



SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS



Friday 16th September 2016

The attendance winners for this week are Year 2 with 99%



Number of lates in each class this week:


Year 6 4 lates
Year 3 3 lates
Year 4 2 lates
Year 1 & 2 1 late


Year 5 No lates

'Head'lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

It has been lovely to meet more of you this week at the 'Meet the teacher' sessions and at our most popular PTA meeting yet!

We had a fantastic turnout at Tuesday's meeting with about 22 parents meeting with myself and Mr Sherwood to discuss fundraising ideas and plans for this term. If you would like to get involved, please contact the School Office and they will put you in contact with Shellie and Steph who run the PTA.

One of the events we planned was an 'Early Years Groundforce Day' on Saturday 8th October 10:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. This will largely focus on improving the Early Years' outdoor environment by painting sheds, the playhouse, digging and a general tidy up and clear-out – we have a skip at the ready!
Do let the Early Years team or School Office know if you are able to help out for even part of the day.

Thank you – have a great weekend ☺

Parking

Please do not park in the small car park by the double gates to the playground. This place is reserved for disabled drivers and taxis.

Please also ensure your children are wearing seat belts at all times.



Thank you for your co-operation.



Breakfast Club



Breakfast Club will now take children from **7.45a.m.** Each session costs £2.50; payable when booking. Bookings should be made in advance with the school office – www.admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk.

Clubs

We are delighted that our new music teacher, Miss Bezdziecka, is joining us on Monday. She will be running Choir Club after school every Monday and Band at Monday lunchtimes. She is also a flute teacher so if your child did not sign up for flute at the end of last term but would like to start lessons, please let the School Office know as soon as possible. Lessons will cost £136 per term for a 20 minute individual lesson (two children could share a 30 minute lesson which would take the cost down to £102).



Uptake for clubs this term has been unusually high, especially for the KS1 Clubs and Boxing Club. This has, unfortunately, left some children disappointed as they did not get a place; all places are allocated on a first come first served basis. The School Office has a waiting list and parents will be contacted if a place becomes available. There is often some movement at the beginning of the term.

Safeguarding is always our priority and we need to ensure that there is enough equipment and adequate adult/child ratios to ensure the club is both safe and enjoyable.

Governor News



We are delighted to announce that Mr Andy Boxer is our new Chair of Governors.

Many of you will know Andy as he is already heavily involved with the School, reading to our Butterflies class and taking an active role on the PTA. He is also grandparent to children in Years 1 and 4. Andy brings a wealth of education experience as he has been both a teacher and a Headteacher before his retirement.

Our thanks and best wishes go to Mr Frank Bowron who has stepped down as Chair and from the Governing Body after 5 years. I'm sure you will join me in wishing him the very best for the future.

We are also pleased that Ms Natalie Miles-Kemp will be continuing her role as Vice-Chair.

This week's awards for Neat Presentation go to:

Year 6: Felix
Year 5: Matisse
Year 4: Tiffany
Year 3: George
Year 2: Chloe
Year 1: Erin



This week's awards for Star Writer go to:

Year 6: Sophie
Year 5: Zac
Year 4: Matty
Year 3: Olivia
Year 2: Ava
Year 1: Lucia



Certificates

For putting maximum effort into everything this week: **Donny-Lee**

Being one of the most beautiful Butterflies during dance and having her PE kit: **Smallone**

Drawing fantastic matchstick figures in the style of L.S. Lowry: **Ella G**

Always going out of his way to help everyone in his team and making such a positive contribution to Year 2: **Alfie L**

Working much harder in class: **Harry M**

Working at all times to the best of his ability: **Daniel C**

Wonderful behaviour so far this term: **Jake, Mira**

Perseverance in lessons to ensure she always achieves the objectives: **Josephine**

Being enthusiastic and always having a sunny disposition: **Amber**

Being a wonderful buddy at lunchtime and encouraging others in lessons. A wonderful start to the year: **Dimitri**

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2016-2017

Every year, schools use the previous year's data and other monitoring information to set new priorities for the academic year ahead.

This year, our priorities are:

- To further develop EYFS practice with a focus on Reading, use of data and the outdoor environment
- To raise standards in Writing across the school
- To develop a more robust use of data that targets under-achievement school-wide
- To ensure middle / senior leaders and governance are having an impact on achievement

Miss Roberts and the Senior Leadership Team will be reporting to Governors termly regarding progress against these priorities. Staff meetings and training will focus on these priorities throughout the year. A parent update against these priorities will be given termly.

EQUALITY PLAN CONSULTATION



Sandridge School is committed to meeting the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED).

The purpose of an Equality Plan is to set out how our practice and policies have due regard to the need to:

eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act

advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The Specific Duties of the Act enable schools to meet their obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

The specific duties require schools to:

Publish annually information quantitative and qualitative, showing compliance with the public sector equality duty set out in clause 149 of the Equality Act 2012

To set every four years one or more specific measurable equality objectives that further the aims of the equality duty

Protected Characteristics:

The Equality Act 2010 protects pupils from discrimination and harassment based on protected characteristics. The protected characteristics for the schools provisions are:

age (staff only)

disability

ethnicity and race

gender (sex)

gender identity and reassignment

pregnancy, maternity and breast feeding

religion and belief

sexual orientation

marriage and civil partnership (staff only)

The Equality Plan requires a consultation with a range of school stakeholders in order to be written.

Miss Roberts would like to hold a meeting on Monday 26th September from 1:30pm to 3:00pm where a range of stakeholders can meet together to work on this plan. This will include staff, pupils, parents and governors.

We only need about five or six parents to make up part of this working party so if you are interested, please contact Mrs Virji in the School Office. Thank you.

NEW BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Following DfE guidance, we have revised our Behaviour Policy.

A copy of this will be emailed to you early next week and will be introduced to the children in a whole school assembly on Tuesday. Nursery and Reception will be introduced to it in an age-appropriate way by their class teachers.

The main change is the inclusion of a 'behaviour ladder'. This will ensure a **CONSISTENT** approach across the whole school so children (and adults) understand what constitutes poor behaviour and what consequences may follow.

Miss Roberts has been very impressed with behaviour so far so a lot of the sanctions on the behaviour ladder may not actually be used very often **BUT** it is important to have a consistent, fair and positive approach to managing behaviour in schools. We're sure you will like the structure of the ladders. These will be displayed in all rooms in the school for pupils and staff to refer to.

We are in the process of updating the school's website so this policy will also go on the website in the next week or so.



HOMework

It has been lovely to see such a good turnout at each of the 'Meet the teacher' sessions over the last week – thank you for attending.

A small number of parents expressed their desire to have homework on a weekly basis rather than just the termly projects under the existing policy.

We have actually been discussing the Homework Policy in staff meetings over the last couple of weeks. Homework in any school is always a 'bone of contention' given that schools cannot please everyone i.e. some parents prefer homework over the weekend to free up evenings and others prefer it in the evenings so they can focus on family time and trips at the weekend. Some prefer a lot; others say they'd rather not have any because their children are being challenged at school! It really is quite a challenge.

Teacher's marking isn't what it used to be; the need for more detailed and developmental marking on a daily basis (especially in English and Maths) means teachers can spend up to 3 hours each evening just on marking. That doesn't take account of the time spent prepping for the next day and planning and assessment. The marking of work done in school is and has to be, of course, the priority.

What has been agreed for now is that we stick to the existing policy for a little while longer. However, teachers will provide more structure for the termly projects on a week by week basis and refer to learning that has been done in class so that you know what is being covered (and perhaps how to incorporate some of this into their projects). At the end of term, there will be a display 'gallery' in each class for parents and children to come in and have a look at.

We will come back to the Homework Policy later this year. We appreciate your comments and input and will do the best we can to take on board and implement a little change where we can.

