



# SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021



## Children return to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

### 'Head'lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

What a year it has been (which, incidentally, is probably what I said this time last year)! Who would have thought we would have another academic year disrupted by the pandemic?

I believe the last 18 months have shown us all how resilient our children are (though I'd say we have done pretty well too)! The children embraced their return to school back in March and demonstrated the most fantastic attitudes and behaviours towards catching up on lost learning, re-learning social skills and getting back into a rather intense routine. I am in no doubt that you are as proud of your child/ren as we are – they have been incredible and often been the most brilliant of role models for us adults in dealing with Covid and the many restrictions placed upon us.

Well done to all of our children – we are immensely proud of you.

Thank you to the staff – their hard work, commitment and dedication has been unwavering in what has, no doubt, been the toughest year of their careers. Remote learning was harder for them too, this time around, but they never complained and just continued to go above and beyond in sourcing and creating interesting and accessible lessons and activities and engaging with the children daily.

Thank you for being the very best staff team a Headteacher could hope for.

Thank you to the governors – for your hard work, support in decision making and continued monitoring of our school priorities. You have shown the staff empathy and a real understanding of the challenges we were faced with whilst carrying out your role. Thank you.

Thank you to all of you – for your hard work and support of your children's learning during a very challenging Spring term, for your kind words and support of staff and for the very many lovely comments on your report feedback sheets – we REALLY appreciate it. Special thanks to all our 'volunteer MSAs' who have given up their time weekly to look after and supervise the children; we really appreciate it. They are: Mrs Atilganer, Mrs Kenner, Mrs Burrows, Mrs Heffer, Mrs Tomkins, Miss Mockridge, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Dixon, Mr Boxer, Mrs Chekairi and Ms Archer.

Today, we say goodbye to four fantastic members of staff – Miss Uwins, Mrs Pearcy, Miss Clothier and Mrs Thompson. What a loss to our school community. Thank you, ladies, for being utterly brilliant – you have impacted the pupils at Sandridge more than you know. We wish you much success and happiness as you embark on new adventures – thank you for everything and good luck.

Finally, we say goodbye to the most amazing Year 6 class – what a truly remarkable bunch they have been. We wish you every success at your new schools confident you will continue to be your amazing selves. Below are some pictures from their Leavers' Week and their final performance today!

All that leaves me to say is 'Have a great summer – be safe and enjoy!'  
We look forward to seeing you in September.

# Goodbye and good luck, Year 6!



## **Covid Procedures over the Summer Holidays**

If your child tests positive for Covid from now (Tuesday afternoon) until the end of the day on Thursday (22nd July), please email [admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk) to let us know. We will have to inform the class bubbles who will need to self-isolate (children and staff members). After this period, the school does not have to be informed.

## **Message from Herts County Council for parents/carers**

Firstly, we would like to thank you for the efforts and sacrifices you have made to keep your nursery and school communities safe over the past 16 months. As we head into the summer holidays, we'd like to remind you of some of the ways we can all enjoy a safe summer together.

While people will be excited at the prospect of restrictions being lifted on 19<sup>th</sup> July, others will be fearful or apprehensive. Remember, rules around self-isolation of close contacts for under 18s do not change until 16<sup>th</sup> August. We all need to be kind to each other as we move into this next phase.

Covid-19 won't end when the rules change, in fact cases are rising and we need to keep being sensible. It's important to recognise that everyone's circumstances are different and what feels comfortable to one person might not feel that way to another. Let's keep looking out for one another and recognise that we're all going to be moving forward at our own pace.

### **What you can do to keep yourself and others safe:**

#### **Get vaccinated**

Vaccinations are now available for everyone aged over 18 who is eligible, you don't need a GP and often don't even need to book an appointment. Visit <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/> for local sites and regular pop ups. If you or children have medical conditions, please speak to your GP about your Covid-19 vaccination.

#### **Keep testing**

Regular rapid testing, including for those who are vaccinated, for everyone in year 7 and above (tests are not designed for use on children younger than this) can make a big difference, as most people don't know they're infected until they have infected others. You can order or collect free rapid tests locally, visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest) for more information. If you have symptoms get a PCR test and self-isolate.

#### **Look out for one another**

Give people space, wear face coverings in crowded indoor areas, keep your windows and doors open when you have people round, wash and/or sanitise hands. These measures have kept us safe and will keep us safe still.

By looking out for one another we can help us keep infections low. There are many people needing healthcare for non Covid-19 reasons who have been waiting for some time. If Covid-19 cases continue to rise, people will have to wait longer for hospital and health care so let's try to stop that by working together.

We hope you all enjoy a safe and happy summer!

## **Department of Education Information Site for Parents**

The Department has launched an [information site](#) for parents, to support children of all age ranges and abilities catch up on lost learning from the pandemic. The site features advice and support for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as programmes, resources and activities for children and young people this summer.

## Message from the Governors at Sandridge

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

At the close of a school year like no other any of us has previously experienced, it looks as though, thankfully, we can look forward to a summer break more in keeping with those we are used to.

On behalf of fellow governors, I would like to take this opportunity to express a sincere and heartfelt 'Thank you' to all staff for their outstanding work throughout the pandemic crisis. Miss Roberts, the teachers, learning support staff, administrative, catering and site management teams have been truly inspirational in their dedication to the safety, well-being, and educational progress of every child. We have nothing but admiration for the way in which they have surmounted every challenge Covid has thrown at them and focussed unwaveringly on finding novel and exciting ways to move forward and achieve the very best outcomes for pupils.

Another big 'Thank you', of course, to the children themselves, who have been magnificent: responding with great positivity to unfamiliar ways of working and demonstrating their resilience and determination to succeed. So, too, to all our parents and carers, who have done so much to support their children's learning - particularly throughout the periods of lockdown – whilst giving practical help to the school in many other ways.

We want also to wish a fond farewell to the Year 6 children who are about to embark on a new and exciting stage of their school careers. Whilst they may have had to forego one or two of the more customary end-of-Year 6 activities, they have embraced the creative alternatives offered with great enthusiasm and good humour. We hope that they will take away, and keep, many happy memories of their time at Sandridge.

With the easing of restrictions, we now look forward with greater optimism to a more normal start to the new school year in September. Whilst we are very conscious of the fact that helping the children to continue catching up academically, and rebuilding their confidence, resilience and well-being, will require great patience and commitment, we know that at Sandridge, we have the leadership and team to deliver all that and more.

To everyone at home and at school: keep safe and have a very enjoyable break.

Andy Boxer  
Chair of Governors

### Families Hertfordshire Magazine July/August

<https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/fh99ja21m?fr=sZTMzZjM5OTY3Nzg>

The latest magazine is packed with fun activities to keep you and your children busy this summer. There are articles on holidays, health, food, education, a 'what's on' guide, and more! Click on the link above to view.



The following children celebrate their birthdays this week and over the summer holidays:

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

Donny Lee, Lucia, Imogen, Nathan, Adam A, James P, Leila, Jarvis, James C, Joel, Aaron, Adian, Haneefa, Emily, Evie RP, Leila, Ottie, Olivia S

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

## End of Year Awards

EYFS Sports Award: **George**

KS1 Sports Award: **Albert**

Lower KS2 Sports Award: **Adam A**

Upper KS2 Sports Award: **Griff**

EYFS Resilience Award: **Harry**

KS1 Resilience Award: **Kai**

Lower KS2 Resilience Award: **Michael**

Upper KS2 Resilience Award: **Theo**

EYFS Good Friend Award: **Sara**

KS1 Good Friend Award: **Roxy**

Lower KS2 Good Friend Award: **Amy**

Upper KS2 Good Friend Award: **Scarlett**

Whole School Contribution Award: **Rachel**

End of Year Certificates of Excellence have been awarded to:

Nursery: **Avarie, Casper**

Reception: **Imogen, Artie**

Year 1: **Olivia, Alice**

Year 2: **Andrew, Olivia**

Year 3: **James, Noah**

Year 4: **Millie, Molly**

Year 5: **Ella, Isam**

The Headteacher's Achievement Award  
for demonstrating incredible commitment, hard work and exemplary  
manners was presented to: **Hugh**