



Sandhills Community Primary School

Step by step together

Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Resilience

Dear parents and families,

7th January 2022

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope you had a happy and healthy Christmas holiday.

After a balmy period over the holidays, it certainly seems more wintery now! We are keeping the doors and windows in the classrooms open for as much of the day as we can so extra layers are important. We also go out to play in all weathers so warm waterproof coats, ideally with hoods, along with scarves, hats and gloves are needed (please name everything!).

Curriculum

Please do have a look at the topics for this term which are shown for each year group here:

<https://sandhills.oxon.sch.uk/curriculum-information/curriculum-maps/#>. We have some lovely things planned as part of the topics this term - 2S are already in pirate mode today! Mrs Star-Harris will be sending you a letter next week about the Science Dome visit in February which is always a really positive event; we have a dance workshop for each class next Thursday (that should warm us up!) and other whole school and class events which we'll let you know about over the course of the term.

Our value for assemblies this term is **Responsibility**. This week we talked about not blaming other people if we make the wrong choice. We had hoped to hold a whole school buddy event next week, but mixing across the whole school doesn't seem like such a good idea at the moment, so we'll do the buddy event in classes instead.

Class assemblies

The dates below show the planned class assemblies. At the moment, we plan to go ahead with them but if we have to cancel for any reason, we will let you know and provide a recorded version wherever possible.

These start at **2.40pm**. Please wear a mask (unless exempt).

6H	Friday 14 th January	3S	Friday 4 th March
3H	Friday 21 st January	6G	Friday 11 th March
5HL	Friday 28 th January	5D	Friday 18 th March
2S	Friday 4 th February	4A	Friday 25 th March
4T	Friday 11 th February		
1P	Friday 18 th January		

Covid updates

Given the rapid spread of Omicron, I will stop notifying you of each case, but I will let you know if we have several cases in one class and/or if we are advised that we need to run a class as a bubble. All of the classes who were in bubbles before Christmas are now back to normal, however we have gone back to doing whole school assemblies online and keeping the children in their class groups in the hall at lunchtime.

Along with every other school and employer, it's looking likely that we will have much higher staff absence than usual over the next term. Covering classes might well be a challenge, particularly with very few supply teachers available, but we will do our very best not to have to close classes. (Just a note here - some supply teachers will only teach older or younger year groups so we may have to move teachers around to accommodate this.)

Providing remote learning for the children isolating at home is also a challenge, particularly if a class teacher is unwell (and not just isolating) which means we have to ask other teachers to set work who won't necessarily know the children as well and have their own classes to teach in school, but again we will do our best.

The Department for Education have asked schools to share this message

[Urgent call for support to encourage qualified teachers to return to teach on a temporary basis](#)

COVID-19 continues to impact schools and colleges in England and we are seeking your help to invite qualified ex-teachers to consider returning to teaching on a temporary basis. We want to make sure that as many supply staff as possible are available, by encouraging ex-teachers from primary, secondary and further education to consider returning to support colleagues and the nation's children and young people through this difficult time. We have published an [urgent call for qualified teachers](#) which explains what is required and how to register with a supply teaching agency.

Term dates

You can find all the term dates here: <https://sandhills.oxon.sch.uk/information/parents-information/term-dates/>
Please note that Monday 28th February (just after half term) is an INSET day and the school will be closed.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher

Community News

Please see the attached fliers for information on local events and clubs, including a free training session (26th Jan) for the new defibrillator due to be installed at Bush House very soon.