



Headteacher Newsletter February 2026

Dear pupils and parents,

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed some well-earned family time. It's been wonderful to see the children return to school refreshed, happy, and ready for the new half term ahead. We have lots of exciting learning planned over the coming weeks.

Diary Dates

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

Monday 23 rd February	Class 2 Forest School
Monday 2 nd March	Class 2 Forest School
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
w/c Monday 9 th March	Parents Evening Week
Monday 9 th March	Class 2 Forest School
Thursday 12 th March	Class 2 & 3 Hockey Festival HVC
Saturday 14 th March	Grindleford Gallop
w/c Monday 16 th March	Science Week
Monday 16 th March	Class 2 Forest School
Thursday 19 th March	Class 2 & 3 Netball HVC
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 23 rd March	Class 2 Forest School
Wednesday 25 th March	Easter Extravaganza
Friday 27 th March	Last Day of Term
Monday 13 th April	First Day of Term
Monday 13 th April	Class 1 Forest School

Future Inset Days

- Thursday 21st May 2026
- Friday 22nd May 2026

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 dojo message or email to Mrs Ibbotson informing her that your child has brought a phone in to school and by limiting the occasions mobile devices come into school as much as possible.

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 schoolwork together, everything runs more smoothly – behaviour is more consistent, communication is easier, and children get the message that we’re all cheering them on. Thank you for taking the time to read and follow the agreement which will be sent home this week — 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 this form [Grindleford Primary School Home School Agreement – Fill in form](#)

Online Safety

If you have any concerns about your child’s online safety The Peak Federation lead is Mrs Gemmell she can be contacted directly by email at kgemmell@grindleford.derbyshire.sch.uk

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 4th September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 12th February 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Monday 26th July 2027

World Book Day - Thursday 5th 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. Please do not buy anything special. There are many characters in books that are in regular children's clothes.

We are inviting parents to join their child from 8.40am until 9am on a hunt around school, naming the books they can see presented in displays.

Throughout the day there will be lots of book related discussions and activities and school council will be putting character silhouettes outside for the children to guess who they are. They will also be bringing hot chocolate round for the children to drink whilst listening to a story.

At the end of the day each child will be presented with their chosen World Book Day book, which they will bring home to share with you.

Easter “Eggstravaganza”

Our hugely popular Easter Egg decorating competition and Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Wednesday 25th March.

All children are invited to enter the Easter Egg Competition and entries need to be brought into school on the morning of Wednesday 25th March. There will be a token prize for everyone who

enters and a winning chocolate Easter Egg 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.

Please note that the 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

In the afternoon we will hold our Easter egg hunt. Children hunt for up to 3 egg pictures which they can exchange for a small chocolate prize. The hunt is then on for the Golden Ticket. The person who finds this will win a chocolate Easter Egg.

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

Music Lessons

We are very lucky to welcome both Tom Owen and Chris Burge into school who are peripatetic music teachers who offer lessons on the piano, clarinet and brass instruments.

If your child would be interested in learning any of these instruments, then please contact Mrs Ibbotson who can provide you with their details for more information.

Easyfundraising

Did you know that we are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/grindlefordprimaryschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n1

Facebook



Please like and follow our Facebook page, as well as encouraging current or prospective parents to do so. Thank you!

<https://facebook.com/61560770514176>

Thank you all for your continued support,

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

Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)