



Sandhills Community Primary School

Step by step together

Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Resilience

Dear parents and families,

Friday 19th November

Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

We received a visit today from Mrs Moira Darlington, Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. She came to talk to the children about the Queen, her reign, and her job. I had warned Moira that many of the children would be in pjs which provided an interesting contrast to her full regalia! The children had some interesting questions for her about the Queen and about Moira’s role, and then she enjoyed a tour of the school.

Anti-Bullying Week

We had a very colourful start to our week on Monday with lots of odd socks all around the school! This was a lovely start to our work on Anti-Bullying Week, helping us to remember that, like a pair of odd socks, we are all different and unique and that this should be celebrated. Thank you for your support with this, not least in having to join up the odd socks with their normal pairs once they've been through the washing machine - always a challenge!

The overall theme of Anti-Bullying Week this year is 'One Kind Word'. The children have been doing work on this in their classes and we had a whole school assembly to introduce the week on Monday. You can see some pictures of what they've been doing below. We know that it is essential that we stay focussed on this topic throughout the year, but we have enjoyed being able to make it a real highlight of this week.

Sue Clark

Deputy Headteacher



'Starting School' brochures are no longer being printed, but the online brochure is available on the admissions website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

The deadline for receipt of completed Reception applications is **Saturday 15th January 2022**.

National Offer Day is Tuesday 19th April 2022. The 15th of January closing date is extremely important, as late applications will not be considered until May 2022 after the first offers have been made. Parents who make a late application are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools.

Step by Step Together - Update from Safe Travel Group

We want all children at Sandhills to be able to travel to school in a safe and healthy manner. Since our last meeting of residents, parents, governors, staff, councillors, council staff and police representatives in July, the following has happened:

- *Park & Stride signage of 'walk to school' routes were installed over the summer (also see Miss Slade's update below)*
- *Park and Stride information leaflet has been shared with families*
- *Community police officers have been into school to talk about road safety with the children*
- *Walk to School badges are still encouraged in class and participation remains high*
- *County Council staff are looking into road signage and marking issues*

We had hoped to introduce a volunteer-led walking bus scheme, but we need more helpers to operate it. If this is something you could do, even one day a week, please get in touch via the school office.

Despite all of this, we are very aware that parking and traffic issues outside of school remain. The group will be meeting again next term to discuss further improvements and actions and we will share the date via the newsletter.

Laura Campbell, School Governor

On the same topic - This is a plea to take extra care and a little extra time when driving, parking or turning around in Terrett Avenue. We've had a couple of incidents this week where adults have been endangered by drivers mounting the pavement when turning around, which is worrying enough, but had there been a child on the pavement, the outcome could have been very different. Please don't use the staff car park to turn around in, this is the busiest area and, even with all the aids that modern cars give us, any one of us could be caught out by a small child in a blind spot.

If you can walk, cycle or Park and Stride please think about this as an option. Parking a little further from the school or using the free 1 hour parking at Thornhill will add time to your journey, but it might save a life.

Park and Stride

Sandhills is thrilled to present our new Park and Stride sign which was installed last week. The sign, which is located outside the school gates explains in detail all about the Park and Stride scheme and highlights some exciting routes to travel to and from school.

Go check it out!

Miss Slade



Staffing news

Welcome to Miss Amelia Staines who will be joining our staff team working across Year 1 and Year 2.

A reminder that we are currently advertising for the post of Site Manager. If you know anyone who might be interested, please point them to the advert here:

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/site-manager-sandhills-primary-school-oxford-1509990>

We would be happy to discuss splitting the role and to help with the application process.

Times Table Rockstars

Congratulations to 4T who came first in the school in the TTR challenge, followed by 6H in second place and 4A in third place. Individual high scorers were Ross, Bobby, Lewis, Zain, Scarlet, Tyler, Jack, Mirsiha, Will and Aleks – some fabulous results, well done!

Ms Davies has presented certificates today to the top 3 TT Rockstars in each class.

Christmas Plays and Nativity

Just a reminder of the dates and times for Christmas events. If we have to make any changes or cancel, we will let you know as soon as possible.

We will also be watching a live performance of a pantomime in school during the last week which has been personalised for Sandhills School (no spoilers!).

Foundation Stage will be doing an outside nativity in the Foundation Stage outdoor area at **2pm on the 14th of December** (with a reserve date of the 15th in case it is pouring with rain or snowing heavily on 14th). This will be recorded for any families who can't come to watch.

Phase 1 (Years 1-3) will be holding a carol concert on the school playground at **4.30pm on the 8th of December** to which all Phase 1 parents and families are invited.

Phase 2 (Years 4-6) will be singing Christmas songs and Christmas poetry on the playground on the **15th December at 5pm.**

Terra-cycle Scheme

A reminder to pass any recycling in a bag to Mrs Star-Harris (6SH). Please separate out each of the recyclable items, or the bag will not be accepted. The boxes will be located inside 6SH, due to the weather damaging the boxes outside of the classroom. Let's see how many bags of recycling we can save from land fill!

Mrs Star-Harris

Class Assemblies

3S	Friday 19th Nov at 2.40pm
5D	Friday 26th Nov at 2.40pm
4A	Friday 3rd Dec at 2.40pm

Term dates

You can find all the term dates here: <https://sandhills.oxon.sch.uk/information/parents-information/term-dates/>
This half term finishes on Friday 17th December at 1.30pm and school reopens on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher

PTA

Friday 26th November Wreath Making

Saturday 4th December Christmas Fair (donations can be brought into school on Fri 19th Nov and 26th November)

Community news and Events

(This event is the same day as the school Christmas Fair – so you can do both!)

Please find attached a flyer for a Christmas Arts & Crafts market in Barton Park. We are thrilled this is taking place for the first time ever and will be a great opportunity to meet local artists, artisans and crafts people from Barton/ Barton Park.

There will also be live music, carol singing from St Mary's church, a pop-up café and creperie.