



Issue 01
11th Sept 2015

Sandford Hill Primary School, Clayfield Grove, Longton, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST3 5AQ

Sandford Hill Primary School Newsletter

School website www.sandfordhill.stoke.sch.uk email: sandfordhill@sgfl.org.uk Telephone 01782 235518

Words of Welcome..... I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our children and their parents, carers to the start of another new academic year. We also welcome some new members of staff – Mrs Stillwell, our new Reception class teacher; Mr Hunt, our new Year 4 class teacher; Mrs Gerrard, our new staff cover teacher; Mr Taylor is supporting in Y6/1; Mr Street and Mrs Clunn, our two new lunchtime supervisors. We know that they will all prove to be great additions to our Sandford Hill family.

As the school continues to develop and improve, each year we look forward to being able to offer the children yet more interesting and stimulating activities and areas of learning – and this year is no different. We look forward to working in partnership with our parents/carers to do our very best to ensure that all our children achieve the very best that they can in their learning, while enjoying and thriving in school, to become decent and caring citizens. Over the months we hope you will share in your child's learning and playing activities – with the homework they bring home, the performances they might make and the many super clubs they can get involved with. I am sure that this is going to be another extremely successful and rewarding year, where our children continue to make us proud.

Diary Dates:

Clubs start week beginning Mon 21st September

Mon 14 th Sept	Stanley Head Parent/Carer's Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Thurs 17 th Sept	Y3 trip to Ancient Egyptians at Manchester Museum
Mon 21 st Sept	Y6 to Stanley Head
Wed 23 rd Sept	Swimming starts for Y5
Fri 25 th Sept	Coffee Morning - 9:00 a.m.
Fri 25 th Sept	Y6 return from Stanley Head
Wed 30 th Sept	e-safety session for parents, carers and family members - 9:10 a.m.
Wed 30 th Sept	Swimming starts for Y6
Thurs 1 st Oct	Y5 Viking Day in school
Fri 9 th Oct	Family and Individual Photos
26 th – 30 th Oct	Half Term Week
Mon 2 nd Nov	School closed for children – staff training day
Tues 10 th Nov	Full Governors Meeting 6 p.m.
9 th – 13 th May 2016	SATs Week

Messages from school!

You may already have received several text or e-mail messages from school with reminders and notices. If you have not received them, then could it be because your contact details have changed? If it is not that, then please let the office know and we will do our best to get it sorted for you.

What smart children and new routines!

It has been wonderful to welcome back our children into school this week and to see them looking so wonderfully smart in their school uniform. Please can we remind parents/carers that although we welcomed your support in settling the children into the new early morning routine, bringing your child(ren) into class; that from next week all children should make their own way to class, saying their goodbyes at the outside doors. If you need to see the class teacher for a quick message or for a longer discussion, then please go to the office who will be able to help you.



Follow us: @sandford_hill

Thoughtfulness and Respect



Notices:

● School menus, meals and snacks

- Today your child will be bringing home a menu booklet from city catering. Please keep this safely to be able to check with your child what they would like for lunch each day. We will no longer be including the menu on the newsletter, but it will be added to the new website.
- Please ensure dinner monies are given to the class teacher on a **Monday** morning in a labelled envelope. Daily numbers are placed with the kitchen by 10am, so meals for children going home after that time will still be charged. Reminder for parents/carers of children in year 3, that your child is no longer entitled to a free meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme. Meals remain at £2.20 per day, £11.00 a week.
- The kitchen will be offering toast (25p), crumpets (30p) and/or a fruit cup (30p) at mid-morning break.

● School Clubs

Yesterday, your child brought home a letter regarding the fantastic range of clubs we are offering the children this term. Please ensure the reply slip is returned by next **Tuesday 15th September**. As spaces for most clubs is limited, we do retain all children's names on a waiting list for any club that is oversubscribed. Your child will be bringing home a copy of a Club Record card by next Friday 18th confirming on which clubs they have been allocated a space. Clubs then start the week commencing 21st September.

● Stanley Head Information Meeting

Parents/carers of Y6 children going to Stanley Head the week after next are reminded of the information meeting this **Monday 14th September at 6:00 p.m.** in the hall.

News In Brief

● Attendance

As we look forward to another exciting school year, I would like to emphasise the importance of good attendance. Pupils' achievement is related to their attendance. If a pupil is not in school, they are missing out on valuable learning. Although 90% in a test is a good score, 90% ATTENDANCE is actually the equivalent to 20 days off school. This school year, the government is changing the threshold for persistent absence from 85% to 90%. This means that schools have to closely monitor pupils who are not achieving an overall attendance of at least 90%. As a result of this, for pupils whose attendance falls below 90% we will not be able to authorise further absence through illness without the school receiving such things as: a medical card, a doctor's letter or a prescription.

● Punctuality

Being late to school can have a considerable impact over the whole school year. The table below shows you just how much time can be missed over a year just by being 5 minutes late to school every day:

5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year
10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year
15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year
20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year
30 minutes late every day = 19 days of school lost a year

We understand that the school mornings can be hectic, but when a child is late for school they are missing out on vital parts of their education. Doors open **at 8:50 a.m.** and registration is completed by **9.05 a.m.** Children arriving after 9:05 a.m. will be recorded as late. If a child arrives **after 9:20 a.m.**, they will have an "unauthorised" mark – this is the same as an "unauthorised absence" and impacts on their overall attendance figure.

As well as receiving information about the week, you will need to complete forms for Stanley Head staff and so it is **vital** that you bring with you:

- ✓ Your child's NHS number
- ✓ Emergency contact numbers
- ✓ Date of your child's last tetanus
- ✓ And a pen to fill in the forms!

● School Uniform

During the last academic year, following efforts to return unclaimed school uniform, a huge quantity of lost property was donated to various worthy causes. In an effort to reduce this and to hopefully save you anguish and expense we are proposing to introduce a uniform name labelling scheme.

Mrs Arnott and Mrs Brennan will go to each class and following children checking their own clothes, any that are not named will be labelled with the child's name using a laundry marker pen. If you **do not** wish this to be done to your child's uniform, coats and P.E. kit, but will label them yourself, then please pass a note onto your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

● Hopper Bus

From the start of next week, the Hopper Bus will be on Heathcote Street car park and Youth Services will be running activity sessions for children aged 11 to 16 years. The buses will be staffed with people on hand to talk about issues that are particularly relevant to young people, so please free to pop along for advice and support.

• Pupil Progress

As part of the reforms to the new national curriculum, which were introduced in September 2014, the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress was removed at the end of the last academic year. The new Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests (Y2 and Y6) in English and Mathematics, based on the new national curriculum, will be sat by our pupils for the first time in the summer of 2016. To enable us to track the progress and attainment of our pupils from September 2015, we are introducing a number of new assessment tools, one of which is 'Assertive Mentoring'.

Assertive Mentoring identifies what a child can do, and targets what they need to do to make further progress. Every other week, your child will complete a short test in school. The teacher will go over the test and any misconceptions will be addressed. The completed test will also be brought home so that your child can share it with you. This will enable you to celebrate their successes and help them with any mistakes they have made. The same test will then be repeated the following week.

As a school we are looking forward to implementing this new system and hope that parents and carers will support their child as we seek to enable each pupil to fulfil their potential.

• Grateful thanks

Today is the last day for Lisa Gratton, one of our fabulous kitchen team, who is leaving us after 13 years of amazing service providing our children with their daily lunches. We thank her for her contribution over the years and wish her well for the future. Thank you from us all!

• Sentinel visit

On Wednesday, next week, we are expecting a visitation by the judges of the Garden Competition that has been running in the Sentinel. We think they will be taking some more photos, so watch out for them in the coming weeks.

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations and very best birthday wishes to a member of staff that has been very secretive about this special birthday. You don't get away with it that easily!

And Finally

On behalf of all of the staff please can I pass on my very grateful thanks and appreciation for all of the cards, messages and gifts which we received at the end of the last school year. They were all very much appreciated indeed. "Thank-you!"

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr. Wardle

Academic Year 2015-2016

AUTUMN TERM 2015

School closed for pupils

School open for pupils

Half Term

School closed for pupils

School Closes

Monday 7th September

Tuesday 8th September

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October (inclusive)

Monday 2nd November

Friday 18th December

Staff Training Day

Staff Training Day

SPRING TERM 2016

School Open

School closed for pupils

Half Term

Schools Closes

Monday 4th January

Friday 12th February

Monday 15th to Friday 19th February (inclusive)

Thursday 24th March

NB Easter is 27th March

Staff Training Day

SUMMER TERM 2016

School closed for pupils & staff

School closed for pupils

School Open for pupils

May Day

Half Term

School closed for pupils

School Closes

Thurs 7th April 2016

Fri 8th April 2016

Monday 11th April

Monday 2nd May

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June (inclusive)

Monday 6th June 2016

Friday 22nd July 2016

Staff Training Day

Staff Training Day