



## Headteacher Newsletter March 2025

**Dear pupils and parents,**

We hope that you had a lovely relaxing half term break. We are looking forward to some sunshine and some exciting events and activities as we head into Spring.

Here is a reminder of the upcoming events:

### Diary Dates

Monday 3rd March	Reception, Year 1 Forest School
Wednesday 5th March	Class 3 Art Session - please bring in small plastic objects, lids, broken toys.
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Monday 10th - Friday 14th March	Science Week
Monday 10th March	Reception, Year 1 Forest School
Thursday 13th March	Helen Rutter Author Visit to Class 2 & 3
Thursday 13th March	Class 3 Hockey Hope Valley College
Saturday 15th March	Grindleford Gallop
Monday 17th March	Parents Evening Week
Monday 17th March	Reception, Year 1 Forest School
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day
Monday 24th March	Reception, Year 1 Forest School
Monday 31st March	Reception, Year 1 Forest School
Wednesday 2nd April	Easter Extravaganza
Friday 4th April	Last Day of Term
Monday 21st April	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22nd April	First Day of Term

Inset days • Fri 14th Feb 2025 • Fri 23rd May 2025 • Thurs 24th July 2025

## **Advance notice of Inset Dates 2025 - 2026**

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Thursday 21st May 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

## **The Gallop Saturday 15th March**

The Gallop is only a few weeks away, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March and we need bakers.

We're asking bakers to pledge traybakes. We need pledges for 1200 slices of cake, so if you could make just 24 pieces of traybakes per family that would get us over the line. Please could the traybakes be brought into school on Thursday 13th or first thing on Friday 14th March (individually wrapped) so that they can be sorted.

\*\*\*\* As we need to plan for numbers, please can you reply via the Google form below, to let us know how many slices you will be able to bake – thank you! \*\*\*\*

<https://forms.gle/Gh754f7J1KMHL8VA>

## **World Book Day - Thursday 6th March**

We are excited to be taking part in World Book Day again this year - it is always a firm favourite with both staff and pupils! As it is tradition, we would like pupils to dress up as their favourite book character but with reusing and recycling being important messages, we are looking for those themes to come through in the costumes. We are also inviting parents to join their child from 8.40am until 9.10am on a hunt around school, naming the books they can see presented in displays. As well as this, there will be lots of book related discussions and activities taking place throughout the day. We will also present each child with their chosen World Book Day book, which they will bring home to share with you.

## **Author Visit - Thursday 13th March**

It has been confirmed that Helen Rutter, a local author, will be joining Class 2 and Class 3 on Thursday 13th March. Helen has visited us before and the children were very fond of her discussion, so we can't wait to share this experience with them again. She will be carrying out book signings at the end of the visit, so if you wish for your child to bring one of Helen's books to sign, then this will be an opportunity available to them

## Science Week 10th - 14th March

This year's Science week theme is 'Change and Adapt'. See below the details of the exciting things that are planned.

Monday 10th March  
Visit from STEM ambassador Mark Hayes!  
Mark is a metallurgist and will be coming in to do a workshop with each class. He will be exploring the science week theme of 'change and adapt' with metals as a focus!  
We will be continuing our learning from these sessions throughout the week

# British Science Week 10th - 14th March 'Change and Adapt!'

Tuesday 11th March  
The children will move around the school in small groups to take part in some fun science investigations inspired by the science week theme. It will be an opportunity for them to learn, explore and investigate as a team!

STEM ROLES IN OUR COMMUNITY  
We will be joined by a few parents who work in STEM roles throughout the week. They have kindly volunteered to come in and talk to the children about their job to widen the children's views about STEM jobs!

SCIENCE FARM LIVE  
The National Farming Union is holding live events throughout the week all linked to change and adaptation.  
Each class will be participating in the live lessons and will be completing activities and an investigation linked to their learning.

## Red Nose Day

We are taking part in Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March by asking staff and pupils to come dressed in red and donating £1 to raise money. We are also hosting 'Grindleford's Got Talent', where children can showcase a talent to their peers to raise a cheer and make their friends smile. Children can perform a dance, song, tell a joke or show a skill - please can you send a message to Mrs Crease on [mrscrease@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:mrscrease@grindlefordprimaryschool.co.uk), stating what your child would like to showcase and the backing track (if needed).

## Art Project



A little sneak preview of the amazing artwork that is being created during local artist Jordanna Farrimond's visits. Both Class 1 and Class 2 have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions.

Class 3 will be finishing the artwork during their session next week.

We can't wait to share the finished piece.

### **Easter “Eggstravaganza”**

Our hugely popular Easter Egg decorating competition and Easter Egg Hunt will be held Wednesday 2nd April.

All children are invited to enter the Easter Egg Competition and entries need to be brought into school on the morning of Wednesday 27th March. There will be a yummy treat for everyone who enters and a winning prize for each Class. Entry is £1.00 per child entering.

You need to decorate an egg (this can be a wooden, paper mache, hard-boiled, blown or any other children’s own created egg design) in whatever way / theme they wish! We usually have a variety of artistic, modern and funny entries.

**Maximum size of design to be a shoe box size.**

*Judges tip: try to make it as much of the children’s work as possible*

We are inviting parents / grandparents / siblings into school from 2.45pm to view the amazing creations and enjoy a hot cross bun and drink.

### **Bags2School Collection**

Our next Bag2School collection has been arranged for Tuesday 29th April 2025. Not only is this a fundraising opportunity but also brings a number of environmental benefits. It saves water, materials and energy compared to creating new clothes. It also keeps clothes out of landfill sites and incinerators.

So if you are having a clear out then please think of bringing your items to us! Bags will be coming home in March and please ask if you need anymore.

You can include clothes, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves and ties, bras, jewellery, socks and belts. Please NO duvets, blankets, pillows, cushions, rugs, soiled or ripped clothing or school uniforms.

### **Attendance**

Pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Statistics show that children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

School is obliged to fine parents who take term time holidays totalling more than 5 days in a rolling 10-week period. Derbyshire County Council will not issue more than 2 fines in a 3-year period. Once the threshold is reached, the council will consider moving straight to prosecution. Please contact Mrs Gemmell or Mrs Crease in confidence for any help.

## Facebook



Please do like and follow our Facebook page for Grindleford Primary School. Generic photos of exciting events and activities will be posted. Thank you!

<https://facebook.com/61560770514176>

Thank you all for your continued support,

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

Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)