



Headteacher Newsletter October 2026

Dear pupils and parents,

It is hard to believe how quickly the first half term has gone. Next term is a busy one with the lead up to Christmas so please keep a close eye on Dojo / emails for regular updates.

Diary Dates

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

Monday 2 nd November	First Day
Monday 2 nd November	Individual Photos
Monday 2 nd November	Class 3 – Breedon Forest School
Monday 9 th November	Class 3 – Breedon Forest School
Friday 13 th November	Children In Need
W/C Monday 16 th November	Parents Evening Week
W/C Monday 16 th November	Anti- Bullying Week
Monday 16 th November	Class 3 – Breedon Forest School
Tuesday 17 th November	Class 2 & 3 Football Event HVC
Wednesday 18 th November	Flu Immunisation
Wednesday 18 th November	Class 2 & 3 – Local Carol Singing Workshop
Thursday 19 th November	Class 3 – trip to Manchester
Sunday 22 nd November	Christmas Market 2-5pm
Monday 23 rd November	Class 3 – Breedon Forest School
Tuesday 24 th November	Class 1 – Sports Festival – Anthony Gell
Monday 30 th November	Class 3 – Breedon Forest School
Wednesday 2 nd December	Christmas Craft Afternoon
Thursday 3 rd December	Class 2 & 3 Carol singing at the Pavilion
Monday 7 th December	Class 3 – Breedon Forest school
Tuesday 8 th December	Pantomime trip - Buxton
Wednesday 9 th December	Secret Santa
Monday 14 th December	Class 3 – Breedon Forest school
Tuesday 15 th December	Dress Rehearsal – Nativity & Carol Concert
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner and Party Day
Thursday 17 th December	Nativity and Carol Concert 2pm in St Helen's Church
Friday 18 th December	Last Day
Monday 4 th January	First Day Back

Future Inset Days

- ☐ Friday 12th February 2027
- ☐ Friday 28th May 2027

Christmas Market – Sunday 22nd November 2-5pm

We are delighted to invite you, your families and friends to our Christmas Market on Sunday 22nd November 2026, from 2pm-5pm. Come along and enjoy a friendly afternoon as we begin the festive season together. Please help spread the word, whether you can help post on social media, put up some posters locally or drop off leaflets, your help would be really valued.

There will be plenty to see and do, including:

- Christmas Craft and Gift Stalls
- Refreshments and Homemade Treats
- Visit from Santa between 2-3pm
- Children's Activities

Whether you are looking for thoughtful Christmas gifts, hoping to enjoy a delicious treat, or simply wanting to spend time with people from our village, we would love to welcome you. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a cheerful afternoon for everyone.

If anyone could give an hour or so to help serve refreshments, it would be really appreciated. We are also collecting bottles of wine for a game, so any donations of wine would be gratefully received.



Christmas Raffle Tickets

Each child has been sent home with two books of raffle tickets. These tickets are for our Christmas Market Raffle, which includes some amazing prizes. We would really appreciate your support in selling as many tickets as possible to family, friends and neighbours.

The tickets are £1.00 each, and there are some fantastic prizes to be won, including:

- A family pass to Thornbridge
- Afternoon Tea at The Merchants Yard
- A £50.00 voucher for The Maynard
- A Lego advent calendar
- Two tickets for a league game at Sheffield Wednesday

- A luxury hamper
- Flowers
- Two tickets for a league game at Buxton FC
- Two family swim tickets to Hathersage Swimming Pool
- Toll Bar Fish and Chip Voucher

And many more exciting prizes!

Every ticket sold will go towards paying for school trips, events, new resources and equipment for the children.

Please could all raffle tickets be returned to school by Monday 16th November (or sooner 😊). Payment for any tickets sold can be made into the School Account, or cash can be given in at the school office.

If you would like any more tickets to sell, please let Mrs Ibbotson know, as there are more available.

Thank you so much for your support. Every ticket sold will help to make our Christmas Market raffle a success!

Year 6 Booster Clubs

A reminder to all Year 6 parents / carers that booster sessions are taking place every Monday and Thursday starting at 8.15am. We encourage all Year 6 pupils to attend these sessions, as they provide an excellent opportunity to reinforce learning and boost confidence.

Christmas Crafts – Wednesday 2nd December

We are excited to once again be holding a Christmas Craft afternoon. Parents will be welcomed into school to help staff run activities in their child's classroom. One of the activities that worked well last year was wreath making, so if you have any unused small Christmas decorations (baubles, berries etc) then we would welcome any donations. Also, we will be asking for foliage closer to the time, so hold off pruning those hedges until December!

Panto Trip 2026 – Tuesday 8th December

We are pleased and excited to confirm that the whole school will be attending Buxton Opera House on Tuesday 8th December to enjoy the pantomime Sleeping Beauty. We are attending the morning performance which starts at 10am. A form will be set out in due course to give consent for your child to attend. A massive thank you to PTFA who are fully supporting this trip.

Secret Santa 2026 – Wednesday 9th December

HO HO HO! Secret Santa is back! It is tradition that Grindleford Primary School hosts a Secret Santa workshop, where children can purchase a gift for their parents and wrap it at school. This means they have something to give their parents on Christmas Day, that they have selected themselves without having to awkwardly ask you to buy. It is always a huge success and we can't wait to share this activity with the children. All we ask is that each child donates an item or two to our Secret Santa Workshop, so that we have enough gifts for children to select from. This could be a toiletry set, a scarf, chocolates or anything else in between. These items need sending into school by Tuesday 1st December and on Wednesday 9th December, children can bring a pound per gift to purchase an item from the workshop.

Christmas Dinner and Party Day – Wednesday 16th December

Wednesday 16th December, is our Christmas Dinner and Party Day. This is open to all children. A form for Packed lunch children to opt in or for those on school meals to opt out will be sent out nearer the 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).

Online Safety

Online safety is becoming more and more relevant in today's technology advancing world and our school curriculum embeds key messages to keep our pupils safe online. However, it is important to keep all our community safe by sharing up-to-date information with parents too.

Each half term, we will share some online safety advice to think about, as part of our duty to safeguard.

SMART Rules for primary aged children:

S Safe: Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too.

M Meet: Do not meet up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, as they are still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/ videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A Accepting: Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) and do not accept something if you are unsure who the person is or what they've sent you.

R Reliable: You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. Always compare 3 websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you find online.

T Tell: Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. You could talk to a teacher, parent, carer or a helpline like **Childline 0800 11 11**.

Heart: Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

Taken from: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online/>

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>

September 2027 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in September 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,



Kate Gemmell (Executive Headteacher)