



# SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**The attendance winners  
for this week are  
Reception with 99.2%**



**Number of lates in each class this week:**

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



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

I am writing this week's 'head'lines feeling rather weary after a very late night at the O2 with our choir yesterday! It was worth the exhaustion though; we all had the most fantastic day and evening at the annual Young Voices event.

The children had an amazing time singing along with thousands of other children from schools all over the South-East.

Huge thanks to Miss Everall and Mrs Allard for their commitment to choir each week and to Mrs Baker and Mrs Teakle for supporting. Special thanks to Miss Everall for organising the trip; it's a huge thing to organise and quite stressful but it is so worth it.

We will all sleep well tonight...

(see below for photos and children's comments).

Just a reminder of uniform and PE kits:

We are seeing a lot of different coloured trainers along with leggings and tracksuits on P.E days – this is not our P.E kit. Children must wear black jogging bottoms or royal blue shorts, a plain white round-necked T-shirt and their school cardi or sweatshirt.

Trainers or plimsolls must be black.

Trainers should not be worn on non-P.E days – instead; black school shoes.

Long hair should be tied back with plain hair bands in blue, white or grey. No big bows, ribbons or sweatbands please!

If you are struggling, financially, we have some good quality pre-loved uniform in our reception area – it is organised into all the items of uniform your child needs. Please pop into the office if you would like to have a look.

Along with the newsletter, this week, is a 'cost of living' flashcard produced by Hertfordshire County Council – it provides details of support, advice and services available to help you stay safe and well.

Have a great weekend – wrap up warm; the cold spell is set to last for a little longer! ☺

## **FOSS Update**

The FOSS committee will be meeting up next week.

Watch this space for exciting upcoming events to be announced in next week's newsletter!

## Young Voices

Yesterday morning, 40 children from KS2 travelled to the O2 for Young Voices. We started with a rehearsal with all the other schools. We were part of a choir with 8472 children as part of one massive choir! We were joined by Urban Strides, Natalie Williams, Nandi Bushell, MC Grammar and Lauren Byrne who plays Miss Honey in Matilda.

Aaron – “I loved the pop medley.”

Sadie – “My favourite bit was when Urban Strides were on.”

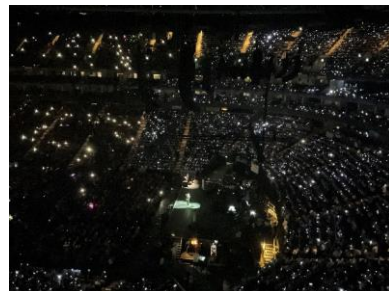
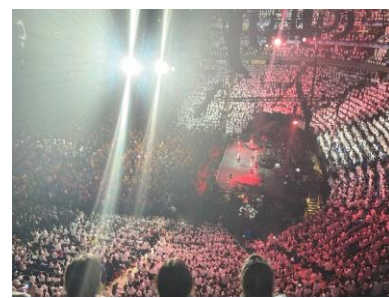
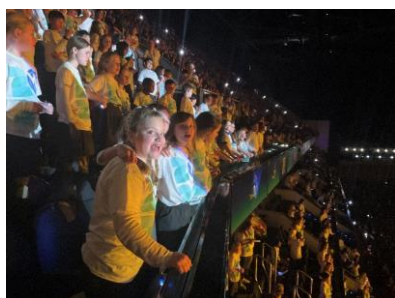
Michelle – “I liked the pop medley.”

Franklin – “My favourite bit was the walking medley.”

George – “All of it was my favourite!”

Ben – “The Matilda medley was my favourite.”

Amr – “My favourite was In The Mood.”



## Bulbs and Mrs Beard's Advent Challenge

Back in early December, as part of Mrs Beard's Advent Challenge, Early Years planted Paperwhite Narcissi bulbs. They are all growing very tall and some have even flowered, as you can see!



## Active Sandridge!

Children need to be physically active for at least 60 minutes a day, with 30 minutes of that activity taking place outside of school. Research shows that physical activity can help school-aged children in lots of ways:

- improves behaviour, self-confidence and social skills
- improves attention levels and performance at school
- develops co-ordination
- strengthens muscles and bones
- improves health and fitness
- maintains healthy weight
- helps them sleep better
- improves mood and makes them feel good

You can read more about this on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/>

Here at Sandridge, we want to encourage everyone to be active! Starting this week, we will be sending home weekly activity challenges for everyone in your household to take part in. Please send in photos of children (and you!) completing the challenges so we can celebrate this in the newsletter each week, where we will also announce a new challenge for the week ahead.

### This week's 'Active Sandridge!' challenge is:

#### Bowls

##### What you need:

- Two players
- A marker
- Three pairs of socks each

##### How to play:

- Play against another player.
- Place a target marker an agreed distance from a start line.
- Take turns to roll or throw your sock towards the target marker.
- Whoever lands closest to the target marker wins the round.
- Play first to ten points.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in pictures of themselves being active. We now have a wonderful display up showing off how active we are as a school, both pupils and staff.

As you can see there is still space left for others to join; the aim is to have everyone in school on the display. If you would like to have your picture on the board, please upload it onto the next homework assignment or email it to admin.





## Year 6

In Year 6, we have been reading the book, *The Night of the Gargoyles*, focusing on what the creatures are doing and how they are behaving. In English, on Wednesday, we acted out the gargoyles' movements and facial expressions. We then, as a class, came up with some words to describe them.

After this, we split into groups of 4 or 5 and came up with sentences to describe the gargoyles.

First, we came up with a noun phrase, we then added adjectives and finally added in prepositional phrases. This helped us improve our sentences to come up with some really fantastic sentences.



## Year 5

In Music this week, we started with the question, 'What colour is music?' and then explored how we could represent a piece of music graphically. We worked in groups to design a graphic score to represent the music we listened to. We approached the task in the following order:

- we listened to the song all the way through without talking,
- we then discussed the different features of the music, the number of sections, instruments and dynamics used and any other important features that needed to be written down,
- we then sketched out some ideas for the score on A4 paper before transferring these in full colour onto larger paper (A3 or flipchart paper).





## Year 4

Year 4 have started their new science unit on sound. We learnt that sound is made when objects vibrate. As we can't see the vibrations, we then took part in three different investigations that enabled us to see the cause and effect of the vibrations. We used coat hangers and string, rice on a djembe drum and a tuning fork in water.

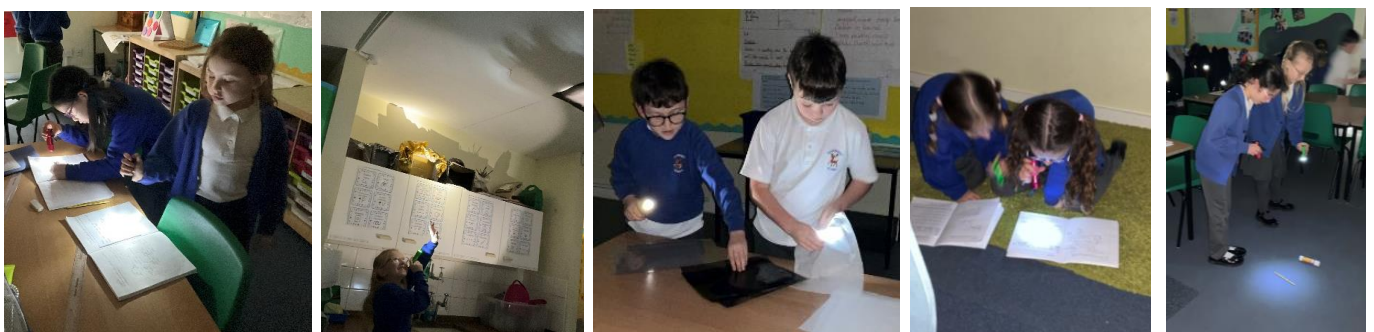


## Year 3

We have begun our new topic 'Light & Shadows' for science so we generated some questions that we want to find out the answers to during the unit. Here are some of our questions:

How does light make a shadow?  
What things do you need to make a light?  
Why can't you see in the dark?  
Can you make a shadow without light?  
What is light?  
Why do shadows exist?  
How is light made?  
When do shadows come?

We then spent some time with a torch in a dark classroom to try to test some questions given by Mrs Barrasso. We had to explore: how to change the size of a shadow; see if the object material changed the shadow; and if the darkness in the room had any impact.





## Year 2

In computing this week, we started our new unit about robot algorithms. First, we learnt what algorithms actually are. We found out that an algorithm is a set of instructions given in a specific order to complete a task. We learnt how important it is to give clear instructions when we tried to get our partners to draw pictures without them looking. Then we found out how the order that the instructions are given in can change the outcome using Bee-Bots. We could tell the Bee-Bots to move forward twice, turn left and turn right, but when we gave these instructions in different orders our Bee-Bots ended up in different positions on our maps.



## Year 1

This week in RE we learnt about different religious books. We discussed the Torah, the Bible and the Qur'an. We spoke about which religion each book belonged to and why they are special. Then we had the chance to have a look at a Bible, a Torah and a Qur'an. We thought about some similarities and differences between the books and if any of us had come across any of these books before. Finally, Mrs Baker shared the story of The Good Samaritan to us. We even acted out parts of the story to aid our understanding.





## Early Years

This week children have been enjoying the Gruffalo!  
We have loved role-playing the story using large and small role-play (with characters and puppets).



We have enjoyed reading the story in our very own Gruffalo cave during our own learning time and, of course, dressing up as the Gruffalo himself!



We have drawn pastel drawings of characters and also painted the Gruffalo (something that Mrs Beard liked to do too) remembering to include the features of orange eyes, black tongue, purple prickles on his back, a green poisonous wart on his nose, terrible teeth and knobbly knees!



We loved singing the Gruffalo song too!

Here is a link to a Makaton version with Julia Donaldson (the author) if you would like to learn it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCdVP9Qg6HM>

We also went on a Gruffalo hunt to see if we could see any traces of him in the trees/wood.

We did see some interesting footprints and animal poo!

Then we saw three bold foxes out in the daytime like in the Gruffalo story (probably because they are hungrier in winter)! We also saw a robin with very fluffed out feathers, as it was cold, and a blue tit. Amazing!



Finally, we made Gruffalo Crumble – yum yum!



The following children celebrated their birthdays this week:

Cece-Blue



#### Phenomenal Phonics awards

Reception: Tilly  
Year 1: Mohamad  
Year 2: Amelia



#### Star Writer awards

Reception: Oscar  
Year 1: Henry  
Year 2: Oscar T

Year 3: Harry  
Year 4: Alex  
Year 5: Albert  
Year 6: Michael



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



Showing respect, equality, perseverance and self-belief during all his learning this week: Matty

Trying so hard with your reading this week, impressing us all with your perseverance: Lacie

Showing such perseverance with your writing this week: Sophie

Amazing us with all your times tables and spellings, showing self-belief and perseverance: Freddie

Always being a respectful member of the class and listening carefully to whoever is speaking: Amna

Showing perseverance with all her learning this week and being determined to succeed: Jinane

Being a respectful member of the class who considers others when working with them and brings out the best in her peers: Indiah

#### Certificates of Merit



Early Years Superstar Award for regulating his emotions well this week: Elliot

Lovely Gruffalo role-play this week and sharing his own Gruffalo puppets too! Austin

Trying incredibly hard in your lessons this week and producing great work! Taliyah

Being so positive and celebrating the successes of others in class all this week! Ben G

Consistently showing good listening skills: Charlie LH

Having such a successful week. You have come into school with a positive attitude, worked extremely hard and put 100% effort into your work: Hannah

Having a positive attitude to her learning this week: Ellie

Working hard to achieve the tasks set in lessons: Alex H

#### Sporting Certificates



Joining in cheerfully with PE this week: Sophie

Having such a positive attitude towards PE this week: Nancy N

Showing such focus in yoga: Seth

Coming up with interesting movements in dance to represent machines: Matty

Showing wonderful physical skills in handball this week: Aaron

Great effort during our PE fitness lesson and pushing herself to do better: Olivia L

Performing an amazing improvised Bhangra piece in dance lessons this week: James