



Sandhills Community Primary School

Step by step together

Respect, Relationships, Responsibility, Resilience

24th February 2023

Dear parents and families,

It's a very long newsletter this week with the things that have been happening or are about to happen in school so make a cup of tea and settle in!

A slightly belated welcome to Mr Hill and Mr Elliot, associate teachers who have joined us in Years 1 and 2 and to the children and families of: Hawal, year 2, Niya, year 5, Siena, year 4, Oluwatishe, FSU, Oleksii, year 4 who have joined us since Christmas.

World Book Day Thursday 2nd March

As part of the celebrations to mark the day, the children can come to school in their pyjamas, slippers or onesies (with appropriate shoes and coats too!) and bring in their favourite book. There will be opportunities throughout the day for the children to enjoy reading their books in different groups across the school. *Mr Harper*

Science Dome

When the Science Dome came in during the last week before half term, we had 2 whole days of scientific learning at Sandhills. The Dome staff complemented the children's enthusiasm and love of learning and said that they thoroughly enjoyed delivering the shows. Children were not only looking forward to it, they appreciated every bit of it!

I liked it when we blasted off to space. I closed my eyes, when I opened them the Earth was getting tinier and tinier and tinier. Ella 1P

I loved it when I had magic powers to move a tiny metal ball, it was magnetic! Koko 1P

We enjoyed exploring and experiencing sounds produced by whistles of different sizes. Eric, Liliya, Isis, Sen and Gustaw Year 4

We really enjoyed it when they threw dry ice into the boiling water to recreate clouds. Edward and Toby 6H
Could we have it again please - we loved it! 3S.

Mrs Sarfraz

Emails

Just a reminder to use the office email address (office@sandhillsprimary.org) for any urgent messages e.g. if someone else is picking up your child, rather than class emails as teachers often don't have the chance to check their emails during the school day. The office email is monitored regularly during the school day.

We don't use Class Dojo for messages.

Wherever possible we aim to reply to emails within 5 working days. Teachers do not check the class emails in the evenings, weekends or during school holidays.

Children's Mental Health Week 2023

As I mentioned in the Parentmail sent before half term, we are taking part in Children's Mental Health Week in school this week. In our assembly on Tuesday, we thought about what it means 'to connect with others' - the theme of the week - and how this helps our wellbeing. We have been doing follow up work in our classes this week and you can see some of the slides and links used in the assembly below. In phase assemblies we have talked about acts of kindness and their importance.

Connecting With Others

Think carefully for a moment about connections you have with other people.

Who do you enjoy spending time with?

We can make helpful connections through lots of different relationships we have. This might be with:

If you feel happy to, share your ideas now.



- friends
- adults at school
- family
- coaches
- online communities
- neighbours
- tutors
- our local community

Connecting With Others

Connecting with others can help our mental health and wellbeing. It can:

- help us to feel a sense of belonging;
- give us the chance to talk about our feelings and get someone else's views on what we are experiencing;
- help to give us a sense of purpose;
- give us the chance to see things from someone else's point of view;
- make us laugh and smile;
- give us the chance to share experiences with people we trust and care about.



A poem called 'Together' read by Matt Goodfellow <https://youtu.be/bOsbofgusak>

A clip from a BBC Teach series called The Brain Lab - the first 2 minutes 10 seconds talks about how a boy with Asperger's (a form of Autistic Spectrum Disorder) connects with others. (The rest of the clip is good too.) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/pshe-ks2-connect-with-others/z4mgcqt>

A jigsaw of happy connections from Foundation



Two halves of a rainbow from Year 6



While it is good to take part in nationwide focus weeks and we enjoy doing this, we also make sure that a lot of work in PSHE and our assemblies throughout the year is also connected with supporting good mental health. *Mrs Clark*

Sportshall Athletics

On Wednesday 8th February a group of Year 5 and 6 children attended a Sportshall Athletics event at Wheatley Park School for local primary schools. The event included a range of track and field events with a twist! There were running races, relays and jumping events as you would expect. However, there were also: obstacle races; over and under races; speed bounce and a vertical jump. Each child participated in at least two events during the afternoon and really enjoyed themselves. We were extremely proud of the children who all tried their hardest and behaved impeccably.

Here's what the children had to say about the event:

"I thought that it was really fun and really enjoyed the activities."

"I thought it was nerve wracking but when you have done it, it was fun."

"Everybody (Wheatley Park Students) were supportive and nice."

"The Sportshall event was fun and competitive."

"It was fun and active."

Well done to all those who attended the event. *Mrs Wright and Miss Armstrong*

Local environment

Isaac in Year 2 wanted to share that his family went litter picking in our local area. We are so grateful to him and his family for thinking of our environment and giving up their time.

We have planted even more trees in the school field, thanks to Paul our caretaker and the Risinghurst Parish Council for donating the trees to us. *Mrs Hunter-Lacey*

Zoolab

Years 1 and 2 had an exciting morning on Monday when ZooLab came to visit as an introduction to our new topics this term.



We learnt some interesting facts about a range of creatures. We even had the opportunity to hold a gecko, a friendly corn snake, a millipede and stroke a curious cockroach.

I really liked the corn snake because it was gently shedding on my hands. -Robin
 The gecko licked me. It felt sticky! - Isaac
 The millipede felt nice and bumpy. The gecko was cute because it was a baby. - Liliana
 I liked the tortoise because it was cute and the snake was large. -Chloe

Year 1 enjoyed holding and gently stroking different animals. We found out lots of interesting facts like a gecko can lose its tail and grow a new one. Did you know that a millipede can walk through fire?



A great start to the term! Miss Slade and Ms Pagett

E Scooters

Whilst we are keen to find alternative ways to travel to school, E Scooters are illegal to use on pavements or on the road and can therefore only be used on private land with the landowners’ permission. This means that they cannot be used to travel to school and we will not store them on school premises.

Writers’ Corner

Some lovely poems from Carys, Ruby, Joe and Jack all in Year 4.

I know you are...
 You are as confusing as a walk in a new world map
 As beautiful as daffodils just blossoming in the of the glorious sun
 As messy as a toddler enjoying a bowl full of spaghetti
 As helpful as a xx commentator in a football match
 As special as a friend who you know will sit side forever.

I know you:

You are as confusing as French,
 As messy as a baby eating spaghetti bolognaise,
 As beautiful as my family,
 As special as my family,
 As interesting as a Netflix film.

I know you:
 you are as messy as a pig rolling in the dirt,
 as strong as a ox,
 yet as small as a mouse,
 dreaming big, but yet so ~~small~~
 but yet so small,
~~like~~ like a mouse in a house
 like Like the world is in your house.

I know you:
 As light as a feather,
 As tough as stone,
 As beautiful as a summer morning,
 As precious as family,
 As powerful as void, abyss, Everything
 As strong as love

Year 3 Puppets

Inspired by our topic "Heroes and Villains", we sewed hand puppets in 3S. We started off by designing our very own superheroes. We then traced and carefully cut out the front and back of our puppets using a template. The next step was to sew the puppet's costume and its face. Finally, we sewed the front and back together using the "running and back stitch". We are very proud of the final product. Mrs. Sarfraz



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
6HL	24th February
1P	3rd March
5S	10th March
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.

Anna Wyatt

We don't usually send out personal information about members of staff but Anna has asked me to let you know that she hasn't been feeling particularly well for quite a while now but has been soldiering on. She has major surgery booked for the middle of March and will be at home recovering for several months afterwards. We will be sending her everyone's best wishes for a smooth and speedy recovery and I will keep you posted along the way.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher

Diary Dates

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 and Thursday 16th March
Red Nose day	Friday 17th March
Easter break	3rd- 14th April

Community News

RLT are now recruiting for a new Trustee who will become the Chair of Trustees once our current Chair steps down later in the year. The link to the advert for the role is [here](#) from where any interested person can access further details about the role and the Trust. The closing date for applications is midday on Monday 13th March.