



Newsletter

Thursday 24 October 2024

Staffing Update

We are sad to say goodbye to **Jade Davis, Laura Knightley, Chris Webb** and **Skye Kavanagh** who leave us at or just after half-term. I know you will want to thank them for their commitment to Sandy Lane Primary School and wish them all the best in what they do next. We also thank **David Blackburne**, who is returning to his lunchtime role after also supporting in the classroom.

I am pleased to say that **Jodie Lewis** and **Juliana Tiu** will be staying with us as Teaching Assistants and we also hope to appoint a new member of support staff for the Nursery soon.

Finally, we are re-advertising for a Pastoral Support Advisor (PSA) having had just one application for the post. In the interim, **Sandra Ruck**, Crown Wood Primary School's equivalent has agreed to provide some support.

Foxes

Foxes have had a brilliant start to the year, new friendships have been developed, excellent learning has taken place and tonnes of fun has been had! Foxes have loved exploring the outdoor learning area, developing their communication and listening skills as well as their teamwork skills and friendships. They've enjoyed getting messy with some Autumn art work and cooking peach crumbles to celebrate Roald Dahl Day for James and the Giant Peach! Lots of their learning has been focused around



The Three Little Pigs, where they've acted out and written the story, had a go at building houses out of straw, sticks and bricks (and had great fun trying to blow them down!) as well as hearing the story from the Wolf's point of view as well. An excellent term had by all, well done Foxes!

Attendance Update

Attendance for the year to date is 95.5%, which is just below the national average of 95.8%. Thank you for ensuring your children are in school every day they can be. Only 0.9% of absence is unauthorised, which is also positive, and as previously reported, the number of late arrivals is in-line with if not slightly better than last year. Thank you!



Year 6 – Henley Literary Festival

Year 6 journeyed to the Costa Rican Rain Forest with Waterstone's and Blue Peter winner Hannah Gold via a live stream from Henley Literary Festival. We learnt all about



her new book Turtle Moon and discovered how she

became an author and where the inspiration for her books comes from. It was a great experience for the children to hear from a down-to-earth, real-life author who inspired many of them to believe that with hard work and determination they can go on to great success on their chosen paths in life. Hannah's book also looks like a fantastic read.



Year 6

Year 6 entered the Wonderverse this term where they were able to let their imaginations run wild and write poetry on any topic of their choice, in any style. Every child's poem has been entered into a national competition whereby if they are selected, they will see their entry published in a book of poetry. The overall winners will



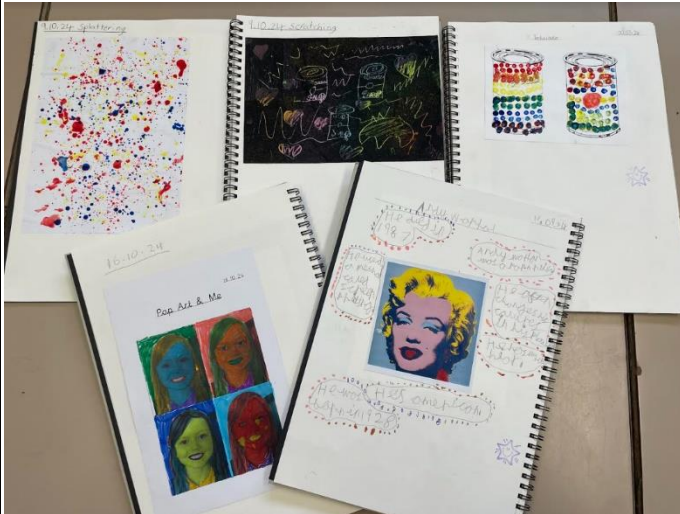
each receive a goody bag and their school will receive a cash prize of £1,000. Regardless of whether we win or not we were super impressed with the children's enthusiasm, the range of topics chosen and the overall high standard of poetry.

Turtles Class would like to invite their parents to a class assembly on Tuesday 14th November at 9am to share and celebrate in a performance of their poetry.

Website Update

We are in the process of updating the school website and you may already have noticed some changes. We recently had a photographer in school to help us change the images used and new content will be added shortly. Once we have it the way we want it, we will start to post news and improve the calendar function so we can keep you better informed. Please bear with us.

Year 3



Year 3 have been looking at a range of subjects. Reading about learning to ride a bike, writing stories and letters as well as how to find and use numbers correctly. We have even looked at our teachers dressed up as skeletons! But one of the most creative subjects we have looked at this term, is art. Making a variety of pieces to learn about and demonstrate Andy Warhol.

Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been studying the Ancient Maya, an amazing civilisation that lasted for



over 3600 years! The children have thoroughly engaged with our learning and enjoyed a Maya taste test, as well as making some masks inspired by those

worn by the Maya at religious events or as death masks.

Year 1

In Rabbits this term we have been doing lots of teamwork in all subjects!

We are great at sharing and are careful to listen to everyone's ideas. Here you can see examples of our Geography learning when we were sorting pictures by which climate they show, and demonstrating our number bonds knowledge in maths.



Hedgehogs class have been learning about problem solving by coming up with rules to move the Beebots from one position to another. They then transferred these skills to move Miss Clarke around the carpet!

German News from Frau Marshall

Year 6 welcomed two groups of Year 11 German students from Garth Hill College on 24th September as part of our celebrations for European Day of Languages. The Year 11s had prepared a carousel lesson, which was thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring for Year 6s. It was also wonderful to welcome back some former Sandy Lane pupils and to hear from Mrs. Bhutta, their teacher, how well many of our former pupils did in their GCSE German exams, some achieving a grade 9!



Year 5 have been learning about the weather and how to extend their sentences with a variety of conjunctions, intensifiers and 'time, manner, place' word order. They are currently preparing their own weather reports, which they will perform to their class after half term.

Year 4 have been learning months, seasons and birthdays, focusing on when to use singular and plural verbs in sentences. They are fantastic singers and have enjoyed learning this song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJ0uJo5kJO4>

It has been a pleasure to start Year 3 on their language learning journey. After half term, I will start choosing pupils to take home my 'German Activity Bags' to enjoy – watch this space! Finally, here are some useful Links for extra German learning at home!

<https://ukgermanconnection.org/kids/>

<https://www.thegermanproject.com/stories>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/topics/crgpylxv9mlt>

<https://www.planet-schule.de/schwerpunkt/deutsch-mit-socke/index.html>

PINS Programme

We are pleased to have been selected to take part in the national pilot of the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme. Meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools is essential to improving outcomes and parental confidence. PINS will bring health and education specialists and expert parent carers into mainstream primary settings to:



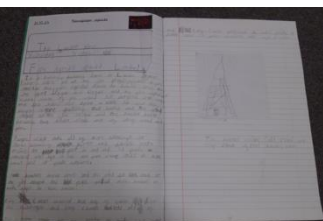
- Help shape whole school SEND provision.
- Provide early interventions at a whole school level.
- Upskill school staff.
- Support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers.

The project will focus on strengthening knowledge, skills and improving environments to better meet the needs of neurodiverse children and reframe the focus to how a supportive learning environment and well-equipped school can improve the outcomes for this group of children. Mrs Wade will be leading on this at Sandy Lane.

Year 2



Year 2 have enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London and have used their knowledge across the curriculum to create diary entries and newspaper articles as well as planning and creating a fire collage.



Well done, Year 2, you have impressed us with enthusiasm and focus this term!

Author & CBBC Star Visits Sandy Lane

We were pleased to welcome Andy Day – CBBC presenter and writer of Andy's Dinosaur Adventures – to Sandy Lane on Wednesday. Andy talked to the children about being an author and read extracts from his new book in an assembly. The children gave him a very warm welcome and I know several of you purchased copies of his new book *Dino Dad: Ice Age*.



Harvest Festival Donations



A huge thank-you to everyone who donated during the Harvest Festival appeal. The weight of the food donated to the Kerith Community Church Food Bank was a fantastic 114.3kg.

The Harvest assembly went really well. The children sang their songs beautifully, and the Year 6 speakers spoke clearly. It really was a lovely celebration.

News & Dates

You can find the current Annual Overview of key dates and events on the school website [here](#). We will be updating the website calendar shortly, which you can choose to synchronise to your devices if you wish. You can also access it directly [here](#). News will be posted to the website [here](#). We will provide additional information about events via MCAS near the date of the event and if details change, we will update the website and let you know using this method too.

Dates for Your Diary:

24 OCT 24	Last day of Autumn 1
25 OCT 24	INSET Day (School Closed)
04 NOV 24	School re-opens for Autumn 2
05 NOV 24	Flu Immunisations
15 NOV 24	Children in Need
18 NOV 24	Year 6 Residential Starts SEND Coffee & Catch-up
03 DEC 24	Parent Consultations
04 DEC 24	Parent Consultations
10 DEC 24	Year R Nativity 9:30am Rock Steady Concerts
11 DEC 24	Year R Nativity 2:00pm
12 DEC 24	Nursery Sing-a-long 11:30am, 2:45pm Christmas jumper day
17 DEC 24	Year 1,2,3 Concert 9:30am, 2:00pm
18 DEC 24	Year 4,5,6 Concert 2.00pm, 5.00pm
19 DEC 24	Christmas Dinner
20 DEC 24	Santa Dance Last day of Autumn 2
06 JAN 25	INSET Day (School Closed)
07 JAN 25	School re-opens for Spring 1

Values Focus - Positive

Our school values are: Positive, Responsible, Inclusive, Determined and Enquiring. The first letter of each value makes the word 'PRIDE' and we often remind children of our values by asking them to 'Take PRIDE in all we do'. We promote the values in everything we do and we explicitly teach what they 'look like' in action during PSHE lessons and assemblies. The following behaviours are what our value 'Positive' looks like at Sandy Lane by the end of Year 6:

- Attends school regularly
- Wants to achieve and willingly participates in lessons
- Remains positive when learning is hard
- Uses strategies to get 'unstuck'
- Adapts to changes in environment and routine
- Learns from mistakes
- Practises new skills



Children are praised for showing our school values and can win house points or get an Achievement Award for doing so. You can read more on the school website [here](#).



Taking PRIDE in all we do
Positive – Responsible – Inclusive – Determined – Enquiring

