

Sandhills Newsletter

Summer Term No. 34

24th July 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

The last two weeks have been a whirlwind of music and sport to round off the year. The setting for the Foundation Stage Unit and Key Stage 1 show, *Billy no Buzz*, was idyllic, taking place in the amphitheatre under clear blue skies. The sun shone and the children, decked in flower and insect headbands, told the story of Billy Bee, rejected for being different. The children sang beautifully, and Billy Bee looked very sad until eventually, he was accepted for being himself. A wonderful afternoon of singing with a moral thrown in for good measure!

The Key Stage 2 performance of *Ocean Commotion* showcased an impressive range of talent from our older children. The solos by the Great White Shark, Hammerhead, the trusting Bottlenose Dolphin and the School Teacher, were amazing and the duets very emotional. The Barnacles singing the blues were enormous fun, and the Little Fish singing rock'n'roll were fabulous - there was something for everyone!

Sports Day was another huge success. Despite a last-minute move to the far side of the pitch, due to enormous craters forming on the running track rendering it unfit for use, the day ran without a hitch. I was enormously proud of the sportsmanship showed by the children, as they cheered for their friends on opposing teams, willing them to cross the finish line.

At the start of the academic year, I shared with you our priorities for the 2017-2018 year, and the areas where we wanted to improve. Here are some highlights of our achievements as a school which I am particularly proud of.

We set out to raise outcomes across the school, with a particular focus on writing. Our assessment results show that every year-group in the school has improved their attainment in writing compared to this time last year, with the sole exception of one which has remained the same. Not only has the number of children reaching the nationally-expected level increased, but so has the percentage of children achieving greater depth. This is a significant achievement for the school, which both myself and the staff are very proud of.

The outcomes from the end-of-phase assessments this year show a significant increase in attainment in almost every area. The percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the Foundation Stage has increased by 26% and is now above the national average. The number of children who reached the expected level in the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1 increased by 16% and is also above the national average. At Key Stage 1, attainment in reading will be above the national average and writing and mathematics is broadly in line; however, the percentage of children achieving greater depth is higher than the national average.

In Key Stage 2, overall writing attainment has increased by 20%, and although it is still 6% lower than the national average I am delighted with the progress made. In addition, 33% of our children achieved the higher standard, which is above national average. In Reading and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, attainment is above national figures by 6% and 13% respectively, and in mathematics, we achieved the national average, whilst 33% percent achieved the higher standard, in impressive 10% above the national average.



The improved assessment results are thanks to the commitment from all staff, the hard work of your children and your support as parents.

As we move into the final days of the year, it is the time when the school says farewell: to our year 6 children; those who are moving on part way through primary school; and those staff who are leaving us, some of whom have been associated with the school for many years. Our Year 6 children are a credit to you as parents. They have worked hard this year and are well prepared for the experiences and challenges of the next exciting phase on which they are about to embark. I wish them all the best as they move into the next stage of their education.

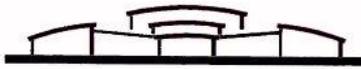
We talk of the Sandhills Family, and as someone who has been part of that family for only a short time, I have experienced for myself the magical bond of Sandhills. During the past 18 months there has certainly never been a dull moment! It has been challenging, hard work and exciting – but above all very rewarding. I have very fond memories of Sandhills and there is much that I will miss - your wonderful children who engage me every day with their amazing contributions, good humour and achievements; you, the parents, who have been so supportive of the school; and the PTA who work tirelessly raising money to provide additional resources and experiences for your children.

I will of course also miss the amazing staff, who show such commitment to provide the very best education for all your children, and the governing body, who two years ago put their faith in me to take the school forward. I feel I will be passing Sandhills over to a new Headteacher in a very positive and healthy position. I am proud of what has been achieved during my time as headteacher, and have every confidence that the school will continue to improve.

I have very much enjoyed my time at Sandhills and I wish everyone the very best for the future.

With very best wishes

Mrs J. Settle – Headteacher



Headline Performance Data

The table shows information relating to end of phase assessment data for the EYFS, Phonics Screening Check and Key Stage 1&2 SATs. Not all the national averages for this year are available yet. The completed table will be uploaded to the school website in the autumn term, when all the national information is published.

	Sandhills			Oxfordshire			National		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018

Early Years Foundation Stage

Good Level of Development	75%	48%	74%	71%	73%		69%	71%	
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Phonics Screening Check – Year 1

Working at the Expected Standard	87%	72%	88%		81%		81%	81%	
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Phonics Screening Re-Check – End of Year 2

Working at the Expected Standard	25%	75%	69%		69%			67%	
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Key Stage 1

Reading	Expected Standard or better	72%	80%	83%		76%		74%	76%	
	Greater Depth	0%	13%	29%		28%		24%	25%	

Writing	Expected Standard or better	62%	73%	66%		66%		65%	68%	
	Greater Depth	7%	13%	19%		16%		13%	16%	

Mathematics	Expected Standard or better	62%	80%	76%		75%		73%	75%	
	Greater Depth	0%	17%	28%		20%		18%	21%	

RWM	Expected Standard or better		70%	60%		62%		%	64%	
	Greater Depth		7%	16%		11%		%	11%	

Key Stage 2

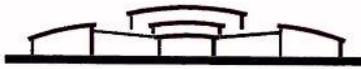
Reading	Average Scaled Score	101.9	102.1	106.0		105.0		102	104.1	
	Expected Standard or better	70%	68%	81%		74%		66%	71%	75%
	Higher Standard	17%	9%	33%		30%		19%	25%	
	Progress from KS1 to KS2	-1.55	-4.24							

Writing	Expected Standard or better	38%	52%	72%		74%		74%	76%	78%
	Higher Standard	0%	2%	15%		18%			18%	
	Progress from KS1 to KS2	-8.68	-7.55							

Mathematics	Average Scaled Score	100.2	103.7	105.0		104.2		103	104.2	
	Expected Standard or better	55%	77%	76%		75%		70%	75%	76%
	Higher Standard	6%	14%	33%		22%		17%	23%	
	Progress from KS1 to KS2	-3.21	-2.45							

Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Average Scaled Score		106.0	109.0		105.7			106.0	
	Expected Standard or better		80%	91%		76%			77%	78%
	Higher Standard		32%	51%		30%			31%	

RWM	Expected Standard or better	32%	43%	54%		61%		53%	61%	64%
	Higher Standard		2%	9%		9%			9%	



Attendance

The table below shows the overall attendance for each class since the start of the school year in September, and for last week.

The whole school attendance so far for the current academic year is 95.7% which is well below our school target of 96.5% and the National Average of 96.1%

Only class 3N has attendance in line with the school target.

Class	Overall attendance	Last week
FSU-C	95.0%	94.4%
FSU-M	95.6%	95.2%
1H	96.3%	94.3%
1S	95.3%	95.0%
2HL	94.4%	91.3%
2S	96.3%	88.9%

Class	Overall attendance	Last week
3N	96.5%	98.7%
4T	95.6%	93.0%
5S	96.0%	98.0%
6G	95.1%	95.8%
6H	95.9%	97.9%

100% Attendance

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to congratulate the 17 children who have achieved 100% attendance this academic year – well done for being in school on time, and every day for a whole year!

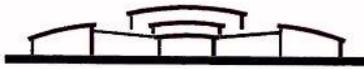
Personal Achievement Cards!

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

Name	Card
Rahela K	1
Molly H	1
Toby V	1
Eve Hamer	1
Denzel O-B	2
Zain R	2
Grace P	2
Grace S-P	2
Asia B	2
Jawad A	1
Michael A	2
Amelie Y4	2
Oliver T	Bronze
Felix M	2
Samantha M	2
Ethan	2
Louis T	2

Name	Card
Tom H	1
Nicole A	1
Oliver F	1
Christopher B	1
Daisy H	2
Emma C	2
Luke M	2
William G	2
Izzy M-C	2
Claudia Y4	2
Mia P	2
Hazel F	2
Roman M	2
Ellie	Bronze
Trinity J	2
Jude	Bronze
Leon C	2

Name	Card
Leo P	2
Malachi N	1
Amna K	1
Jude J	1
Ross E	2
Imogen W	2
Archie L	2
Aleks E	2
Naomi C	2
Gracie B	2
Bella K	2
Ayla Z	2
Malak S	2
Charlie L-W	Bronze
Orchid H	2
Thomas R	Bronze



School Uniform

Our uniform supplier is no longer able to supply our sweatshirts, we have therefore moved to a new supplier – School Trends. You can order and pay for school uniform online at: www.schooltrends.co.uk and select Find My School.

We still have some stock of school uniform for sale in the school office. Once this is gone, all uniform will be available direct from School Trends.

Area Sports

What an amazing evening! Our Sandhills Athletics team combined to produce one of the most exciting and entertaining sports events I've been to. What a team!!

Every competitor showed grit, determination, skill, brilliance, wonderful technique, teamwork, respect, amazing sportsmanship and such an incredible sense of togetherness and joy.

Our wonderful team came 4th, but this performance cannot be measured by positions and numbers alone. The happiness, laughter, excitement and shared belief in our school family brought all of us together as one. We ran through a wave of every emotion and we carried the flag for Sandhills as high as it has ever been.

What an incredible evening - I shall remember it for a long time.

This is why I do this job, for moments like this, for the sheer joy of this togetherness and experiencing the thrill of competition, the wins the losses, the laughter the tears.

Sandhills Athletics team is a team to be reckoned with. Thank you to everyone involved. Mr Cobb

Bicycles and Scooters

Please can you ensure that all bicycles and scooters are taken home at the end of term. There are bicycles and scooters which have been left in the bike sheds for some time. Any not reclaimed by the start of next term may be disposed of.

A reminder that term finishes at 2pm tomorrow!

**On behalf of the Sandhills staff family,
we wish you all a restful summer break.**
