



# Sandhills Newsletter

Spring Term No. 16

8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Welcome to the start of the new term and a Happy New Year to you all!

It was lovely to see the children so excited about being back at school after the Christmas break, and there were a few parents that were just as pleased!

The classes begin new topics this term, the curriculum maps for your child's class will be on the school website by the end of the week, so please take a look. If you have any resources linked to our topics, or feel you can contribute in any way, please speak to your class teacher.

I am also encouraging parents to volunteer to come in to school on a regular basis to listen to children read. If you feel you have an hour or two to spare a week and would be interested, please speak to your class teacher or pick up a letter from the office. Before you can get started, there are a few things we need to do to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care is not compromised. One of these is some safeguarding training. I have set aside two dates - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 3.15pm and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 9am, but you only need to come to one! The session will last about 40 minutes, and tea and coffee will be provided.

There is a clear link between pupils' achievement and their level of attendance at school. The governors and staff, alongside the local authority, firmly believe that all children 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.

In the first three days of this term, there have been 22 children registered as late (arriving between 8:45 and 9:00am) and a further 14 children who arrived after 9.00am.

Parents and carers will be contacted if their child arrives at school late on a regular basis, to discuss ways in which attendance and punctuality can be improved and for the school to issue a parent contract. If attendance does not improve, parents will be referred to the local authority's attendance team who could issue a fine of up to £1,000 per child. If there are any problems that prevent full attendance and prompt arrival at school, please speak to us in confidence.

I would like to remind you of the Uniform Policy, as there are a number of children who have begun the new term without the correct uniform. In particular, indoor footwear must be plain black, e.g. shoes, plimsoles or trainers, and slip-on shoes, open-toe sandals and slippers do not offer children sufficient protection. Hair bands should also be discrete and in the school colour: burgundy, black or white. The full policy is available on the school website.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J. Settle - Headteacher

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## Attendance

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 achieved attendance above our target.

Class	Attendance
FSU-C	<b>96.84%</b>
FSU-M	95.7%
1H	<b>96.9%</b>
1S	95.6%
2HL	93.5%
2S	<b>96.6%</b>

Class	Attendance
3N	<b>96.8%</b>
4T	95.8%
5S	96.2%
6G	<b>97.1%</b>
6H	96.2%

The attendance overall this term is **96.1%**, which is below our target of **96.6%**. There are only 5 class with attendance that is above our target. Please support the school to maintain good attendance.

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## New School Policy – Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers

The Governors have adopted the County Council’s Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers. The purpose of this policy is to provide a reminder to all visitors to our school about the expectations for personal conduct, so that the school can continue to flourish and progress, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

At Sandhills Primary School we are proud and fortunate to have a dedicated and supportive school community. We are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and working in partnership to equip all your children with the necessary skills for adulthood. The full policy is available on the school website.

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## Lunch Menu Change

There will be a new lunch menu from next week. The new menu will be on the school website and has been emailed with this newsletter.

Our school meal funding for the next financial year is based on the number of children in reception, year 1 and year 2, who have a school meal on Thursday next week – 18<sup>th</sup> January. Therefore, in order to encourage maximum take-up, we have changed the menu choices, so that the meal option on Thursday is pizza, and the Monday option will be meatballs or vegetable and chick-pea curry.

Please support the school by encouraging your child to try a lunch on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 there is no charge as meals are funded by the Government.

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## Eco News

This week the school is learning about the effects of climate change and plastic pollution on our oceans. We have been inspired by Blue Planet 2 and would like all our children to learn about how to encourage a healthy green and blue planet. If you would like to learn more about how to recycle, reuse and reduce, please come along to our **Recycling Roadshow after school tomorrow - Tuesday**

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**9<sup>th</sup> January. This will take place on the school playground, weather permitting.** You will find all sorts of helpful information on how to reduce your carbon footprint and you might even get to meet one of OCC's recycling mascots! Mrs Hunter-Lacey

## Dogs on the school premises

Dogs are not permitted on Oxfordshire County Council school premises, except for anyone needing assistance from a guide or assistance dog.

The policy states that: *Dogs, whether on a lead or loose, present particular risks to health and safety. They may carry diseases/organisms in or on their bodies and they can attack individuals, both adults and children. Dog bites can be very serious and can leave a person fearful if they have had an encounter with an angry dog. There is also a risk of 'Tetanus' if a dog's bite has not been properly attended.*

Please ensure that dogs are not brought on to the school site, including the car park, with immediate effect. Thank you for your understanding.

## 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 12 <sup>th</sup> January	6H
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	2HL
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	6G
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	2S
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Sign2sing 1H*

Date	Class
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	4T
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	1S
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	3N
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	5S*
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Science focus Whole School



\*A change of date for 1H and 5S, so that 5S can share their experiences from their class residential

## KEY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM

Date	Event
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Recycling Roadshow – 3pm – school playground
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	End of Spring Term 1