



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Spring Term
8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all managing alright. This has been a real emotional roller coaster over the last two weeks. How life can change so quickly. But here we are again at lock down school. I want to thank both you and the staff for the speed with which everyone has got on- line learning back up and running. It really has been a huge effort on everyone's part.

Critical Worker Places

I know we are all juggling everything again but I do want to start by just explaining a little about those children who are able to be in school. It remains the case that the safest place for you, your children and my staff is at home. Our priority as a school is to minimise opportunities for transmission by limiting the number of children in school. You may have seen that Sadiq Khan has just declared London to be in a COVID emergency. The infection rate in Lewisham is currently 1 in 30 and increasing at an alarming rate, Lewisham hospital is almost overwhelmed. My first and most important criteria for children who need to attend school are for those parents and carers who are working on the front line, within either the NHS, the science supporting the NHS, care homes and children of those in the teaching profession. If we can't provide support for those families, then the whole structure crumbles. We are currently in a position where we are at full capacity with what is as safe as we can make it and be able to provide a full on line provision. I am constantly receiving requests for places and cannot fulfil the requirements of every one. I am therefore asking you to really take an honest look at your situation and if you can't truly say you are both (in a two parent family, or one in a single household) Critical Workers then your child needs to remain at home. I know you will support me with this. To keep school going the teaching and support staff need to be healthy then we can care for the children who really need to be in. For those in school that have sent me proof of eligibility thank you. If I have not yet received it yet, please send it ASAP. Thank you for your support with this.

On- Line Learning

In terms of on line learning I hope the addition of the zoom meetings is helping you. I think it really helps with the routine of getting up, having breakfast and being ready for the virtual school day. But please do not put yourselves under too much pressure. The morning zoom is to set the scene for the day. The afternoon one is just if you need it. I do know for some of you with a number of children this could be upwards of 6 zooms a day. Please settle into a routine that works for your family and your situation. Please do remind your children though, particularly the older ones, we can see their chat on Itslearning, they really need to use this function to communicate with their teacher and not let that chat get over run with silliness. WE CAN SEE IT!

Pear Class

As many of you know poor Ms McCue is not very well at the moment. Mrs Davies has joined us to cover Pear Class. We are having huge technical difficulties getting Mrs Davies on to LGFL and so she can't currently get your emails. If you need to communicate with Mrs Davies please email the teachers within the year group, the office or, failing that, me. We are trying to get this sorted ASAP.

Parent Reps

We are trying to get as many parents onto class whatsapp groups as possible so you can all support each other. If you are the class rep please email your teachers with your details so they can share that with the class. Thank you.

Mobile Data

We have managed to give out lots of devices. I know that only helps where you have wifi, so we are really busy trying to source some mobile data to give to families without wifi. I have applied to the government and Vodafone so hopefully some is on its way. If anyone is expert in this area and can advise me, please contact me. Thank you.

Free School Meals

I am delighted to say, and rightly so, the government are re-instating the voucher scheme for our families in receipt of free school meals. As soon as the system goes live we will let you know. In the meantime, please don't forget about our brilliant food bank, I can also obtain e vouchers for our local food banks. I have a small amount of money left in our emergency fund if you need help prior to the vouchers. If you have become eligible for free school meals, please apply asap via the Lewisham website. I know it was a very strange week for all of us last week but our food bank is still in need of donations. If you are able to donate anything please either drop inside the school gate or to the church hall. Thank you.

Reception 2021

Please remember the closing date for applications for Reception places for September 2021 is fast approaching. I believe it is January 15th. If you haven't applied yet please go on line to eadmissions as soon as you can. If you need support with the application please let us know.

Little Bridge

Little Bridge is our on line support for pupils with English as an additional language. Ms Vidal has been working with them this week as they have changed our access to this programme. I think it means it no longer works with Adobe Flash. She is busy sorting it out and will be in contact with you very shortly.

Community support

This is the section of the newsletter where I share things on offer in the community. So if you hear of anything please let me know. I know the Q Bar in Beckenham is offering take out lunches to those in need. I know that next week the Literary Trust are launching lots of free books available via Oak Academy. Jacqueline Wilson is launching it I believe. The BBC are embarking on their biggest education programme with KS 1 and 2 activities on CBBC and KS 3 and 4 activities on BBC2.

Finally

I think that is all from me for now. Below is a message from each year group about their learning this week.

Please be kind to each other, yourselves and to us. We are all doing our very best to keep things going but many of us are experiencing this virus ourselves, within our families, or are shielding. My Dad always used to say 'Be kind, nobody knows what someone is dealing with on the inside'. A good sentence to hold on to I feel. Stay safe and well.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Zakiyah and Giovanni, who are 11 and 9 today. Earlier in the week we had: Rosa, Fleur and Phoenix, 5. Sebastian, Ava, and Samuel, 6. Tais was 7, Ajaay, Sophia and Aiden 9. Nisar and Kyle were both 10, Theodore and Khaliq were 11. I hope you all enjoyed your special day.

Nursery

Our home learning this week has been based around Goldilocks and the Three Bears and has included writing letters to Baby Bear, learning the Goldilocks song and making cardboard tube bears. We also had a fun Zoom singing session today.

Reception

We have been ordering numbers and looking at capital and lower case letters. And lots of football in the garden.

Year 1

We have read the story Little Red Riding Hood and have been re-telling using finger puppets and other art work we have created at home. We have been using adjectives to describe ourselves and the people we live with and then used the characters in the story to write a descriptive sentence about them.

In Maths, we revised the whole part model to add and have been using a ten frame and a number line to carry out number sentences. Some of us even had a go at writing our own number stories.

We have shared our learning over zoom and played a few games too! The children even helped Mrs Partleton to be transported to the beach!

Year 2

We have been writing New Year's resolutions and revising addition and subtraction. We have also been drawing Kandinsky Circles with the aim of making them into a magic carpet of swirls.

Year 3

This week, we have been thinking about New Years resolutions. During our zoom session we shared our ideas of what a resolution is and what ours could be. In Maths, the children have been learning to divide. The children have enjoyed participating in the activity during our group sessions.

In our afternoon zooms, it's been fantastic to have so many children who want to share their learning. We are very proud of how hard year 3 are working - well done!

It's been lovely to see the children's work, please keep emailing it to your child's teacher.

Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have been reading the Krindlekrax and the children have drawn detailed pictures of the characters from the descriptions in the book and answered comprehension questions. Lots of children have also created beautifully designed 2021 Calendars for their bedrooms at home._

Year 5

We have introduced our topic on the rainforest. The children have enjoyed sharing facts and reading out their similes and metaphors about the rainforest during zoom meetings. We have some budding artists. Children shared their drawings of a red-eyed tree frog. In maths we have been learning about area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes._

Year 6

Year 6 have had great participation in Zoom sessions. We are focusing on decimals in maths and the children have been learning about the life of Charles Darwin and made presentations, leaflets or fact files. For our Evolution and Inheritance topic, the children have identified ways in which animals have adapted to suit their environment. On Thursday we enjoyed a street dance/bhangra dance fusion session. It was great to see everybody up and moving - even on Zoom!_

