



SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS



Friday 13th March 2020

For the time being, we will not be reporting our attendance or late statistics.

'Head'lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

The obvious topic for my '*head*'lines this week would seem to be the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you will be aware, the government have decided not to close schools yet. However, this may still happen before the planned Easter holiday.

Knowing this may be a possibility; schools have begun planning for such an event. We have had a number of staff meetings this week to discuss how we might plan home learning activities on the kind of scale that would be needed and that would be both manageable for teachers and meaningful for pupils.

Obviously, teachers would not be able to provide new learning for their class as they would not be sure who was accessing it and how well it had been understood. The kind of learning that is likely to be provided by us would be along the lines of reading comprehension and grammar activities for English and reinforcement of prior Maths learning along with ongoing times table practice. There will be other topic-related activities and projects too.

There also appears to be an increasing number of companies that have made the decision to provide free access to their online resources should schools have to close. However, rather than go into detail about home learning now, we will give you detailed information and guidance about home learning if and when the need arises.

With regard to school hygiene procedures, we emailed you last week to inform you that we had increased handwashing across the school at key intervals throughout the day and that we were wiping tables, chairs and other surfaces more frequently too. These measures have been kept up this week and will continue to be a priority over the coming weeks (and, possibly, months).

Today we have made the decision to try to further reduce risk by limiting large group/whole school activities such as assemblies and lunchtimes in the hall. For the time being, there will be no whole school assemblies and children will eat lunch in their classrooms. Whilst it might seem less hygienic to have lunch in classrooms; it is actually better due to the frequency we are cleaning tables, chairs and other surfaces in these areas. It is also limiting the amount of contact across classes. We have also cleaned all laptops, iPads, stationery and reading books (a lengthy process as you can imagine). It is becoming increasingly clear that we can only do so much to reduce the risk of this virus. We would ask that you continue to inform us if you or any members of your family have had contact with an infected person or are showing any symptoms of the Coronavirus.

This is unprecedented and none of us have all the answers. All we can do is continue to take advice from reputable sources (rather than Google!) such as Public Health England and the World Health Organization and/or call NHS 111 for more personal advice should we need to.

If you are feeling particularly anxious or worried about the virus, another useful website which has been shared with us is: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing#collapsed9b7e>

In the meantime, and in the words of a local Headteacher,
KEEP CLEAN
KEEP CALM
and CRACK ON!

Oh and have a good weekend 😊

RE Visit

On Tuesday afternoon, Sandridge School had a visit from the Saltmine Theatre Company. They are a Christian group of three actors who presented a play to the whole school. The play was called 'A Long Road Home' and was based on the story of the 'Prodigal Son', told in a modern day setting and focusing on a girl called Charlie. Afterwards, Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a fun-based educational drama workshop about the play. KS2 classes contributed, discussed issues and talked about how they felt over incidents raised from the play in the follow-up workshops.

The over-riding message was that everyone is special and has good things to share.

The children really enjoyed the afternoon and fully engaged with the play.
These are some of the comments they made afterwards:

"It was really good – made everyone laugh a lot. I loved the raps!" Lucia (Y4)

"It was really funny." Bella (Y4)

"It had a great ending / resolution... It was really good when they took over the role of other people using different props... They worked really well together... They used all the props creatively to help tell the story." Erin (Y4)

"It was hard initially, but made you think a lot more about the story / what it meant." Chloe (Y5)



Phenomenal Phonics awards this week go to:

Year 2: Ava
Year 1: David
Recep: Theo



This week's awards for Star Writer go to:

Year 6: Sam
Year 5: Nathaniel
Year 4: Chloe
Year 3: Alyssa

Year 2: Elsie-Rose
Year 1: Thomas
Recep: Amna



REPS Certificates (**R**espect, **E**quality, **P**erseverance, **S**elf-belief)



Displaying tremendous perseverance in all his work this week to make great achievements. Also showing respect and equality to his peers by sharing equipment: Sam

Believing in himself and showing confidence when becoming a weather reporter in Science:
Andrew

Reminding everyone to remain positive and persevere with their learning because "we don't say can't, it's can't yet!" Olivia C

Showing respect and equality to everyone in the class this week: Nathan

Excellent perseverance with all her learning: Elsie R

Persevering with her writing and becoming more independent with it too: Kara

Being consistently wonderful - you are a shining example of all our school values: Lulu

Certificates of Merit



Nursery Superstar Award for joining in with PE and actions and songs: Yunus

Amazing us with her love of learning by writing two books at school and two books for homework: Eve

Fantastic enthusiasm in English this week when learning about instructions: Mason

Being an absolute delight in class this week. She has been kind and helpful to her peers and worked brilliantly in groups: Jemima

Showing enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum: Aaron W

Consistently trying her best and producing neatly written work: Summer

Working incredibly hard, having a great sense of humour and always being polite: Chloe AP

Asking more questions and showing more independent learning behaviour: Lilian

Sporting Certificates



Confident gymnastic work this week, especially on the ropes! Isla Mai

Improving his concentration when travelling with the ball in basketball: Henry

Being such a fantastic tennis player - your hand-eye coordination is fantastic! Noah H

Showing a wonderful range of balances on the apparatus this week: Hooriya

Good work in our tennis lesson, controlling and returning the ball: Mehde

Showing excellent forehand and backhand returns in tennis: Haneefa

Being amazing every day at the Daily Mile and representing us brilliantly at Cross Country - well done! Edward