

Sandhills Newsletter

Spring Term No. 19

29th January 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Earlier today we received notification that Ofsted will carry out a two-day inspection starting tomorrow, Tuesday 30th January. Attached to the newsletter is a letter from Ofsted to parents and carers with further information about the inspection and a guide for parents. We will not know the outcome from the inspection for several weeks, and will let you have further information, once we receive the official report.

Last week we welcomed three new parents to the Sandhills Governing Body: Matt Clarke, Gordon Berry and Greg Millett-Clay. Governors play a vital role in setting the vision and ethos for our school. They make strategic decisions to guarantee the best possible education for your children by allocating resources to the right priorities, making sure safeguarding policies and procedures are robust and monitoring the delivery of our School Development Plan. The three new governors join an experienced, committed and supportive team, and I very much look forward to working with them over the coming months.

This year, one of the priorities in our School Development Plan is to improve the levels of attendance in school. Unfortunately, at the moment our overall attendance is below the national average with only two classes maintaining an average above this. I would like to encourage parents to make non-urgent medical appointments for your children, such as dentists and opticians, out of school hours or during half term. Every school day counts!

Sandhills School has not escaped the flu virus that we have all read about in the news and there is also a sickness bug in some classes. Germs are passed easily from one person to another and can survive on surfaces for up to three hours. The cleaners have been asked to deep-clean classrooms to help minimise the impact of unwanted germs that can spread so easily in school. Please help us by speaking to your child about the importance of regular handwashing. Whilst washing with soap and water doesn't kill the cold virus, if done properly, it can stop it spreading.

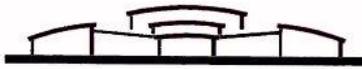
There have been a number of children with head lice, which is very common in young children. Head lice doesn't have anything to do with dirty hair and are usually picked up from head-to-head contact. The lice simply walk from one head to another, and outbreaks often happen in school as children work and play closely together. Please check your child's hair regularly, and if you find any head lice or eggs, please treat with a special fine-toothed comb or with medicated lotion or spray. There is no need to keep your child off school.

It is with great sadness that we say a fond farewell to Mrs Sadler who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Sadler has worked at Sandhills for six years, supporting class teachers across the whole school, from Year 6 to her present position in Year 1. Mrs Sadler is a fantastic Higher-Level Teaching Assistant, and many of our children (past and present) are now keen and competent cooks as well as enthusiastic readers, as a result of her efforts!

I know that many children, parents and staff will be sad to see her go, but I am sure that you will join me in wishing her all the best in her new ventures.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J. Settle - Headteacher



Attendance

We all want the children in our care to achieve the very best they can and for this they need to be in school regularly and on time. The attendance for the school year so far is 95.7%, which is below the national average of 96.1%. Our school target of 96.5%, but currently there are only 2 classes with attendance above this.

The table below shows the attendance for each class since the start of the school year in September. Percentages in green show classes that have achieved attendance above our target.

Class	Attendance
FSU-C	95.7%
FSU-M	95.7%
1H	96.4%
1S	95.7%
2HL	93.3%
2S	96.5%

Class	Attendance
3N	96.7%
4T	95.5%
5S	94.6%
6G	96.8%
6H	95.7%

The school gates are opened at 8.30am and school starts at 8.45am. If your child arrives after the bell at 8.45am, they have to be marked as *late* in the register. The gates are closed at 9.00am, and anyone arriving after this should bring their child to the front entrance to sign the late register. Children arriving after 9.00am will be marked as *unauthorized but present* in the register, which will affect their attendance record. Parents will receive an updated attendance record at parent consultations in March.

Attendance percentages can be misleading. For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% means that your child has missed half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the year – that’s nearly 4 school weeks and the Department for Education classifies this as ‘poor’. An attendance rate of 80% is ‘unacceptable’ and is equal to over 7 weeks of learning missed.

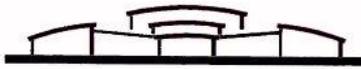
Give your child the best start in life and encourage them to come to school every day – every school day counts.

Superstar Learners of the Week!

I am delighted to list the names of the children awarded Star of the Week! You have demonstrated a growth mindset, and worked hard to achieve your certificates – we are all enormously proud of your efforts!



Class	Name	Class	Name
FSU	Poppy A	Y3-N	
	Jacob GT	Y4-T	Zoey G Aisheh M
Y1-H	Iman R	Y5-S	Erin G
Y1-S	Jayden E	Y6-G	Thomas R
Y2-S	Kait S Aaliyah E-O	Y6-H	Trinity J Jessica G
Y2-HL	Rose E		



Personal Achievement Cards!

We are enormously proud of the children who have completed a Personal Achievement Card.

Name	Card
Mina V	1
Emma M	1
Aisheh M	1
Gabby W	1
Hadley M	2

Name	Card
Hazel F	1
Ryan S	1
Roman M	1
Erin G	1
Imyia G	1

Name	Card
Sinead Q	1
James W	1
Morgan G	1
Zunairah N	

Eco News

We have recently adopted our very own orang-utan through the WWF. These amazing creatures are endangered due to the deforestation of their habitat, largely due to palm oil plantations. We recommend checking if any food or cosmetics you intend to buy are made from palm oil. Unless it is made with sustainable palm oil, it might be worth exploring what other products are available.

STOP PRESS!! Do you want your very own orang-utan? If you would like the opportunity to win an adoption pack from WWF, then please play our 'Name the Orang-utan' game!! Please bring in £1 and choose a name from the list. If you pick the name chosen by Mrs H-L, then you will win a baby orang-utan toy and regular updates as part of the adoption. Any money made will go to the WWF to help pay for our Sandhills adoption of an orang-utan and the additional adoption on its way to a lucky family! Any more money made will go towards WaterAid.



The game will come around to each class for the next week! Please give your child £1 (or more!) so they can join in with our game and support the WWF.

Mrs Hunter-Lacey

Sports Club Update

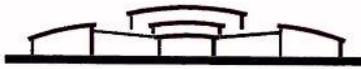
Last week saw an incredibly close boys football match against East Oxford, with the 7 a side team holding it together to finish worthy winners. The score was 5-4 and continues a bit of a winning streak for Sandhills teams recently. Next week the girls team is playing against Windmill girls on Tuesday 30th; it should be a great match.

Outdoor Adventure Club was full of mud, running, teamwork, laughter and red smiling faces at the end. We're really enjoying the opportunity to use the wilder parts of the School grounds, although a pair of running spiked shoes might be handy fairly soon if the mud doesn't dry.

Football Club has been great this term; plenty of girls taking part and everyone working hard on ball skills and fitness. This week we were helped out by Stan and Dan from Wheatley Park, who ran some passing and shooting drills.

The coaching from Oxford United for years 5 and 2 has been going well this term, while the year 6s have been loving the rugby league coaching. Perfect weather for sliding over the try line!

Mr Cobb



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 2 nd February	2S
Friday 9 th February	Sign2sing 1H
Friday 23 rd February	4T
Friday 2 nd March	1S

Date	Class
Friday 9 th March	3N
Friday 16 th March	5S
Friday 23 rd March	Science focus Whole School

KEY DATES FOR THE SPRING & SUMMER TERMS

Date	Event
Wednesday 7 th February	Height and Weight Measuring for Foundation Stage and Year 6
Friday 9 th February	End of Spring Term 1
Monday 19 th February	Start of Spring Term 2
Tuesday 27 th February	Parent consultations - 4pm onwards
Wednesday 28 th February	Parent consultations - 5pm onwards
Wednesday 21 st March	Individual school photographs
Thursday 29 th March – 2pm	End of Spring Term 2 Note – no Kidz Club
Monday 16 th April	Start of Summer Term 1
Thursday 3 rd May	Class photographs
Monday 14 th May	KS2 SATs week
Friday 25 th May	End of Summer Term 1
Monday 4 th June	INSET Day – School closed
Friday 15 th June	Assembly with Cas Lester – Author in residence
Saturday 30 th June	Summer fete
Wednesday 25 th July	End of school year – 2pm Note – no Kidz Club