



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Autumn Term
10th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Well, our first full week of the year here at Sandhurst and it has been so lovely. The children have been so settled, they have all be working hard and they have continued to enjoy the lunches, the clear plates are fantastic. Seeing our youngest children join us in Reception and Nursery has just been so amazing, they all look so smart and happy. I have particularly enjoyed seeing everyone on the gate too. I will share the week's learning with you again from next week. I have been so busy I have left this letter a little too late this week. We had a really productive away day yesterday with the Senior Team and some of our Governors to really set our school improvement plan and strategic vision for the year ahead. We are always looking to improve and get better and better, but our main driver this year is to continue to really develop our curriculum, to make it relevant to our whole school community, to make strong and meaningful cross curricular links and work to close the gap for all pupils, post lockdown.

Dining Hall

Just the biggest thank you to those families that came to help paint the dining hall last weekend. I have got to confess, mid-way through Saturday to thinking "What was I thinking!" but I actually now looks so bright and fresh. So a huge Thank you to Romeo (Yr 6) and family, Louise (Yr 3) and family, Arturo (Yr 5), Vita (Yr 3) and family, Agnes (yr 1), Minnie (Yr 4) and family and last but not least Rosa (yr1) and family. Thank you all so much.

COVID Update

I do want to be open and honest with you and let you know that we do have a few positive cases of COVID in school. It feels very different this term where we are supposed to leave it to Track and Trace to tell you. I have spoken with the local authority and none of our cases are related to each other, they have all be contracted from elsewhere. But at the weekly head teachers meeting yesterday, it was agreed that we can let you know if we feel we have related cases in school. So going forward I will let you know if we were to have an outbreak in certain areas of the school. That way, you can make your own

decisions on how you keep yourselves safe. I do, however, still have to remind you of the guidance:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

Morning Routine

The mornings seem to be really working well. The children are being really sensible in the playgrounds in the morning and are becoming really independent at going to class. I know a few of you have been a little confused or concerned your child is late if the classes have already gone in. So I will explain again:

A senior member of staff opens the gate at 8:45am, at the same time all other staff members are in a morning briefing. As soon as the briefing finishes the senior member of staff on the gate will tell the children to make their way to class or blow a whistle. They need to remain on the playground until that message is given. There is then about a 7 minute gap to allow all children to get to class. They **must** be in class by 8:55am. After 8:55 the children are late and will miss vital settling time and learning. We have done this so it gives parents and carers the chance to avoid big crowds waiting and allow you to stagger your drop off between 8:45 and 8:55.

Kindness

This term we are thinking about KINDNESS, this will be our core value and we will be looking around the school to spot random acts of kindness, as well as thinking as a whole school how we can be kind. We started with an assembly about the Para Olympics and reminded ourselves how inclusive, supportive and kind we are to everyone. We will be running a token system to see who can collect the most "Kindness" tokens. Some of the younger children will be receiving stickers.

Quidditch Day

We are very excited that next week the upper school will be taking part in a Quidditch tournament. This will be the launch pad for us introducing a system of "Houses" into our school. All children will be put into one of four houses and we will be then be working with the school council to name the houses and give us ideas of house competitions. This will build some really positive competition into sport, demonstration of values, creativity and behaviour within our school.

Idling Vehicles

We want to keep our children as safe as possible so can I please remind you it is now an offence to leave your car idling. We really want to work together to make the air quality around school as good as possible. A parent or carer left their car idling outside the school gate and they were not even in their car! Please turn off your engines or, better still, park away from school and walk to the gate. Thank you.

Safety

Two quick safety messages. Firstly, one of our lovely past pupils was on her way home from Secondary School yesterday and a member of the public, a white male in his 40s, got off a motorbike on Verdant Lane and approached her and did something inappropriate. It has been reported to the police but the parent wanted me to alert you. Secondly, we really encourage scooting to school but we had a very near miss of a pupil scooting far ahead and a car was coming out of a drive nearly hitting the child. If your child is scooting, please ensure they are still close to you. Please also make sure they dismount and push their cycles and scooters cross the playground. Thank you.

Welcome Fayre

With great sadness we have decided to cancel the Welcome Fayre. With Covid cases still so high and the risk of bringing large groups together we have decided it would be sensible not to hold this event. Once cases fall and we are all in a less anxious situation we will look at holding a whole school event. In the meantime, Sandalls PTA are really desperate for a few more members. They have done such a good job at raising funds for our playground (new things coming very soon) but they do need a few more volunteers. If you are interested, please do let me know and I will put you in touch with them.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Please don't forget we start our programme of "Meet the Teacher Meetings" next week. This will be a chance for you to hear from the year group teachers about expectations, learning and routines.

Your teachers will send the links. All meetings will be at 4:30pm.

Reception	Thursday 16 th September
Yr1	Tuesday 14 th September
Yr 2	Thursday 23 rd September
Yr 3	Monday 20 th September
Yr 4	Tuesday 21 st September
Yr 5	Wednesday 15 th September
Yr 6	Monday 13 th September

At this meeting the teachers will also make sure you have their school email address. But please be aware your teachers will not be responding immediately to you as they will be

teaching. We all work in different ways depending on our own commitments but please be very mindful of each teacher's work-life balance. They will aim to respond to you within 48hrs, an immediate response will just not be possible. But I do know they would all much rather hear from you if you do have a worry, so it can quickly be dealt with. Thank you.

A Plea for Help

Please does anyone have a good condition double buggy they have finished with? We have a family who are in urgent need. If you do happen to have one you are finished with please do let me know. Thank you.

And Finally

I am aware some of you have not been receiving my emails. We have checked our end and they are showing as sent. If you are not getting them, please check with the office we have your correct email. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove