



SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS



Friday 16th November 2018

The attendance winners
for this week are
Year 3 with 97.8%



Number of lates in each class this week:

Year 4	10 lates
Year 5	8 lates
Recep, Year 3, Year 6	4 lates
Year 1, Year 2	3 lates



“Head”lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

This week, one of my many monitoring tasks was the analysis of our attendance and punctuality figures. Mrs Virji and I meet half-termly to analyse attendance across the school with a particular focus on children who have an attendance rate of 90% or below. We also focus on what the government refer to as ‘Persistent Absentees’. These are children who miss or arrive very late for school regularly impacting their attendance severely.

Our whole school attendance figure is currently 95.7% which is very low for a school like Sandridge. The main issue affecting this low figure is the high numbers of persistent absentees. The national PA threshold is 10% but ours is currently above this which is very poor indeed. We need to work hard to reduce our ‘PA’ figure quickly so our attendance figure becomes more in line with national measures.

We have, therefore, reviewed our Attendance Policy recently and have decided to reinstate the Hertfordshire Fixed Penalty System as of 1st December 2018. This means that a penalty notice will be issued once a child had had 15 sessions (half days / 7.5 full days) of unauthorised absence. The amount payable is £60 (per parent) per child. Please note: the school does not keep the money from fixed penalties.

We hope this will support the improvements we are trying to make over this academic year and have a positive impact on the achievement of affected pupils. You can find the new Attendance Policy in the policy section of our website.

Have a good weekend everyone ☺

A Special Celebration

We had a special assembly this morning for our wonderful Chair of Governors, Mr Andy Boxer, as he has a big birthday tomorrow!

Andy works tirelessly for the school, not only in his Chair of Governor capacity, but also by reading with our Reception class and supporting groups of children across Years 1-6.

Andy shares his celebrations this weekend with a very well known (but much less important) member of the Royal family!

Happy Birthday to ‘HRH Mr Boxer’!



ZONES of Regulation

Last week, we introduced something called 'Zones of Regulation' to children across the school. **ZONES** is a concept designed by Leah Kuypers, a licensed occupation therapist, to help children gain skills in the area of self-regulation.

Self-regulation can go by many names, such as self-control, self-management and impulse control. The **ZONES** are designed to help the pupils recognise when they are in different zones as well as learn how to use strategies to change or stay in the zone they are in.

In addition to self-regulation, children develop an increased vocabulary of emotional terms, skills in reading other people's facial expressions, perspective about how others see and react to their behaviour, insight into events that trigger their behaviour, calming and alerting strategies and problem-solving skills.

Zones are represented as colours:

BLUE: sad, unwell, tired, bored, moving slowly

GREEN: happy, calm, feeling okay, focused, ready to learn

YELLOW: frustrated, worried, silly/wiggly, excited, loss of some control

RED: angry, frightened, yelling, hitting, out of control

There is no such thing as a bad zone; everyone experiences all zones. However, children are taught to recognise and manage the zone they are in. The Zones of Regulation are intended to be neutral and not communicate judgement.

So, if your child talks about their feelings in terms of a colour or a zone from now on, this will hopefully help you to understand how they are describing themselves.

Early Years

A big thank you to Mollie-Mae and Oscar's family who worked so hard last Saturday and made the new role-play 'vehicle' for all the children to use.

Also, to their uncle with his digger who moved the soil to help us prepare to move our sheds back so we can make more use of our outside space and put a new shed there.

Thank you to those who came to the phonics workshop on Tuesday - we hope it helped and gave you some useful ideas for phonics' games you can play at home too.



Exhaust Fumes

We have received complaints from some parents about people leaving their engines running whilst sitting in their cars waiting for the school gates to open.

As well as being bad for the environment, statistics tell us that exhaust fumes are incredibly damaging to children's lungs.

Could we encourage you to turn your engines off whilst waiting? Thank you.



This week is Children's Grief Awareness Week. This is designed to raise awareness of bereaved children and young people in the UK, and how providing those affected with free, professional support can make a difference to their future.

Leia in Year 1 recently recorded a song with Katherine Jenkins and other children who have been affected by grief. You can see the very moving video clip below:

<https://www.facebook.com/95740795425/posts/10155621970035426/>

If you would like to find out more, or make a donation, please see the Children's Grief Awareness Week UK website <http://www.childrengriefawarenessweek.com/>

Well done, Leia, we are so proud of you!



Sporting News



Match Report – St Bernadettes –v- Sandridge by Jamal

On Tuesday, we played an away match against St Bernadettes. The match started with Nick, Brody, Sebbie, Alex, Darcy, Jamal and Harry.

As the match progressed, Matty, Toby and Jimmy joined us. The pitch was not as good as we would have liked. The grass was very long and we could not see the lines. As it was dark, the first half was shortened to ten minutes. It was a pretty even half. In my opinion though, we slightly dominated.

During half time we decided that the second half would be its normal length, 15 minutes. Sandridge had shot after shot but just could not score. Then Sebbie took a great throw which landed at Matty's feet who scored with ease. Later in the game, we scored a second, where Matty had the ball, passed it to Jamal who scored. Unfortunately, St. Bernadettes pulled one back but Sandridge held on for a second well-earned victory in a row. This means we are now top of the table! *HOORAY!*

Sporting Certificates

Encouraging others during the basketball relay on Tuesday: Tegan

Being more engaged and active in netball this week: Molly D

Making a big effort in swimming and improving her front stroke: Phoebe

Leading his netball team to victory, while practicing our netball skills and working as a team: Phoenix

Listening to the music carefully in dance: Isla N

Interpreting different styles of music with her movements: Olivia H

Choreographing and performing his 'Catherine Wheel' dance move: Albert

Running really fast in the Daily Mile this week! Spencer

PTA News

There are four places left for our Wreath Making Evening on Friday 30th November, please sign up on www.pta-events.co.uk/sandridgeschoolpta if you would like to join us!

The bookings for Santa's Grotto at our Winter Fair on Saturday 8th December are filling up fast so please book your child's slot using the link above.

We will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 30th November in exchange for a bottle for the tombola.



Thank you for your support.



This week's awards for Neat Presentation go to:

Year 6: **Matty**
Year 5: **Charlie**
Year 4: **Gwennie**
Year 3: **Scarlet O**
Year 2: **Safiyah**
Year 1: **Izabelle**



This week's awards for Star Writer go to:

Year 6: **Bjorn**
Year 5: **Maisha**
Year 4: **Aimee**
Year 3: **Erin**
Year 2: **Kye**
Year 1: **Elizabeth**
Recep: **Kai**



Phenomenal Phonics awards this week go to:



Year 2: **Millie**
Year 1: **Olivia**
Recep: **Courtney**

Certificates

Outstanding manners and always being a super listener: **Tristan**

Always giving detailed answers and following the tasks accurately in guided reading:
Sam

Being a positive learner and for always being ready to listen and contribute: **James P**

Being Miss Simms' little helper by cleaning and organising the classroom each day:
Summer

Having huge confidence in maths this week when learning about shape: **Hugh**

Producing a marvellous model of a semi-detached house by painting individual bricks and filling in the mortar around them: **Ben D**

Trying really hard with speaking and handwriting this week: **Sayfoddine**