SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 6th February 2026

The attendance winners for this week are Year 1/2 with 98.9%



Number of late in each class this week:

No lates	**Year 1/2**
1 late	**Year 5, Year 6**
4 lates	**Year 3**
8 lates	**Reception, Year 4**



‘Head’lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

We have had a very exciting week, this week:

Our Science and English Week started with a ‘splash’…Mrs Hardie, Mrs Allard, Mrs Barrasso and Mr Riley kneeling in a paddling pool for the duration of assembly demonstrating Archimedes’ discovery of water displacement. There was a lot of water and a lot of excitement – Eureka!

We had a range of animals and insects in the building on Tuesday including; snakes, rats, an owl, a tarantula, rabbits, a skinny pig and some guinea pigs. I was very brave with Reception and held the tarantula during their session!

On Wednesday, each class had a technology workshop which involved working together as a team, building towers and testing the strength of bridges.

Dress-up day, yesterday, was a real highlight – the costumes were amazing. Probably the best dress-up day we have ever had. Thank you for your effort in making, creating and/or putting together the most brilliant costumes – the children looked brilliant!
Staff had great fun too!

Huge thanks to Mrs Hardie and Mrs Allard for planning and facilitating such a fantastic week.

Thank you to FOSS for organising the Spring discos yesterday. At the end of a busy day, children got even more excited with disco balls and dancing.

Finally, please sign up for a parent consultation slot next week if you haven’t already. These take place on Tuesday and Thursday evening. The link is below:

https://sandridge.schoolcloud.co.uk/

Have a great weekend 😊

FOSS

Thank you to everyone who came to the Sparkly Spring Disco this week. The children had lots of fun dancing to their favourite music. By purchasing a ticket, you've helped to raise around £300 for the school!

Please send this link to your family, friends, colleagues, community members and anyone else that may be willing to help our cause and allow us to reach our target for new playground equipment.



zeffy.com

Whole School Science and English Eureka Week

In assembly on Monday, Mrs Allard introduced our 'Wonderwall' and scientist information. Mrs Hardie, Mrs Allard, Mrs Barrasso and Mr Riley all got in and out of a paddling pool to act out the story of 'Mr Archimedes bath' by Pamela Allen to illustrate, in a child friendly way, how Archimedes discovered the water was displaced by the mass/density of someone and shouted Eureka! ("I've found it") in the streets! See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WV74SOhe_bg for the whole story!
Mrs Hardie also did some orange and orange peel experiments with the help of Mrs Allard.
Do ask your children to explain what happened and why!

We then did some buddy engineering challenges… there was such a buzz in the hall!
Many children were able to complete the challenges to build a tower with spaghetti and marshmallows that was strong enough to hold a plastic teddy/elephant and to make a strong boat that could hold many coins (passengers). See our Facebook page for some of the pictures!







Tuesday began with an assembly where we met Charlie the owl! Afterwards, in our classes, we went on to meet snakes, rats, guinea-pigs, (including a 'skinny pig!'), rabbits and Terry the tarantula! See Isla and Lizzy's write up below for more details.



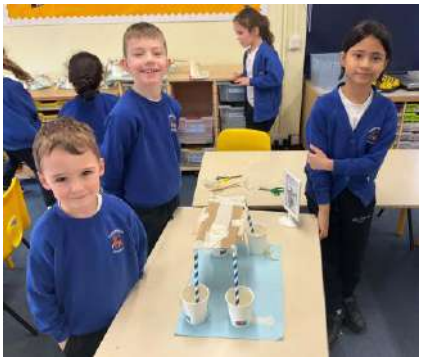
Whole School Science and English Eureka Week

On Tuesday, the whole school were entertained by a wide variety of animals with their owner, Geoff. When it was Year 6's turn, we were a little bit apprehensive. The first animals were the corn snakes. Geoff place them around our necks and around our arms – they were very wriggly. Next, came the tarantula! Many of us were very nervous but we bravely had a go at holding it. Some of us even had it crawling over our heads! After this, came the guinea pigs and rats. A couple of which had a little poop on the floor and on our laps! There was one guinea pig that was called a 'skinny' pig as it was completely bald. This breed had been created years ago in Canada for testing make-up on – we were very shocked to hear this. He was very cute and soft but he was trembling and squeaking the whole time - Geoff said that is how they communicate. Finally, we held a tiny owl called Charlie who had been shown to us during assembly. Even Mrs Virji and Mrs Littlechild came in for a hold.
Thank you, Geoff for an amazing day.

by Isla and Lizzy

On Wednesday we welcomed a visitor who ran some very exciting STEM workshops. We thought about what engineers do and realised engineering was all around us. We looked at tall buildings and then completed a tower challenge to see who could build it the highest. Then we had to design and build a strong bridge for the 3 Billy Goats Gruff!











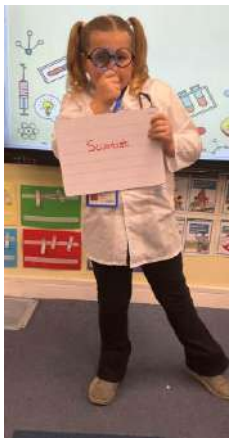






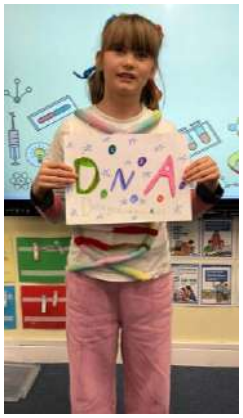
Whole School Science and English Eureka Week

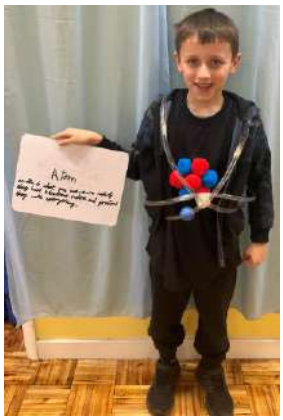
On Thursday, we had our Science Dress Up Day. What a lot of inventive costumes there were! We are looking forward to creating a new display in the Year 5-6 corridor with photos of everyone – look out for it soon!

























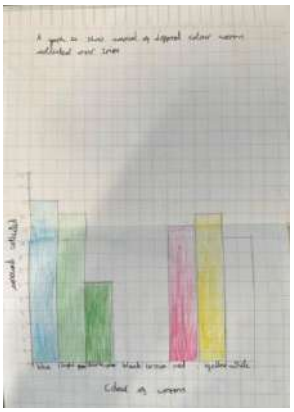
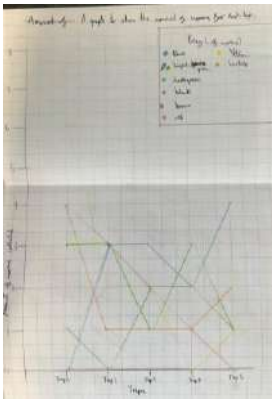
Thank you to all children, staff and parents for contributing with such enthusiasm to what has been such a successful week! Also, to the many who accepted and overcame challenges whether it be holding a spider/snake or building higher! A special mention to Miss Roberts who overcame some of her arachnophobia!

Year 6

Over the last two weeks in Science, we have predicted, conducted, analysed data for and concluded an experiment linked to adaptation. We turned into birds again and had to feed on different coloured worms to bring back to our nests to feed our young. Firstly, we made a prediction about which coloured worms would be easiest and hardest to find, then went out in 1 minute hunts to find the worms. After this, we analysed the data and produced different types of graphs to show different parts of the data. Then, we wrote conclusions (linking to English) to explain which worms were the easiest and hardest to find, why and how this links to adaptation.






Year 5

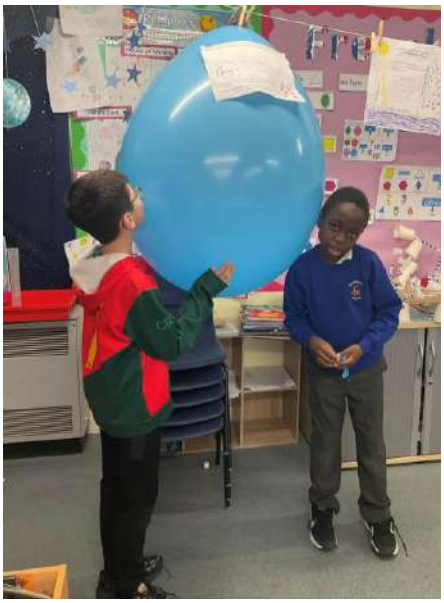
In our science lesson on Monday, we carried out our investigation of material separation. Working in groups, we experimented on how to separate a mixture of paper clips, rice, pasta, sand and salt. Using various tools such as filter funnel and filtering paper, sieve, and dissolving materials in water, we tested different separation methods and observed how each material responded. We also applied our knowledge of material properties, discussed and decided which methods to try in each step. This investigation helped us to understand how to separate mixtures in a scientific way.

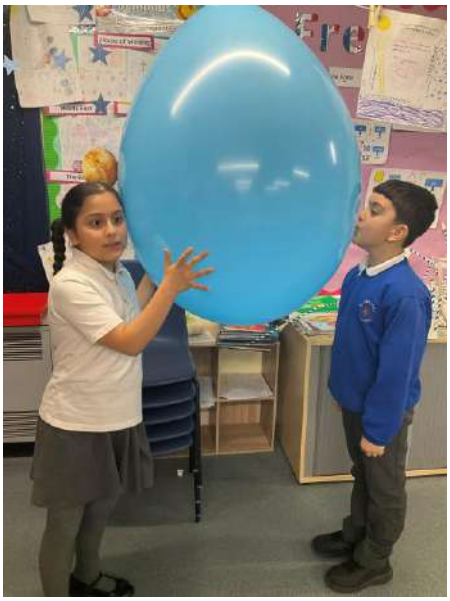





Year 4

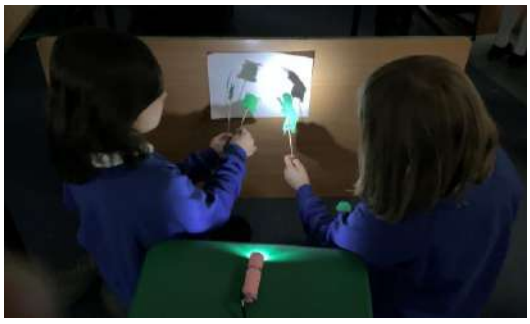
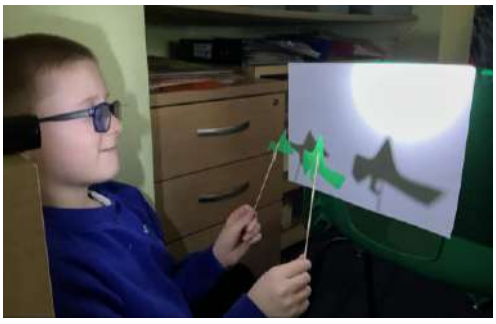
This week we conducted a science investigation linked to our unit about sound. We wanted to investigate how sound travels through different mediums and whether it would travel better through solids, liquids or gasses. We listened to tapping through a table, stones being hit together under water and our voices through a balloon. We were surprised at how sounds changed when they were travelling through liquids and solids compared to what we can usually hear through the gas around us.





Year 3

We have been learning about light and shadows so decided to make shadow puppets as part of Science and English week. As part of the exploration, we had to think about how to make our characters bigger or smaller to give the appearance of them coming or going. We also found out that drawing details onto the puppets was not needed because they don't show up on the shadow. There were lots of different performance voices heard and some of us planned whole conversations between the characters too!



Year 1/2

In science this week we were testing which material would be best to fix the hole in Miss Everall's umbrella. We tried paper, laminated paper, bubble wrap, cling film, foam and rubber. We found out that all of them actually stopped the water getting through, even the paper, but we did think it might not hold after lots of water. As all of those materials were waterproof, we then tried hessian just so we could see what would happen with a non-waterproof material.








Reception

Reception have been having general science fun with bubbles and balloons! Along the way we used some words like pump/air/expand/inflate/deflate/bigger/smaller/stretch/rainbow.









We have enjoyed the slinky and playing with toy animals including birds and minibeasts. We have read science stories, poems and information books. We have written shape poems about balloons where we could use our phonic word 'bigger.' We also enjoyed a dancing raisins experiment, a volcano and devised our own experiments to answer our own questions… what a busy week we have had!

The following children celebrated their birthdays this week:



Quinn, James, Sam



This week's Class Cup of Kindness is awarded to: Year 6



Phenomenal Phonics awards

Year R: Jerry
Year 1/2: Liam



Star Writer awards

Year R: Markos
Year 1/2: Lennie
Year 3: Samuel
Year 4: Sama
Year 5 Freddie
Year 6: Hannah



Science awards

Year R: Beatrix and Noel
Year 1/2: Ted
Year 3: Hope
Year 4: Jack
Year 5 James
Year 6: Kam



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



Showing tremendous perseverance and self-belief in all science activities this week: Mya

Showing amazing self-belief and independence when writing your shape poem: Zahra

Showing more resilience and independence in your learning: Archie

Showing such perseverance with your writing: Ann Teresa

Embracing Science and English week with such enthusiasm: Artie

Being respectful, polite and engaged with our visitors this week: Alice K

Certificates of Merit



Amazing enthusiasm for Science and English activities this week! Elijah

Throwing yourself into all areas of Science and English week: Austin

Focus and concentration in lessons and showing more confidence: Minnie

Such fantastic work in Science and English week: Charlie W

Outstanding effort in Science and English week: Imogen

A huge improvement in reading this week: Alex

Sport Certificates



Fantastic balloon pumping strength this week! Freya

Demonstrating wonderful chest passes and catching in PE: Mahnaz

Demonstrating excellent throwing and catching skills in handball this week: Shahnaz

Excellent defending skills to delay attackers and gain possession in basketball: Oscar P

Growing into the sport of handball and thriving in the games this week despite the cold! Rebecca

Excellent defending and goalkeeping in football this week: Otti