

Headteacher Newsletter September 2024

Dear pupils and parents,

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and say welcome back to our returning children. The children have all returned from the summer holidays with great enthusiasm and have settled into their new year groups and classes. At the start of term we welcomed our new Reception children and a number of in year transfer pupils all of whom have had an amazing start at Grindleford.

School Attendance

The government has made it very clear that all children are expected to attend school full-time. Please see the letter sent out separately outlining the DfE's new guidance and amended laws. Schools are obliged to implement this policy. 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 this very embarrassing 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@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.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. This is very time consuming and it is really helpful if we know by the start of the day.

Behaviour

We have refreshed our whole school Behaviour Policy and will share this with parents very soon. Grindleford have adopted the following School rules:

- 1- We listen carefully
- 2- We follow instructions
- 3- We are kind to others
- 4- We respect people, places and things.

The pupils have focused on learning these new rules this week and they will continue to be included in our daily assemblies over the next half term.

Diary Dates

Please see below dates and events planned for this academic year.

Thursday 12th September	Swimming (Y3, Y4, Y5 + Y6*)
Monday 16th September	Forest School - Breedon Site - Rec & Year 1
Wednesday 18th September	Welcome to Class 1 Meeting - 3.30-4.00pm Welcome to Class 2 and 3 Meeting: 4.00 - 4.30pm
Thursday 19th September	Swimming (Y3, Y4, Y5 + Y6*)
Monday 23rd September	Forest School - Breedon Site - Rec & Year 1
Thursday 26th September	Swimming (Y3, Y4, Y5 + Y6*)
Thursday 26th September	Y5 & Y6 Mini Soccer HVC
Wednesday 2nd October	Severn Trent Assembly & Workshop
Thursday 3rd October	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Year 2 and Year 6
Thursday 10th October	Cross Country Y3 - Y6 (optional)

Monday 14th October	Bikeability Year 6 - Playground Session
Monday 14th October	Forest School - Breedon Site - Rec & Year 1
Tuesday 15th October	Bikeability Year 6 - Road Session (Half of the year group)
Wednesday 16th October	Bikeability Year 6 - Road Session (Half of the year group)
Thursday 17th October	Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby HVC
Monday 21st October	Forest School - Breedon Site - Rec & Year 1
Wednesday 23rd October	Spooky Walk and Disco
Thursday 24th October	Last Day of term

Future Inset Days

- Friday 25th October 2024
- Friday 14th February 2025
- Friday 23rd May 2025
- Thursday 24th July 2025

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 18th 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 3.30pm until 4pm and Class Two and Three are combined because they are both Key Stage Two classes, which will be at 4pm until 4.30pm. 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.

School Updates

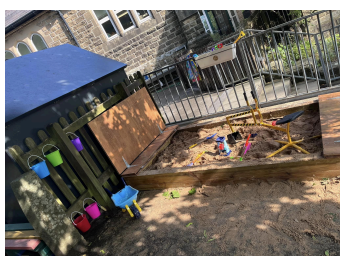


At the end of last term we had a brand new mud kitchen fitted with a new all weather base. This has been extended over the holidays so that the children have a large work surface to make and mix their muddy creations.

A huge thank you to the PTA purchasing the kitchen!



During the summer holiday Helen Weston our wonderful cleaner decorated the porch area and has transformed it to a bright and welcoming space. She has also painted doors and woodwork through the school. Thank you so much Helen!



Over the summer break, Mrs Crease, her father and husband have been busy constructing a new sandpit and stage area in Class One's outdoor area. The children have already put them to good use and it has been fantastic to see them using it to enhance their learning. Thank you to PTA for funding this project.

Watch this space, as the outdoor classroom will be

developed further this academic year!



We have also had some exciting developments on our playground. During break times, the playground is set up in zones, so that children can access different resources. We now have an art area, a free space, a reading corner and a construction zone, as well as the usual football and basketball areas. The children are really enjoying exploring the equipment we have on offer. Again, keep an eye out for changes as this project develops over time.

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).

School Uniform 2023-2024

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 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.

Please note that you are able to purchase non-branded items in place of the branded items. Items which include our School Logo can be ordered directly on our personalised page on the Gogna's Schoolwear website [Grindleford Primary School / Uniform / Gogna](#).

Earrings

Please remember our earrings policy, that no earrings should be worn during any PE lesson. This is standard practice, 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.

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.

PE days are:

Class 1 Wednesday

Class 2 Tuesday and Friday

Class 3 Tuesday and Friday

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 / light blue round neck t-shirt (we would prefer a school logo on the t-shirt, especially for sporting events off-site but it is not a requirement)
- navy or black shorts - spring / summer only
- trainers or plimsolls - ideally in black, navy or grey

Houses

Houses are back this year! The children and staff are excited to reintroduce a way of working across school as a team. All children have been split into houses and we have taken into consideration an even split of age groups in each house, as well as keeping families together. Your child may have been in a hurry to report back which house they are in but if you are in doubt, please ask the class teacher or the school office.

The three houses we have introduced are: **Fitzherbert (red team)**, **Padley (blue team)** and **Eyre (yellow team)**. These are all local historical names linked to Grindleford's past. We are looking forward to teaching the children about the house names through our local history lessons, as well as encouraging teamwork across the school.

Fitzherbert



Eyre



Padley



Healthy Schools

Please send your child to school with a bottle of water (no juice please). Keeping hydrated is shown to have a positive effect on learning. All children in Class 1 are offered fruit snack for break times.

For those who prefer to bring their own snack, please keep it healthy. No sweets, crisps or chocolate please.

Facebook



At the end of the last academic year, we set up a new Facebook page for Grindleford Primary School. Generic photos of exciting events and activities will be posted. Please like and follow the page, as well as encouraging current or prospective parents to do so. Thank you!

<https://facebook.com/61560770514176>

Young Voices - January 2025 - REMINDER

We have only had 2 children confirm that they would like to attend the concert. If your child would like to attend please inform the office as soon as possible or we will have to cancel the booking.

We are excited to share that we are registered to take part in the Young Voices concert in Sheffield on Wednesday 8th January 2025. The children will get the opportunity to be part of the largest School Choir in the World. The children will spend the afternoon rehearsing and then perform in the evening. Parents / carers will have the opportunity to purchase tickets and enjoy the show. The children will be transported to the venue by coach with staff members but will need to be collected from the venue after the performance.

Young Voices is open to children in **Year 4, 5 and 6**. The Singing After School Club on Tuesdays will include practising and learning of the songs. The details of the club are below. Please confirm if your child would like to attend the Young Voices concert by emailing the office beccy@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk as we need to submit our numbers to secure our place.

Sept 2025 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in Sept 2025 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 2025, please let them know they are welcome to contact us to arrange a tour of our school.

Thank you all for your continued support,

KLGemmell

Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)