



Thoughtfulness and Respect

Sandford Hill Primary School Newsletter



Issue 1
9th Sept
2016

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

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Welcome back..... I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff and Governors, to welcome all our children and their parents, carers to the start of another new academic year. The children all look wonderfully smart in their new uniforms, which we hope have all been labelled with your child's name! We also welcome two new members of staff – Mrs Yeomans, who has joined our Early Years team and Mrs Twynham, our new KS2 French teacher. We know that they will prove to be great additions to our Sandford Hill family.

The start of a new year brings many new opportunities - a new class teacher for the children to get to know with new expertise and interests; a new classroom, perhaps a new part of the school building and/or new playground; and so much more new learning.

As a school we are constantly trying to improve and develop our teaching approaches, resources and facilities. This year, two of our priorities are reading and mathematical reasoning - watch out for more information in the future. We have had an external makeover with all the outside paintwork being refreshed and many internal rooms painted as well, thanks to the hard work of our site staff over the summer holidays. We have also had two big technical changes: a new e-mail system introduced with a new school e-mail - office@sandfordhill.org.uk and of our course our new cashless payment system, see more below.

I am sure that with all our continued hard work and commitment 'Everyone Can' achieve and have another fantastic school year.

Diary dates:

- Mon 12th Sept** Saxonfields Residents Association AGM - 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 15th Sept** Parents Briefing for School Council London Trip
- Thurs 22nd Sept** New class transition session for parents/carers 9:05 - 10:05
- Fri 23rd Sept** Swimming starts for Y6 and Y4
- Tues 27th Sept** Vikings invade Y5!
- Wed 28th Sept** Safeguarding training for all staff and Governors
- Mon 3rd Oct** Jungle Book Production for KS1 and KS2
- Wed 19th Oct** Open Evening 3:30 - 5:30
- Thurs 20th Oct** Open Evening 4:30 - 6:30
- Fri 21st Oct** **School closed to children - Staff training day**
- Mon 24th -28th Oct** **Half Term**

See more diary dates,
on the website.
www.sandfordhill.org.uk/

NO CLUBS NEXT WEEK

A massive 'Thank You'



The office staff would like to pass on a huge thank you to all parents/carers who have embraced the new cashless system which started on Monday. As with any new system, there are always a number of teething problems, but fortunately, these have been few. We hope you agree that once the initial set up has been completed, then using the system, particularly the app is really easy and convenient. If you have not yet managed to register for ParentMail then please do come and ask at the office as so many of our school communications will be making use of it. Thank you.

Clubs

Club information will shortly be sent out via a form in ParentMail and requests will need to be made by 9:00 a.m. next Wednesday. Despite the huge commitment of our staff to run these clubs, we are still unable to fulfil the huge demand. We apologise, therefore, if your child is not able to do all the clubs they might want to, but we always attempt to give every child at least one of the clubs requested.

'Blog of the week'! As it is too early for many blogs to have been posted this week, this is just a reminder about them. The blogs enable the class teachers to share pictures or videos of what the children have been doing in class and for you to make a comment on it. Get to the blogs via the website.

'Tweet of the Week' - Follow our tweets via Twitter, our website or our Facebook page where all tweets are displayed.



Follow us: @sandford_hill

Thoughtfulness and Respect



Notices:

• Children coming into class themselves

Now that the children have settled into their new classes, could we please ask that, as from Monday, parents/carers of all Y1 to Y6 children say goodbye to them at their entrance and allow them to come into class by themselves. Staff will be there ready to welcome them, but as learning starts at 9:00 a.m., parents/carers are kindly requested not to come into class first thing. Should you need to pass on a message to the teacher, then please leave a note with the welcoming member of staff or for a discussion with the teacher, ask for an appointment at the front office. Thank you for your support with this.

• Milk Money

Milk money is collected by the kitchen so still needs to be paid in cash. Please ensure it is paid by Tuesday for the following week. Thank you.

• Data Collection Booklets

We have recently introduced to our Nursery parents a new Data Collection Booklet. This enables us to keep all our records and permission forms collected together in a more consistent way. Over the next few weeks, these booklets will be sent to each year group and we would be most grateful if you would complete and return it in the same envelope, via the class teacher, at your earliest convenience. Should any details entered into the booklet change, you will need to notify the school office as soon as possible. We appreciate your support with this.

• Absence

If your child is absent from school, then you can now notify us via Parentmail, rather than phoning the school. Select Notify Absence from the menu, choose the appropriate child if you have more than one at Sandford Hill and click on **Add**. Then just complete the options and submit.

News in Brief

• Silver Award for Modeshift STARS

During the summer break we were informed that we had successfully achieved the Silver Modeshift STARS award. Modeshift aims to increase levels of safe, active and sustainable travel in schools, thereby developing long term healthy travel practices by our children and parents/carers. Many thanks to Mr Alcock for leading on this award and well done to everyone for enabling us to achieve it!



• Bronze for Primary Geography Quality Mark

We are very pleased to announce that they have recently achieved the Bronze Award for the Primary Geography Quality Mark. This is seen as a key strategy for raising the quality of geography in primary schools. The mark requires that teachers ensure policies impact on pupil learning and are not afraid to take risks, and innovate and challenge to achieve progress in geography. Many congratulations and thanks to Miss Gregory for all her hard work in achieving this award for the school.



Congratulations

- Congratulations to **Ellie Yeomans** who recently passed her Angelfish 3 swimming award. Well done Ellie.
- Well done also to **Isabelle Yeomans** who achieved her Stanley 7 in swimming over the summer. Congratulations Isabelle.

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. Thank-you!

Best wishes for an enjoyable weekend,

Mr Wardle

Academic Year 2016-2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016

School closed for pupils

Friday 2nd September

Staff Training Day

School open for pupils

Monday 5th September

School closed for pupils

Friday 21st October

Staff Training Day

Half Term

Monday 24th to Friday 28th October (inclusive)

Last Day of Term

Friday 16th December

SPRING TERM 2017

School Open

Tuesday 3rd January

School closed for pupils

Friday 12th February

Staff Training Day

Half Term

Monday 20th to Friday 24th February (inclusive)

Last Day of Term

Friday 7th April

SUMMER TERM 2017

School Open

Monday 24th April

May Day - School closed

Monday 1st May

Half Term

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

School closed for pupils

Monday 5th June

Staff Training Day

Last Day of Term

Friday 21st July