



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Autumn Term
12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

So as if COVID was not challenging enough we got thrown the water curve ball on Tuesday. Thank you so much for coming to collect your children early. I was going to muddle on to the end of the day but the local authority insisted we close due to lack of toilets and handwashing facilities. Thank you for your support. I have been so impressed by the children this week, they have been adaptable, supportive, and hardworking and showed such respect at our Remembrance Day silence yesterday. They really made me feel very proud indeed.

In terms of COVID we are gradually improving. We currently have 5 families isolating with positive cases, and two staff members awaiting PCR results. Sadly, one of our staff members is still in hospital but we continue to send her all our love and best wishes. I have just got off the phone with the London Coronavirus Response Centre today and our current restrictions need to continue for a further week and I review with them again next week. So we keep going as we are. Please keep wearing those masks, keep socially distancing and keep being vigilant with getting your children, or yourselves, tested if you are unwell. Just a huge thank you for working with us.

We are very excited that the new playground equipment has been installed and a huge thank you to you all for raising the money to enable us to get this done and a massive thank you to Sandalls for organising it. We still have a little left in the pot to order similar for the KS2 playground. I just need a few spare moments to get it sorted.

All the Christmas card designs have now been sent off and I believe we have already raised around £500 which is great. Again, thank you to Kirsty from the PTA for organising this for us.

Last Monday we had an inspiring start to the new half-term when Dr Deborah Rosanwo came in, as part of our Black History Month celebrations, to do a zoom assembly to the school. She spoke about her journey from a young age, to becoming the first black, female Consultant Nuclear Physician in Germany. It was really inspiring. A huge thank you to Dr Rosanwo for giving up her time to talk to us.

A Cry for Help!

So many of you have kindly offered to help, well I would love to call on that help please. With our current restrictions our real pinch point of the day is lunchtime. If there are any of you that would be prepared to do LFT tests and wear a mask and come and volunteer at lunchtime I would love you for ever. Current myself, Ms Bates and Mrs Legemah (my two deputies) are covering but we could really do with your help!! If you were able to offer a day or two over the next two weeks please email into the office. Thank you.

Learning this week....

This week, the Nursery have been exploring the number 2. They did a scavenger hunt searching for 2 items and also paired socks and gloves in the sand tray. They played a dynamic dice-game called 'Zap!', which included recognising numbers 1 and 2 and collecting and counting objects. Children also had great fun rolling marbles through paint to create firework paintings. They have been talking to Phoebe the Feelings Monster about different feelings and emotions.

In Reception, the children have been thinking about the sights and sounds of fireworks in their writing and thinking of ways to make four in maths. They are fast becoming more confident in having a go at making number sentences all by themselves. In Art, they have been making collages and people from leaves!

In Year one this week they have been learning all about Diwali, the festival of light. They have learnt about the story of Rama and Sita, they found out that Diya lamps are so important because they lead Rama and Sita home. The children even had a go at making their own Diya lamps out of clay. In maths they have been using lots of practical equipment to subtract numbers. They have shown their working out using the crossing out method.

This week Year 2 created fire safety posters and have begun to consider what they want to find out about The Great Fire of London this term. They generated some fantastic questions that they want to find the answers to. In Maths they have been using ten

frames for addition and developing their reasoning skills. In Science they really enjoyed discussing and finding out about the different stages of development for animals and humans, as well as matching animals and their young.

Year 3 have been thinking about how they can achieve peace in RE and made peace doves on Remembrance Day. They have used our DT skills to make our own Bronze Age roundhouses and have been writing comparisons about these compared to Stone Age houses in English. In maths they have finished their addition and subtraction unit by looking at bar models and learning about the inverse. In Science, they have thought about what they already know about light and they are waiting for a sunny day to go outside and look at their shadows!

This week in maths, year 4 have been measuring perimeter in cm. They have been measuring various shapes, including rectilinear shapes, using rulers and grids, we have also been measuring shapes with missing lengths. In English they have explored, discussed and described the setting for their dragon stories. In Science they have made an electrical circuit.

In maths, Year 5 have been learning about square and cube numbers and have used the short formal written method to solve multiplication problems. In English, they have sequenced the events leading up to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb through drawing pictures and drama. The children also really enjoyed visiting Tutankhamun's tomb using virtual reality. As part of Year 5s RE unit on 'Peace' each class looked at the significance of Remembrance Day.

Year 6 have been learning about the battle of Marathon, writing a diary of events from the perspective of an Athenian soldier. They have been adding and subtracting fractions in maths, applying this knowledge when solving reasoning and word problem tasks. In science, they have been having lots of fun learning about filtration, observing what happens when you separate mixtures using filter paper and a funnel. Finally, they have been reading a graphic novel called Amulet, exploring the feelings and motives of the main characters.

Children in Need – Friday 19th November

We are raising money for BBC Children in Need next Friday 19th November. The children will be allowed to wear something spotty, in exchange for a silver coin donation, which they can give to their class teacher. Please note the children will be mostly wearing their

uniform with something spotty added. It could be a top, tights, socks, leggings, a head band etc.

Pupils with Medical Conditions

Mrs McDuell works in our office part time, purely to ensure that we have all medication and care plans at school for our children that have medical issues. We are getting an increasingly large amount of requests for replacement medication after expiry as well as forms/care plans sent home for signatures that are being ignored. This means that a lot of Mrs McDuell's time is spent sending out reminders. If your child has a medical issue that requires medication and/or a care plan, we need to have their medication and/or paperwork at school so if you get a request from Mrs McDuell, please do not ignore it. If they do not have their medication at school, they will miss out on any school trips as we do not allow pupils to go on outings without it. If your child's medical situation has changed, please let the office know so that we can update our records. A reminder also, that all medication and medical paperwork must initially go to the school office – as we are currently limiting visits to the office, please hand to a member of staff at the gate, ensuring medication is clearly labelled. Thank you.

Oral Health

I know, especially with lock down, children's oral health has been a real issue. Kings College Hospital are offering some Question and Answer sessions on the promotion of oral health in November and December. I have attached the flyer with the zoom links.

Pokemon Cards

A full set of Pokemon Cards has been found in the playground. They are in a plastic bank coin bag. If your child has lost them, please let me know.

A Message from Tempest, the photographers

*Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Wednesday 17th November 2021**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk _*

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3). Many thanks

Have a lovely weekend. I am going to try and enjoy the outdoors as I keep hearing the weather is going to turn very cold over the next week or so.

See you all next week.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove