	Swimming lessons start for Ash Clas
Friday 18th September	Forest School for Reception & Year 1 Class starts
Thursday 24th September	Library Van for Ash and Willow Class
Tuesday 20th October	Bikeability L1 Y6 – more information to follow
Thursday 22nd October	Harvest Festival 2.00pm in Church
Thursday 22nd October	Last Day of Half Term (No After- School Clubs)
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day
WC 16th November	Parent Evenings – times and dates to follow
Wednesday 16th December	09:30 and 18:00 Nativity & Carol Service in the church

Staffing Update

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news that our Deputy Headteacher, Jen Chapman, will be leaving us at the end of December. She is moving to a larger Derbyshire Primary School closer to her home to take up a non-teaching Deputy Headteacher role.

Jen has been a valued member of Team Bamford since 2015, and during this time she has worked across most year groups. Jen has made a significant contribution to our school community, demonstrating unwavering commitment to our pupils, staff and families. Her dedication, leadership and passion for education have helped shape many aspects of school life, and she will be greatly missed by both staff and the children. We would like to thank Jen for her outstanding service and wish her every success in the next chapter of her career.

Following this announcement, we want to reassure you that we are actively recruiting a new team member and will share further information with families once this process has been completed.

We will also bid farewell and 'happy retirement' to Sarah Knapp at the end of October 2026. Sarah has been a member of our team for over 20 years, starting a parent volunteer when Miss Knapp started in Reception! Sarah has always been willing to go the extra mile for the children at school, and she will be greatly missed by everyone. We hope she enjoys her well-earned retirement, and we hope she pops back in to say hello often.

Home-School Agreement

Following our Home–School Agreement really helps us all pull in the same direction for your child. It's simply a way of making sure we're all clear on the routines, expectations and values that help children feel settled, supported and ready to learn. When home and school work together, everything runs smoothly – behaviour is more consistent, communication is easier, and children get the message that we're all cheering them on. This Agreement is on the **Whole School Class** Page of Dojo for you to read through. Thank you for taking the time to read and follow the agreement, it genuinely makes a big difference to your child's day-to-day experience in school. As always, we really appreciate your support and partnership. Once you have read it, please complete the form using a link provided on the Class Dojo post. The class teachers will also discuss this in class with the children, and it would be really helpful if you can chat to them at home to reinforce what is expected.

Mobile phones

Bamford Primary continues to be '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



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that some pupils and their families may rely on mobile phones as a safety measure where children have specific medical needs or 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 dojo message to class teachers informing them that your child has brought a phone in to school and by limiting the occasions mobile devices come into school as much as possible.

Attendance

It is a safeguarding requirement that every child is accounted for every day. If your child is poorly or not attending school, please call school on 01433 651267 and leave a message before 9am. The Government has very strict guidance on attendance including rules about holidays during term time. If you can, please take advantage of INSET days to book holidays rather than remove your child from school days. If you are seeking exceptional permission for term-time leave, you should complete a request as early as possible and attach supporting evidence. This form is available on the school website or from the office.

PTFA News – Get Involved!

Our Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) plays an important role in supporting our school community. The PTFA brings parents, carers, staff and friends together to organise events, raise funds and provide those extra opportunities and resources that enrich our children's school experience. We are now looking ahead to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, when we will be looking for new volunteers to take on the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. These are fantastic opportunities to get involved, make a real difference to school life and help shape the PTFA's future. You don't need previous experience – just enthusiasm, a little time and a willingness to get involved. If you would like to find out more about any of these roles, please speak to the school office or a member of the PTFA.

If you're wondering if a role might suit you, have a look at what's actually involved:

Chair – recruits volunteers for the always delightful Halloween Disco, Spring Disco, Spring Fair and Ice-cream Fridays. You hold a couple of meetings with votes on how to spend funds.

Treasurer – You can stay behind the scenes if you prefer. You prepare floats and count up money. You do admin and keep records of income and expenditure. You talk to teachers about what money the school needs.

Secretary – You take minutes at a couple of meetings a year. You can also apply for grants but this is optional. You give friendly moral support to the Chair and Treasurer, when they are making decisions about events.

Other really helpful ways to get involved without holding an office:

- Organise garden tidy-ups
- Choose one event to lead
- Help with pre-loved uniform sales

Remember that previous post-holders are all on hand for at least a year to give as much support and information as you need.

Earrings

Our policy of jewellery in school states that children should not be wearing ANY jewellery in school at any time except for small stud earrings. In PE lessons, we have adopted the **Association for Physical Education guidelines** which state that **earrings should be removed for all PE lessons**. Please support us with this by removing earrings on PE days.

Nut Allergies

We have a confirmed allergies in school. We would like to remind you that we aim to be a nut-free school. Please refrain from sending any nut products into school. This includes peanut butter, chocolate spread, and cereal bars.

Online Safety

If you have any concerns about your child's online safety The Peak Federation Online lead is Mrs Gemmell. She can be contacted directly by email at headteacher@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk. We also have membership of the National College which provides important information and we do have an area on our website which also has useful information and signposting for parents.



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Ofsted

We are still waiting for our Ofsted Report following our recent full school inspection at the end of last year. This is normal! They do not send the reports (draft) out during the summer holidays as they are responding to the need for all schools to have a break over the summer period.

You will notice that Ofsted inspection outcomes look different now as a new inspection framework was introduced in January 2026. Rather than giving schools a single overall judgement such as *Outstanding*, *Good*, *Requires Improvement* or *Inadequate*, Ofsted now evaluates a range of areas separately and reports these using a five-point scale: **Exceptional**, **Strong Standard**, **Expected Standard**, **Needs Attention** and **Urgent Improvement**. The new approach is designed to provide parents with a more detailed picture of a school's strengths and areas for development, including areas such as achievement, attendance and behaviour, personal development, leadership and inclusion. It is important to understand that an Expected Standard judgement is a positive outcome and indicates that a school is meeting the high standards Ofsted expects for all pupils.

We will share our report with you as soon as we have received it. The team would like to thank parents and pupils for your positive input and support during the inspection. It was particularly difficult on the children during the last full week of term and in the heat. They were fantastic and we were very proud of them all.

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

Kind regards,

Jen Chapman, Deputy Headteacher and Kate Gemmell, Executive Headteacher