



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Autumn Term
1st October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Well as if COVID was not a challenge enough, we now have added no petrol into the mix. I don't think the children have ever seen me wearing trainers so much!! But despite all the challenges we have had a great week, lots of fantastic learning has been going on. Draco Class won the Top Class Daily Challenge in their Sum Dog competition, and came 3rd in the borough for the overall competition. October sees the start of Black History Month, this really enhances all the work we are already doing in school around diversity, celebrating our heritage and being culturally relevant. This year our overarching theme is 'Proud to be Me' and each class will be exploring this theme through their class topic and a range of activities we have planned.

I am delighted to say Stephen Hawking Class and Bat Class won the Kindness buckets this week.

So, what have we been up to...

This week the Nursery children have been really creative, making rainbow collages and using potato mashers to make spooky spiders! They have also been sorting and categorising different objects and talking about their choices. In singing, the children are learning 'I Can See Apples', 'Incy Wincy Spider' and 'Little Green Frog'.

In Reception this week, the children are still getting to know each other and learning the routines of the day. They have been enjoying sorting in maths; sorting different shapes, toys and even clothes! In Literacy, they have been writing about the park and talking about the parks they visit.

Year 1 have been learning about rhyming words in literacy. They have read lots of funny stories with rhyming words and made their own 'silly soup' using rhyming words. In maths, they have been learning about number facts and finding amounts in different ways. They have been very busy.

Year 2 have enjoyed the story 'Lila and the Secret of Rain.' They have created storyboards with captions and imagined what it might have been like to be the main character Lila, in a Kenyan village. The children have also been busy working on their class name art pieces, exploring a range of media.

Year 3 have started adding and subtracting in maths this week. Just like people from the Stone Age, they did some cave painting in our caves (under our tables). They have also written their own versions of 'The Stone Age Boy' story. They read another story, 'The Way I feel' all about feelings and drew facial expressions for each of the 'Zones of Regulation'.

In maths this week Year 4 have been learning to add 3 digit numbers using the vertical column method. In English, they have debated what we should do about "The Iron Man" and how to save the farmer's machinery. They discussed the pros and cons of various ideas. In Science, they have continued to learn about sound and how sound travels by making and testing string phones.

Year 5 have started their history topic on Ancient Egypt. They have located Egypt on a world map and placed the ancient civilization on a history timeline. They have also learnt about the importance of the River Nile and discovered many interesting facts about life in Ancient Egypt. In maths, Year 5 have looked at mental strategies for adding large numbers and revised formal written methods for addition.

This week Y6 have been writing a job description based on the character of 'the dragon', exploring the experience and qualities the successful applicant would need to fulfill this role. In math's, they have been focusing on multiplication and division and applying this knowledge to problem-solving tasks. In science, they have been investigating thermal insulators and having lots of fun finding out which material is most successful at retaining heat.

Individual Photographs

We have arranged for the children to have their individual photographs taken this year. These always make excellent Christmas presents to send to relatives. We have two sessions booked to get everyone done. They will have an individual photograph and one as a family group if they have other siblings in school. I am afraid we cannot accommodate pre-school siblings this year. The dates are Monday 11th October and a second, catch up date of Wednesday 20th October.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent / teacher consultations will take place during the week beginning 18th October. We have decided to keep these meeting remote in the majority of cases. Your teacher

will be in touch so they can arrange either a zoom or phone appointment at a mutually convenient time. There may be a few exceptions where the teacher feels a face to face meeting would be more advantageous to all parties.

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium' of £1,320. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

Similarly, if you do not pay for your child's meal because they are in Key Stage 1, you should still register because the school will receive the extra funding.

The process is simple - please visit <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child> this weekend. We will be notified by Lewisham Council if your application is successful. Thank you for your help.

Clubs

Mrs Hampden has now sent out confirmation letters about after school clubs. There are a few spaces left in some clubs so if you still want to be considered please contact Mrs Hampden in the office. Unfortunately, we are not able to run a boys football squad this year so there will be additional spaces in Football club on Mondays for years 3 to 6. Offers for Art Club will go out next week.

Amazon Smile

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select Parents Association Of Sandhurst School as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programmes & Features
3. Select Parents Association Of Sandhurst School as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Thank you so much. Every little helps and we made £36 last quarter.

There are some events attached for parents of pupils with SEND. Please take a look.

Next week is also Space Week. There are lots of events and activities on line. We are going to hold a 'Design a spaceship' competition. So if you feel like being creative over the weekend you can get your child to either make, draw, design or construct a spaceship. Please make sure their name and class is clearly visible and we will judge the winners next Friday. There will be prizes. Get creating!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. I am off to try and find petrol. See you all on Monday.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove