



Sandhills Newsletter

Autumn Term No 9

6th November 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

On Tuesday 31st October, Thomas R, Emma P, Orchid H and Otis T-W represented Sandhills at the Year Six Maths Challenge at St Edwards School. 37 Oxfordshire schools from both the state and private sector put forward pairs of children to take part in this mathematical event that involves lots of tricky puzzles and maths activities. A huge well done to all four students who represented our school; we are very proud of all of you and especially so of Otis and Orchid who came second out of all the very able mathematicians in the whole competition! This is a very special achievement!

We look forward to taking part in the Year Four Maths Challenge next week. We are grateful to the organisers and host schools for the opportunity these events provide to develop the enjoyment of mathematics in our school and extend the skills of our able mathematicians.

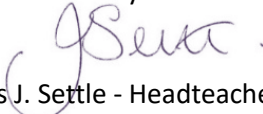


Last week Cas Lester, our author in residence and Lilley Mitchell, from BBC Radio Oxford came into school to speak to the children about some books they have been reading. Their views were aired during Lilley's live show on Wednesday 1st November at the start of the second hour. You might like to catch up with the show on BBC iplayer. We are very proud of the children who took part.

Proofs of the individual and sibling school photographs are being sent out this week. These must be returned with your order by the end of next week.

The Year 6s will be selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion this week at lunch times. Next week our Children in Need fundraising campaign starts. Look out for more information in next week's newsletter.

Yours sincerely


Mrs J. Settle - Headteacher



Superstar Learners of the Week!

I am delighted to list the names of the children who were awarded Star of the Week at the end of last term. They have demonstrated a growth mindset, and worked hard to achieve their certificates – we are all enormously proud of you!



Class	Name
FSU	Jack F India-Rose A
Y1-H	Nye J
Y1-S	Marcus F
Y2-S	Alex W
Y2-HL	Winston T

Class	Name
Y3-N	Bella K
Y4-T	Hannah AH Amelie B
Y5-S	Jamie G
Y6-G	Emma P Thomas R
Y6-H	Melissa E

Personal Achievement Cards!

I am enormously proud of the children who have completed a Personal Achievement card this week.

Name	Card
Amy P	1
Jamie N	1
Freddie L	1

Name	Card
Lois W	1
Jaya M	1
George B	1

Music Awards!

I am enormously proud of the children who have achieved awards for music.

Name	Award
Mellissa T-V	Bronze Award
Bella K	Bronze Award
Juliet M	Bronze Award
Megan H	Bronze Award
Joseph O	Bronze Award



Attendance

At the end of last year, the annual attendance at Sandhills School was 95.58%, which is well below the national average of 96.1%. This year, the school has set an ambitious target of at least **96.5%**, which with your help and support, I am sure can be achieved.

The tables below show the attendance for each class since the start of the school year in September. Percentages in red show classes that have attendance above our target.

Class	Attendance
FSU-C	98.4%
FSU-M	95.3%
1H	97.9%
1S	96.8%
2HL	94.0%
2S	97.0%

Class	Attendance
3N	97.1%
4T	97.6%
5S	97.4%
6G	95.1%
6H	97.5%

The attendance overall this term is **96.75%**, which is above our target. Please support the school to maintain this attendance target.

Lateness

There is a clear link between pupils' achievement and their level of attendance at school. The governors and staff, alongside the LA, firmly believe that all pupils benefit from regular attendance. We want all pupils to achieve the very best they can and for this they need to be in school regularly and on time.

Can we please remind parents and children that school starts at 8:45am. There has been an increase in the number of children who arrive after the register closes at 9:00am. If a pupil is frequently late we will contact parents to identify any issues that are causing their late arrival. If children continue to arrive after the register has closed, the school may refer the family to the Oxfordshire County Council Attendance Team.

Sports Club Update

A fabulous first week back after the half term break. The highlights have been: Athletics club for Year 3 and 4; the children worked really hard on improving their running styles, their sprint starts and their relay techniques; also, we had a great turnout for football club with a great mix of both girls and boys and included children from Year 4, 5 and 6. There was a wonderfully positive and cooperative attitude from everyone. We're looking forward to the next few weeks.

I also really enjoyed working with class 6G this week, they showed great energy and teamwork in our impromptu netball session. They really challenged each other to extend their skills and show what they have learnt over the past few weeks.

Year 3 were also a real highlight, showing an imaginative flair in creating ideas for an Egyptian dance piece. The next few weeks should be exciting to watch as they develop their group performances.

Sports Coordinator – Mr Cobb



Children in Need

Next week is **Children in Need** and we're encouraging the children of Sandhills School to be Spot-tacular and wear one item of clothing (e.g. t-shirt, trousers, jumper, headband) that is spotty.

Please bring in a minimum donation of a pound. You may bring more if you want to. All the money will go to Children in Need. This will happen on **Friday 17th November**.

Wristbands with Pudsey on them will also be sold, starting from Tuesday 14th, for £1 each.

Thank you and GET SPOTTY!

School Council



End of term - Kidz Club – After School

Please note that school finishes for the Christmas break at 2pm on Tuesday 19th December and there will be no Kidz Club on that day.



Class Celebration Assemblies

We hope that you can come and celebrate the effort and achievements of the children each week at 2:20pm in the hall.

Date	Class
Friday 10 th November	Y4-T
Friday 17 th November 2:20pm	Whole School Anti-Bullying
Friday 24 th November	Y1-H

Date	Class
Friday 1 st December	Y3-N
Friday 8 th December	No assembly Xmas Fair!

KEY DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Date	Event
Monday 13 th November	INSET – School closed for staff training
Monday 27 th November	Whole school visit to Oxford Playhouse – morning
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 12 th December – 6:00pm	KS2 Carol Concert
Wednesday 13 th December – 9:30am	Foundations Stage Unit (FSU) - Nativity
Thursday 14 th December – 2:00pm	FSU - Nativity
Tuesday 19 th December – 2:00pm	End of term



A message from the PTA

Thank you to all those who donated cakes and came to the Halloween Bake off and cake sale, we raised £127.00 profit from the event.

Thank you to those who came to the PTA Halloween monster disco on Friday night, a big thank you to DJ Dirk and all the volunteers on the night. The children looked like they had a wonderful evening.

The next PTA event is the annual Christmas Market on Friday 8th December starting at 3pm.

Donation drop off days for the Christmas Market are Friday 10th November, Friday 17th November, Friday 24th November and Friday 1st December (Christmas Jumper day). We would like donations of wine, filled jars, unwanted gifts or novelty Christmas items, children's books and toys.

A drop off for cakes and bakes will be the morning of Friday 8th December.

Raffle tickets for the Christmas markets wonderful adults and children's raffles will be sold after school on Friday 10th November.

Thank you for your continued support with our fundraising efforts.