



## Sandhills Community Primary School

### Step by step together

Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Resilience

3rd February 2023

Dear parents and families,

Thank you for your understanding on Wednesday during the teachers' strike, particularly to those families in classes that were closed. The next strike action is planned for the 2nd of March and I will write to you nearer the time with information about any class closures.

#### **Plant Life and Pond Life!**

*Last week, Year 1 and 3 were very lucky to host the STEM Ambassador for our school, Curt Lamberth who is an Environmental Scientist. During the session in 1P the children looked at dried leaves from various trees and shrubs. They had a go at identifying the tree or shrub by looking at their leaves, an interesting skill to work on.*

*In 3S we connected a microscope to the big screen, enabling us to see magnified images of live micro Fauna (animals) and Flora (plants) inhabiting the pond water! Children recorded their observations by drawing the microorganisms they spotted under the microscope. We also thought about how water from the sky ends up in a pond; some children even drew their very own Water Cycle. We had a very exciting time!*

*Mrs.Sarfraz*

#### **Active Journeys**

The first month of 2023 is over and the Viking badge was awarded to many active pupils at Sandhills this week!

The theme for this academic year's badges are a Walk Through Time. Viking children did not go to school and learned through stories. Long Viking stories are called sagas. Twenty percent of modern British words came from the Viking language, including happy, foot and cake!

A total of 171 badges were earned for active journeys in January! A big well done to **5S** who had 98% of the class travelling to school in an eco-friendly way. Runners up were 4TA with 96% and 2S with 93%!

Keep it up everyone!

Miss Slade

**JANUARY 2023  
VIKINGS**



## **Safer Internet Day**

Tuesday 7th February is Safer Internet Day. Mr Taylor will be leading a whole school assembly which will be followed by stories and lessons in class so that the children understand how they can use the internet safely.

Internet safety is an important part of the computing curriculum at Sandhills and this, plus Mr Taylor's weekly parents guides, were praised in the feedback from our Ofsted Inspection back in November. If you ever need any advice on internet safety, Mr Taylor is happy to help and there are some useful links here: <https://sandhills.oxon.sch.uk/information/school-information/safety/>

## **The WOW badge design competition is back for 2023!**

Sandhills School could win some amazing WOW prizes and the opportunity to have one of your designs featured on the new WOW badges!

This year's theme is:

### THE BRITISH NATURE WALK

This year's theme, The British Nature Walk, aims to bring pupils closer to the nature found across Britain! Wherever we live, nature is all around. Whilst planning your design, think about animals or insects found in urban or rural areas, vibrant flowers or mighty trees, lakes, rivers, canals or coastlines. You can also draw a special memory of nature from a recent holiday around Britain or from a different season.

EXAMPLES OF DESIGNS COULD INCLUDE:

- Animals or insects e.g., squirrel, red deer, Highland cow, stag beetle
- Lakes, rivers, canals or coastlines e.g., Lake Windermere, River Severn, Monkland Canal
- Vibrant flowers or mighty trees e.g. bluebells, English oak tree
- Rolling hills or awe-inspiring views e.g. Snowdonia, Cheddar Gorge

Last year, Eve in Year Six won the competition for Sandhills and her design will be turned into a badge in June this year!

If you would like to enter the competition, please complete the template attached to this newsletter and send it to Miss Slade at [2s@sandhillsprimary.org](mailto:2s@sandhillsprimary.org) by Friday 24th February. If you would like a printed copy of the template please email Miss Slade and she will print one for you.

Miss Slade

## **Partnership Humanities Event**

Six children from Years Five and Six took part in a Wheatley Partnership Humanities event on Tuesday afternoon. The event included activities based around History and Geography including looking at artefacts and map work. (Both Mrs Pitt and I were horrified to realise that a cassette tape counted as an historical artefact - definitely showing our age!)

Ethan said 'I really enjoyed the Humanities event. We did three activities including looking at historical objects, reading maps and solving riddles about Pompeii.'

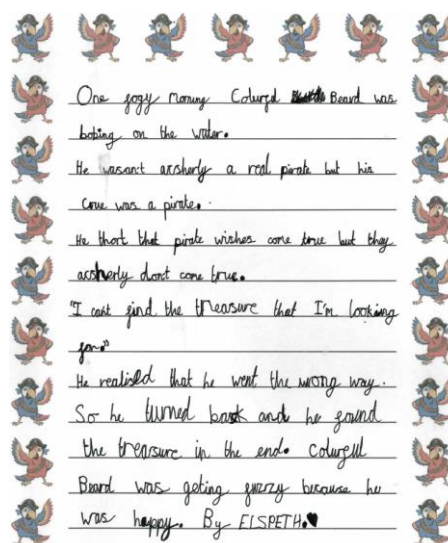
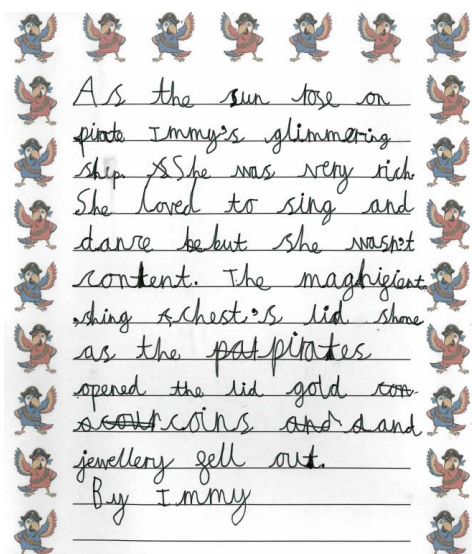
Jack said 'Year 11 students from Wheatley Park helped us work out what time period the objects came from. It was fun.'

## **Government Tax Free Childcare Scheme**

Do you use our after school or breakfast club? Did you know that 'Tax Free Childcare' is a government scheme which helps parents with childcare costs. For every £8 a parent pays into their childcare account, the government will pay in £2, up to a maximum of £2000 per child per year. For further information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>. Please note: we can only accept these payments for after school and breakfast club charges.

## Writers' Corner

Some lovely writing from Immy and Elspeth in Year 2.



## Staff Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies - for additional help in our school office and also a Teaching Assistant vacancy. Both are fixed term posts until the end of this school year. If you are interested in either of these two vacancies, please see further information on the roles and how to apply at:

[MyNewTerm - https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/146270/EDV-2023-SCPS-81117](https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/146270/EDV-2023-SCPS-81117)

<https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/146270/EDV-2022-SCPS-52730>

## Assemblies

Our whole school and phase assemblies this year are based around our four school values: respect, relationships, responsibility and resilience, alongside the usual calendar of festivals and celebrations. You are also invited to join us for your child's Class Assemblies which start at 2.40pm each week.

Friday	Class	Friday	Class
		6HL	24th February
		1P	3rd March
3rd February	2S	5S	10th March
10th February	4Ta	4Tr	17th March
		6H	24th March

## Term dates

The term dates for this year can be found here: <https://sandhills.oxon.sch.uk/information/parents-information/term-dates/>. The term dates for 2023-24 are available on the school website.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

Year 6 Residential Visit Meeting	7th February 4pm
Explorer Dome	8th and 9th February
Half term	13th -17th February
Zoolab Year 1 and 2	Monday 20th February
Teachers Industrial Action	Thursday 2nd March
World Book Day	Thursday 2nd March
Year 6 residential	1st-3rd March
World Book Day	Thursday 2nd March
Parents Evenings	w/c 13th March
Teachers Industrial Action	Wednesday 15th March
Red Nose day	Friday 17th March
Easter break	3rd- 14thApril

## Community News

Please find attached the flyer for BCA's February Half Term Activities and registration link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/3mdZLjwvfl>

Many Thanks,

Tyisha Akins  
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Barton Community Association  
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