



SANDHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Spring Term update from Sandhurst Primary School Governing Board

Hello again, and a very warm welcome to you if you have recently joined our school community.

Now that we've reached February half term we would like to share some of the highlights of the year so far.

Firstly we are delighted to report that Sandhurst's drive to encourage a love of reading throughout the school (partly through a new teaching and learning initiative called Destination Reader) is already reaping rewards in terms of pupil progress in this vital area.

During our visits to the school we have been particularly impressed with the hugely popular pop-up reading areas which have sprung up in corridors and stairways. The children have been looking after these special areas, choosing book titles and leaving recommendations, so please do come inside at the end of the school day or during your parent consultation appointment to take a look.

We also welcome the whole-school roll out of the new-look maths passports and Sumdog online educational games and we are really pleased to hear that children of all abilities are stretching themselves with the new maths chilli challenge levels. Plans are now underway to also create special maths pop up areas, no doubt crammed with tantalising quizzes and conundrums, so make sure to ask your children about them when they appear.

Sandhurst has always strived to bring all areas of the curriculum to life for its pupils and it's wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm for learning. They also play a very active role in many aspects of decision-making. Whether it's members of the Green Team planning environmental improvements; maths ambassadors seeking feedback from classmates on new maths-themed playground games; reading buddies sharing their love of books with younger children or school council members organising fundraising activities, Sandhurst children clearly want to step up to help shape their school.

Just as the children want to challenge themselves, we as governors are dedicated to challenging, stretching and supporting the school to ensure that progress continues to be made for all of our pupils. In order to do this we must all continue to learn.

It's important that we actively seek and share ideas and best practice so we were greatly encouraged by the positive feedback given by two quite different 'partner' schools in the borough during a recent visit. We meet with Edmund Waller and Baring Primary Schools on a regular basis to give and seek feedback on a wide range of issues including teaching and marking methods, lesson plans and use of teaching resources.

We also look forward to the outcome of the Local Authority's school review which was carried out a few days ago.

It's clear that a huge amount of hard work has already been done this year and we would like to thank everyone – children, staff, parents and carers – for your continued efforts.

And now we would like to ask you for some more help. Can you think of any companies, organisations or charities that are offering funding for school projects and initiatives? Do you have experience of writing bids for funding applications or do you have any fundraising ideas of your own? If you can help our school to continue to provide experiences and opportunities that will inspire, entertain and educate your children we'd love to hear from you. You can email us at funding@sandhurstprimary.lewisham.sch.uk or leave a message with the school office. Thank you.

We'll be back in touch soon with more news and updates about key issues and decisions arising from our Governing Board meetings. In addition, minutes from all of our meetings are available on request from the school office.

Please do get in touch if you have any comments or questions or if you would like us, as governors, to help you with anything. You can contact us via the school office.

We're often in school so if you do see us in the playground, helping out on a school trip or at one of the many school events later this term please do come over and say hello.

With best wishes,

The Sandhurst Governors