



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Autumn Term
5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well another really challenging week here at Sandhurst. We currently have 15 cases of COVID and a lot of staff unwell too. We are really struggling to keep everything going in school due to staff sickness but are really trying our best. Please bear with us if things are not running quite as smoothly as usual, I am really desperately trying to avoid having to move any classes to remote learning. I have been in discussion with the local authority, the London Coronavirus Response Centre and our Chair of Governors and the advice is that if cases rise any more, or more staff fall ill, we may be left with no option but to take this route. Please be reassured this would really be a last resort. Thank you all so much for your support with isolating as families and being so responsive if we have had to send your child home. Thank you also for wearing face coverings and sending your child in independently in the mornings. Hopefully all these measures will have an impact.

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we have had to postpone the Life Bus, this will hopefully happen in the Spring. We have also had to cancel the sibling photographs; I am really sorry.

Despite the challenges, the children and remaining staff have been amazing this week. Yesterday, separated into year groups, the children all enjoyed a lovely Bonfire Night themed lunch. Some lucky children had a golden ticket hidden under their tray or plate and received a lovely book as a prize. There was a very exciting buzz in the dining hall.

The classes have done some fantastic learning:

In Nursery this week the children have been learning all about the number 1. They made number 1 decorations to go on their number tree and went on a number 1 scavenger hunt in the outdoor classroom. They started their new topic by reading the story "So Much" by Trish Cooke and talking about how everyone in the family loves the baby so much. They also found out about Diwali and made their own diva lamps out of salt dough.

In Reception the children have enjoyed reading the story, 'Room on a Broom'. They have been thinking about who they would take on a broomstick ride, what potions they would make as well as making magical wands! In number, they have been exploring triangles, circles and finding ways to represent three. They talked about celebrations at home and found out about how families celebrate Diwali.

Year 1 have been learning all about amazing adjectives. They have written some beautiful bonfire night poems. In maths they have been adding numbers together using an addition machine, they have written their own number stories and their friends have solved them. In science they have been looking at seasonal changes and recording the weather each day, they have also been hunting for signs of autumn.

This week Year 2 have transitioned from carousel to a whole class learning style and have coped exceptionally well with the change. In English, the children have produced some excellent creative writing using a photo and they have written poems inspired by fireworks. In maths, the children have reinforced their understanding of partitioning by using it to support with addition. The children are really looking forward to beginning their new topic 'Time Travellers' next week.

Year 3 have been finding out about Bronze Age roundhouses by exploring them through the VR headsets. In Real PE they have started their social unit of working together and have been having lots of fun making shapes using their bodies. In maths they have been learning the column method for addition and subtraction.

In maths, Year 4 have been learning to measure length accurately in mm, cm and m and converting between measurements including km. They have also been adding and comparing lengths. In English they have been exploring and using descriptive language to describe the physical attributes and appearance of a 'Space Angel Bat Dragon' from the 'Iron Man'. In Science they have started their new topic of electricity, they listed items that require mains power or battery power to work and they had some very interesting discussions on what life would be like without electricity. In Art they are designing a front cover for their dragon book stories.

Year 5 have been using known facts to mentally multiply and divide numbers including multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. They have also identified multiples and common multiples and investigated the factors of 2-digit numbers. In English, the children have created new Egyptian Gods and written fact files in the style of 'Horrible Histories'. This week Year 5 have started their science topic on Forces. They described how gravity works and used force meters to weigh different objects.

Yr 6 this week have been simplifying, ordering and comparing fractions. In English, they have been celebrating parliament week, holding debates in class and exploring how parliament works in the UK. In History, they are really excited about starting our new

topic on Ancient Greece, locating Greece on a map and placing this influential period in history on a timeline.

Cauliflower Christmas Cards

Please don't forget the Christmas card designs need to be in on Monday. We will have some spare forms at the gate today in case you want a last minute weekend activity. We will get commission on all orders made up to next Friday. Thank you.

Coats

Please make sure your children have a good, warm coat that is named. The weather has taken a real turn for the cooler and we have been advised to be outside as much as possible. So they really need to have clothing to keep them warm. Thank you.

Remembrance Poppy Appeal

We will be selling poppies and other poppy related items such as snap bands, wrist bands etc. next week. If you would like your child to buy something please send in some money, the suggested donation and products cost between 50p and £2.

Visits for Prospective Reception Parents

It has been really difficult to decide how best to show our lovely school to prospective parents. I had planned some after school tours but, again, because of our outbreak these have had to move to virtual meetings. I am planning to do three, in person, school time tours in January. So if you know of prospective parents who want to visit please do let them know.

Children in Need

We are going to support Children in Need this year by wearing spots and collecting coins on the gate. Children in Need is on Friday 19th November. Please do not go out and buy anything specially, you can just pin spots on or wear the Children in Need head bands, or use face paints.

Plans for Christmas

We are beginning to make tentative plans for our Christmas celebrations. Who knows if we will be able to do what we hope but we can at least plan. Yr 1 will working on a Nativity play which they will record, and if we are in a better position towards the end of term we will invite the Yr 1 parents in to see their production. We are going to get all the other year groups to present a year group festive carol concert outside. We will give the dates as soon as possible. Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 15th December. This year we are going to collect for Save the Children. The children will have a Christmas party on Thursday 16th December with in their year groups. I have approached Father Lindsay at St Andrew's Church to provisionally book our annual festive service for the afternoon of 17th December before we break up, but that will depend on whether we are safe to have such a big gathering. Lots of plans but we will re-assess as the term progresses.

That is about all from me. How sad that we have not got our amazing firework event tonight, hopefully next year!

Have a lovely weekend. See you all on Monday.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove