



SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 8th December 2023



**The attendance winners
for this week are
Reception with 100%**



Number of lates in each class this week:

1 late	Reception, Year 3
2 lates	Year 2, Year 6
4 lates	Year 4, Year 5
9 lates	Year 1



'Head'lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

Baby news

Some happy news to start this week's newsletter off...a couple of weeks ago, Mrs Hunt gave birth to her second child; a baby girl who they have named Winnie.

Mum and baby are doing well – we can't wait to meet the baby and have lots of cuddles!

I'm sure you join us in sending 'congratulations' to Mrs Hunt, her husband and big brother Max.

It's behind you!

Last Friday afternoon, we had the pantomime, Cinderella, performed to the whole school. It was VERY loud but the children loved it. Huge thanks to FOSS for organising this and thank you to all of you as well – your contributions to all fundraising activities and events make things like this possible.

See below for a write-up about it by the children.

Play dates and parties

This may seem like a strange thing to write about but, over recent weeks, we have had a number of issues between children that have stemmed from activities outside of school; mainly play dates and parties. This causes staff to have to take time out from learning to sit with children and try to sort issues out so children can stop being distracted in lessons.

Please could I urge you to ensure that children are supervised appropriately and in proximity of adults so that any arguments or altercations are dealt with at the time and passed on as required.

Thank you.

Food and birthday sweets

I wanted to give you an early 'heads up' and let you know that, from January, we are asking that you do not bring 'birthday' sweets to be given out on the playground at the end of the school day. You may have heard, in the news recently, about the little girl that died from eating a sweet given out in a similar way after school. Although many children are with their parents when they take a sweet, many are not and we cannot take the risk.

We celebrate birthdays in school by giving a sticker and singing 'Happy Birthday' in celebration assembly. Children may also wear a birthday badge.

The Friday donut sales are different as children are with their parents OR older children walking home on their own have been given money by their parent to purchase one themselves (therefore, having parental permission).

I hope you understand that we have to prioritise children's health and safety.

Christmas service at St Leonard's Church

On Tuesday 19th December, we will be going to a special Christmas service at St Leonard's. We will go in two groups as we did for our harvest celebration there.

If you do not wish your child/ren to attend, please let us know by next Friday at the very latest so we can ensure the risk assessment for the visit is up to date and accurate. Leaving it until the following week will be too late.

Thank you – have a lovely Christmassy weekend ☺

Childcare Choices

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs, but some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for. The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare scheme together and get the most out of it.

From next year, even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children, from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'. Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the Childcare Choices website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to the newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion. Visit:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>.

Football – Match Report

On Thursday 7th December, the Sandridge School football team played an away match against St Bernadette School in London Colney. The team hit an important milestone in that match: the first goals scored against another school! The opposition walked away with a win, but we left with our heads held high as it was the first time that one of our matches didn't end early due to the opponents having too high a score. Joel, as always, played goalkeeper for the start of the game, with Marius, Fred and James in defence, Henry and Timothy in midfield, and Noah up front. Toby and Amr were on the bench.

St Bernadette started with two quick goals. Approaching half time, the score hadn't changed. Then, after a well-placed assist from Timothy, Noah sprinted up to the box and scored! This made the score 2-1 going into the second half. This started a lot like the first half. An excellent run down the left wing leading to a shot from outside the box made the score 6-2, courtesy of Henry. In the last five minutes, St Bernadette scored their final goals meaning the overall score was 7-2. Joel was our player of the match and Number 5 was there's. Each and every player had great sportsmanship and great playing. Well done to both teams!

By Toby and Amr

Clarinet Assembly

Well done to Ben, Olivia H, Sam, Leia, Deni and Lizzy who played their clarinets beautifully in assembly this week. Thank you to Mrs Evans too!



Pantomime – by Chloe and James, Year 6

The pantomime was a delight to have in our school. It was a catchy and more amazing remix of the fairy tale, Cinderella.

They had lots of funny songs like Baby Shark, Dynamite, Frozen songs and more.

They had a cast of four people plus a rat! They even got two of the teachers to do a dance competition!

The pantomime was a solid 5 out of 5 for the audience and was especially good for younger children. It was cheesy and cringy but also funny and exciting!



FOSS

Christmas Fair

Only 10 sleeps until the Christmas Fair on **Monday 18th December 5-7pm!**

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated toys, games and books – please note we are no longer collecting donations for this.

We are however, still asking for donations of any WRAPPED chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola and wrapped sweets too for the Tuck Shop. Please continue to hand these into the school office should you wish to donate.

For any cake donations that are shop-bought/wrapped and will have a use by date beyond the Christmas Fair, if they can be delivered to the school office during next week that would be amazing to enable us to gauge our quantities over the weekend prior. Home-baked cakes can be delivered to the school office on the morning of the Fair or at school pick up. We kindly remind you that Sandridge School has a NO NUTS policy.

Reminder: There will be a non-uniform day next Friday 15th December, in return for a bottle donation for the bottle tombola being held at the Christmas Fair. Bottles should be donated in the morning, at the school gate entrance where a member of the FOSS committee will be waiting with a wheelbarrow to collect them all! (Bottles to be unopened and in date please.)

Thank you also to all those who have volunteered to help run the class stalls – without you these stalls cannot go ahead so your support is much appreciated. A list of who and when is attached.

School Disco – Friday 15th December

Early Years/KS1 - 3.15pm - 4.45pm

KS2 - 5.00pm - 6.30pm



A reminder to book your school disco tickets online, for those of you who have not yet done so. Tickets can be booked via the link below:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sandridgeschoolpta/index.cfm>

Many thanks, FOSS Committee

Year 6

On Thursday, in science, we did an experiment about birds to see which tools would be best as a beak. We used a splint, fork, spoon, scoop, spatula and tweezers. We had one minute with each piece of equipment to pick up one grain of rice at a time. We had to see which one would pick up the most grains of rice, so would be the best beak.

First, we all got cups of rice and took it in turns to use the equipment to try to pick up the rice from the cup. Then, we wrote down which items were the best to pick up the rice and the worst. For our group the spoon was the best and the splint was the worst.

By Indiah, Ava & Leia



Year 5

What a fantastic day we had of science, technology, engineering and mechanics on our visit to the STEM discovery centre this week! Our current science topic about space was brought alive by a day spent taking part in range of activities that helped us explore the solar system and look further away at the stars that fill our galaxy.

We made viewing boxes that helped us to understand the phases of the moon (we can now demonstrate and explain a waxing or waning gibbous moon) and constructed models that show the rotations and orbits of the Earth and Moon around the Sun. We ended the day looking at a ceiling of stars while listening to stories about how the constellations got their names.

We were fascinated by a talk about the Mars Rover (that is being built on the site) and astounded to see the robots in action on the Mars surface simulation. The most active part of the day was when we explored the interactive science section and tested our skills and knowledge on a range of exhibits.



Year 4

This week Year 4 carried on learning about pentatonic melodies in music. We recapped what we had learnt last week and named the notes in the pentatonic scale of C (CDEGA). We then became composers and had to write our own pentatonic melodies. We had to think carefully about what notes we were going to use, making sure they were in the pentatonic scale, and how it sounded when played. We then practised our sight-reading skills when we swapped melodies.



Year 3

On Thursday we went on our school trip to Celtic Harmony to help us learn more about Prehistory. We saw iron age round houses, ground flour to make bread, made clay pots, had a go at flint knapping (with soap!), traded in a market and took a walk through a cave filled with cave paintings! It was a very busy day and we made our adults very proud of us with our teamwork, manners and general love for learning.

Stephanie said, "He called us the Mammoth Class because he said that Year 3 was a boring name!"
Sara said, "It was interesting because we were making a spear with soap, a lollypop and a rock... and a pot out of clay."

George said, "We had loads of fun, we made some pottery. Next we ground some wheat to make flour."



Year 2

To begin our learning about materials we were given a range of materials e.g. wool, plastic, metal, glass, fabric, tin foil and wood. We felt them and talked about the properties we thought each material had, for example; soft, hard, rough, smooth, transparent, flexible and rigid and wrote clues for different materials we could see on the carpet. Then we sorted the materials according to their properties using hoops as a template for a Venn diagram. We each got to feel the materials and had to decide where we would place them in the hoops. We noticed that some materials had more than one of the properties we were sorting between so we had to put it in the middle section. We then found that some of the items didn't have either of the properties we were learning about so we placed them outside of the Venn diagram.



Year 1

On Monday, our classroom elf brought us a present for our English lesson. It was a book called 'Little Robin Red Vest'. It was all about a little robin who had seven vests, one for each day for the run up to Christmas. However, Mr Robin came across many animals that were really cold so he gave his jumpers away to keep them warm over winter. Mrs Baker put on seven jumpers and gave one out each time Miss White introduced a new character from the book. It was so fun! We then thought about ways we could describe Mr Robin's personality and thought about how kind he had been.



Early Years

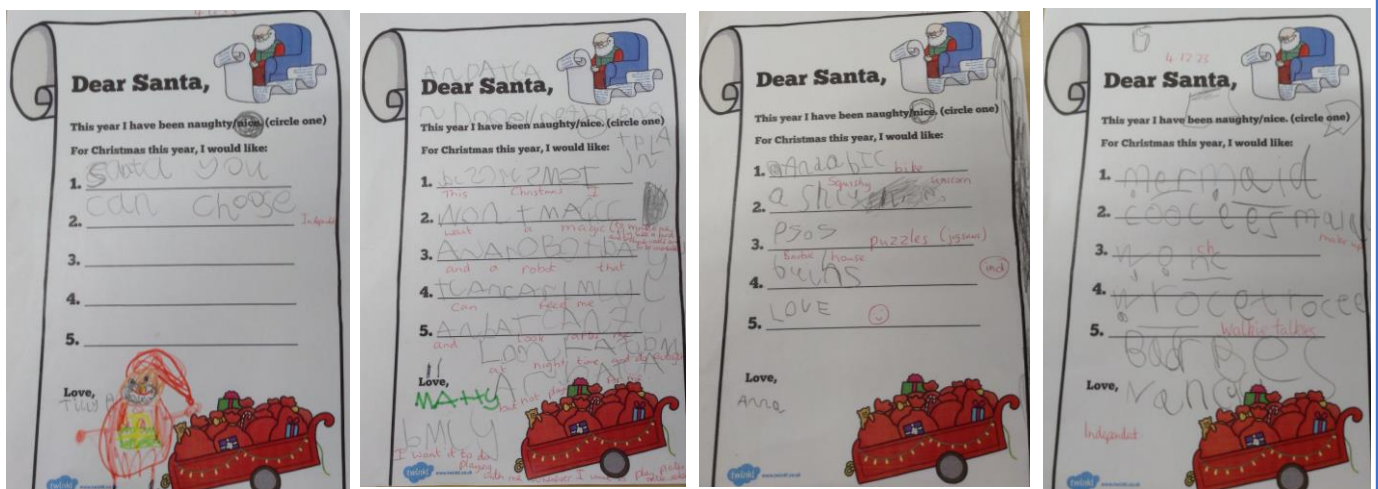
Early Years have been busy thinking about Santa!

We have sung the song 'S-A-N-T-A' (which was introduced by Mrs Beard).
We have also painted Santas (another of Mrs Beard's favourite Christmas activities).



We enjoyed the stories 'Dear Santa' and 'A Letter to Father Christmas' and all wrote our own letters to Father Christmas/Santa. We hope he gets them in time... (through the magic post box!).

We all enjoyed reading the children's ideas, especially "Santa, you can choose!" We talked about gifts not always being toys and a little about the difference between needing and wanting things too.





The following children celebrated their birthdays this week:

Parker



Phenomenal Phonics awards

Reception: Sophie
Year 1: Lenny
Year 2: Yunus



Star Writer awards

Reception: Ted
Year 1: Mohamad
Year 2: Oscar

Year 3: Artie
Year 4: Oliver
Year 5: Isaiah
Year 6: James



REPS Certificates (Respect, Equality, Perseverance, Self-belief)



Showing lovely self-belief, respect, perseverance and equality during all her learning and playing: Tilly

Persevering when reading tricky books in Guided Reading: Hope

Listening carefully to feedback and showing perseverance with your writing: Jack

Having more confidence and self-belief to work independently: Karen

Persevering with your learning this week and challenging yourself in your assessments: Alex

Showing perseverance and self-belief in his work: Thomas

Persevering with his assessments and responding positively to the adult support: Noah

Certificates of Merit



Early Years Superstar Award for amazing independent model making: Harrison

Demonstrating amazing phonics and maths recall this week: Reuben

Making so much progress in meeting your targets: Hunter

Showing an excellent understanding of the story, Rapunzel: Evelyn

For determination to succeed this week and trying hard to show your progress: Matilda

Having such a wonderful attitude in your learning this week: Albie

Enthusiastically sharing his knowledge about the planets and space on our class trip: Buzz

Producing a brilliant winter scene for her homework: Indiah

Sporting Certificates



Using good control of her body in her snowflake movements and during PE: Nancy S

You have worked so hard in dance and become much more confident! Lacie

Thinking of interesting pathways and balances to use with your partner in dance: Sofia

Being spotted by both coaches using excellent control of the ball in hockey: Georgia

Working really hard in PE this week and showing a good understanding of agility: Emily

Successfully working with his group to perform different rolls & balances in gymnastics: Sebastian

Listening carefully to instructions and advice in PE: Michael

Player of the match as voted for by the opposition in the football match against St Bernadette: Joel