



SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS



Friday 4th September 2020

'Head'lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

Welcome back everyone (and welcome to our new children and their families)!

We have had the loveliest two days with the children this week – it has been simply brilliant to have everyone bouncing through the gate in the morning keen to get into their classrooms and see their friends and all the staff again.

The 'buzz' around the school has been commented on by everyone – Elizabeth (Y5) said to me today "Last night, I couldn't wipe the smile off my face!"
What a relief for us all to have a little bit of normal back.

Thank you for coping with the staggered drop-off and finish times – I know it is far from ideal but we have to put the government guidance above what is convenient for any of us at the moment and (probably) for many months to come. All children of statutory primary school age are required to attend school for a set number of hours/sessions over an academic year so, unfortunately, we need to try to manage the new system as best we all can. We will be purchasing some gazebo-type shelters for the corners of the playground so that in very wet weather, you have something to wait underneath at the start and end of the school day.

Thank you again, though, as both days have shown that the new one-way system combined with the staggered times really has eased the flow of traffic through the school site.

The termly date sheet looks a little different this term due to us having to organise and plan meetings and events in a different way for, at least, the term ahead.

The 'Meet the teacher' sessions that would normally take place at the very start of the day in the first couple of weeks back will be replaced by a Google Classroom presentation from your child's class teacher containing information such as:

- the class timetable
- a termly curriculum leaflet
- reading tips, and
- other more specific information relating to that year group.

Teachers will provide a 'voice over' accompanying the presentation to guide you through it.

Next week, we will be liaising with our IT service to get you set up with log-ins and passwords to enable you to access Google Classroom moving forward. Please look out for details from the office about this and sign up promptly so you don't miss out on important information.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I need to inform you that Mr and Mrs Taylor will not be returning to Sandridge School. It has been an incredibly difficult decision to make but Mrs Taylor has decided that, due to Covid, she and Mr Taylor do not feel safe to lead Band and Choir for the foreseeable future. Mr Taylor falls within an extremely vulnerable group and they have to prioritise his and their family's health and safety. I know you will be as sad as I am to receive this news but, equally, I'm sure you can understand their decision given how Covid has impacted so many people's lives.

Band and Choir could not have taken place this term anyway, due to Government guidance, so this gives us time to advertise the role of Music Leader (including Band and Choir) and recruit someone to take on this important position in our school. Mrs Taylor has said she is more than willing to support the new leader in maintaining the very high standard of music and performance in our school.

I am sure you will join me in wishing both Mr and Mrs Taylor the best of luck and health for the future and thank them for their hard work and commitment to music (and our children) at Sandridge.
They will be hugely missed.

Please note: I haven't had the chance to tell the children yet but I will be sharing this with them next week in their class-based assemblies. I just didn't want the news to 'leak' before I had officially informed you all myself.

PE – wearing kits to school

Children should wear PE kits on the days that they have PE lessons to avoid changing at school. The days are as follows:

Year 6	Monday & Tuesday
Year 5	Tuesday & Friday
Year 4	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 3	Monday & Friday
Year 2	Wednesday & Friday
Year 1	Tuesday & Wednesday
Early Years (Reception aged children only) <i>(Nursery aged children will still do PE but will not need to come in their PE kits until later in the academic year)</i>	Friday

As they will be in their kits all day, please ensure they look smart and are in the correct colours and items of clothing.

PE kit consists of a white t-shirt (either plain or with our logo) and plain blue shorts. As it gets colder, children may wear plain navy/black tracksuit bottoms and either a plain navy/black tracksuit top or their school sweatshirt.

Please ensure they have comfortable plain black or dark coloured trainers/plimsolls (not school shoes) and wear grey, white, black or dark blue socks – no tights under shorts please.

Attendance

Attendance has been excellent this week – please keep this up! The class with the highest attendance for the month will still get a special non-school uniform day as a reward but it will not always be on a Friday (to avoid clashing with PE days). This information will be at the top page of the last newsletter of each month so please look out for it.

As stated in Miss Roberts' letter of 20th August, the Government now expects regular school attendance from all pupils. It is vital that all children return to school to minimise the longer-term impact of the pandemic; not only on their education but also on their well-being and wider development.

Any absence caused by having to self-isolate/quarantine due to Covid will not affect individual children's or the school's attendance figures.

We are confident of the procedures and risk assessments we have put in place to make school a safe environment for children, staff and any necessary visitors.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please contact the school office with the specific reason for absence by 9am on the first day of absence and keep us regularly informed of their progress and expected return date.

A message can be left on the school absence line (01727 850576, opt 1) at any time or an email may be sent to admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk.

Please do not take holidays in term time; children have already missed enough time at school this year. Thank you for your support.

After School Clubs

Sadly, there are no after school or lunchtime clubs for this term at least. Emmylou, our amazing art teacher, is running an online art class – please go to <https://www.aurorashineonline.com/kids-book-now> for further details or to sign-up.



‘Think Big’, who have run Coding Club here in previous terms, are also running an online club. Please see the attached flyer for information.

Pencil Cases/Stationery – Years 1 to 6

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their child’s stationery. If you have not done so yet, please go to School Gateway where you will see two payment options per key stage; one for children needing a new pencil case complete with all stationery including top-ups throughout the academic year, and the other for children who have most of the items already and just need top-ups throughout the year.

We are still waiting for a delivery of the actual pencil cases; they have been on order since the beginning of July but were delayed due to Covid. We are expecting them next week and will hand them to those children who have paid for them.

The costs and items are:

KS1		KS2	
New pencil case & top-ups	£8	New pencil case & top-ups	£12
Top-ups only	£4	Top-ups only	£ 6
30cm ruler Pencil Sharpener Whiteboard pen Set of coloured pencils Glue stick Green editing pen Mini stickers (for labelling)		30cm ruler Pen Pen refill Pencil Sharpener Whiteboard pen Set of coloured pencils Glue stick Green editing pen Highlighter Mini stickers (for labelling)	
			

This week we celebrated the birthdays of:

Elsbeth - Year 1
 Theo – Year 1
 William – Year 5

