

Sandford Hill Primary Newsletter



Week 26 - Fri 27th Mar '20

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STOP PRESS: For sending in children's work/photos, please use childrenswork@sandfordhill.org.uk (NOT office@ as previously asked)

What a difference a week makes!

I am very aware that this week has been very different to one that any of us have ever experienced.

It is very challenging times for us all, as we are faced with an emergency situation which is affecting the whole world. One consequence, to help ensure everyone's safety, has been remote schooling. Although none of us one has really planned or trained for this event, we are all very much trying to do our best.

Indeed, although our children are learning in different locations, we are still one community, committed to the safety, care and education of every child at Sandford Hill Primary School. Some of our children will have found the days strange, whereas others will have thoroughly enjoyed a new way of learning. For those children who came into school, it will have seemed unusual without their friends.

Many of you will also have been juggling your work with supporting your children. I know this won't have been easy and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this new way of working and operating our school.

Finally can I urge everyone to keep following the Government guidance to STAY AT HOME, PROTECT THE NHS and SAVE LIVES.

Mr Wardle

Next week

As teachers we would like to suggest that over the following weeks the children try to do some of the following:

- Daily Purple Mash activities (Year 1 – Year 6)
- Some of the activities from the 'Home learning' link on the front of our school website <https://www.sandfordhill.org.uk/>
- Some practical mathematics (baking, counting, playing shop with money, telling the time)
- Lots of reading; either independently or sharing stories with family members.
- Some online mathematics games to practice their multiplication tables. [Times Tables Rock Stars](#) is absolutely brilliant for this.
- Some art / craft activities
- For the younger children, lots of imaginative free-play
- Some form of physical exercise every day
- Lots of talking and listening to each other

The main message here is to encourage our families to enjoy the time you have with your children. Turn it into an opportunity to do things you may not have done due to the busy lives we lead. We'd also encourage our families to check in with our social media posts. We tend to share lots of ideas through our Twitter feed (@sandford_hill) and in turn, this gets cascaded down onto our Facebook site.

Purple Mash

Very well done to all the children who have completed their activities using Purple Mash. In spite of some glitches, it has been pleasing that children and families have shown determination and resilience in order to access the daily 'to do' online tasks. The work the children have returned to their teacher is fabulous and I would like to thank every one of them for their hard work. A special well done also to the Year 5 classes who, on each day this week, have had the highest number of pupils submitting their finished work.



Working from Home

This week we have had 11 members of staff who are self-isolating and working from home. One of these, Mr Walford, has been using this opportunity to set a number of outdoor challenges. I was a little bit worried when I saw him attempt a handstand as he is not getting any younger! However, I can report that he is ok and already planning more for next week.

It is great that children have been inspired to take a break from screen time, enjoy the early spring sunshine in the garden and attempt a challenge. Very well done indeed **Skyla P, Finnley P, Jimmy R, Henry R** and **Thomas H**. As well as this, it was lovely to see **Callum H** practising a new skill (archery).

Broad Curriculum

The Purple Mash activities that are being set by teachers, aim to offer the children a broad curriculum, Therefore I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing a vast range of interesting and exciting things taking place at home this week. We have received lots of photographs that have shown children carrying out science investigations, identifying mini beasts using identification keys, creating Easter pictures, baking, bird box making, and practising their first aid skills. As well, we have received numerous photographs of children painting beautiful rainbows that have most definitely brightened up my day.

Parent/Carer Notices

- Provision for Free School Meal children - We have ordered vouchers for our FSM children which should be arriving at the start of the week. FSM families will be contacted when they are ready for collection.

Build update

Yesterday Block A, our first two new classrooms, was delivered and erected by a huge crane. It is a shame that the children were not in school as I know many would have loved to have watched the building being assembled. It was amazing. However Mr Jones filmed it all so you can watch a time-lapse video of it going up [HERE](#).

Once the new block has been made water-tight, the ongoing build works will unfortunately be all but suspended, due to the virus, so that is the last bit of progress we are likely to see for a while.



Help!

Earlier this week I sent out the following appeal:

"I'm hoping that we still might be able to publish our weekly newsletter. But I need some help from Year 6. So here is my newsletter challenge. Please email the office with an article about your week (by 1:00 p.m. Thursday) and your work might be in this week's edition."

Thank you to **Jimmy R**, **Summer W** and **Jasmine C** who responded to my request and kindly sent me the excellent articles that I am delighted to include in this week's newsletter.

My mum has done a timetable for me and my sisters while we are off school. First off all we have started with Joe Wicks P.E. lessons at 9:00am until 9:30am. Then we have been doing our maths for 1 hour which I've been going on Hit the Button as well as other games on Purple Mash. The next thing on the timetable is going onto the trampoline in the back garden to get some exercise. Once we have done that it is time to watch Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch on TV for me and Kelsie. For my younger sisters there is Number blocks and Alpha. We have been then doing English for an hour by reading a book or writing stories. After it is time to go outside again to get some fresh air and have a break by playing ball or going on our scooters. When we come in, we do our activities on our Purple Mash with our mum helping us.

We have missed coming school but we are enjoying time with our family. Stay safe everyone.

Summer W

Now, I think we can all agree that this hasn't been the average school week but due to our teachers working hard to set us activities, even if things have been different, as a school we have managed to pull through together.

As a Year 6, when I left the school grounds on Friday I didn't know when or if I would return, but using things like 2email on Purple Mash to keep in touch with my teacher, I still feel very much part of the school! Also, the best thing is that I have heard from all of my friends through social media even if I haven't seen them in person.

Hopefully, just like me you have had the chance to get exercise and play games in your gardens, but if you haven't remember that Joe Wickes is live every morning 9:00am-9:30am for indoor or outdoor workouts. From experience, I can tell you that they are great fun for all the family. If you are following Sandford Hill on Twitter, you may know that every day so far, Mr Walford has been posting cricket challenges. This ranges from throwing a ball into a bucket, trying to catch a ball behind your back and even throwing the ball in the air and then doing a handstand before catching it! Congratulations, to anyone who completed one as I know that they can be very difficult!

I know that I and lots of others have been logging into Times Table Rock stars daily and improving our speeds - my highest speed is 60 correct answers in 60 seconds. I'm super close to being a rock hero just like some of you reading this now!

I hope you've all had a great week and enjoy the upcoming weekend, you deserve it for all the hard work you've been doing this week!

Jimmy R

There are lots of environmental problems around the world and they all happen because of us. A big one is pollution in the air; this means the air is full of chemicals, smoke and other harmful substances. This can affect not only humans, but animals too. Animals have done nothing to hurt us however we are hurting them.

Bush and Wildfires happen often around our planet. There is something called the triangle of fire, this is made up of heat, fuel and oxygen, for a fire to start you need all 3.

85% of wildfires happen due to human actions. This can be because of some very simple things, such as cigarettes that have not been put out properly or even out of control bonfires and barbeques. As well as this we are also causing climate change which affects wildfires greatly. The heat from climate change can make the leaves very dry and therefore they catch fire.

In my opinion, water pollution is the biggest problem of them all. Water pollution is where a couple of different things can happen. Oil can get leaked out from ships. Oil spills are harmful to marine birds and mammals as well as fish and shellfish. Oil destroys the insulating ability of fur-bearing mammals, such as sea otters, and the water repellence of a bird's feathers.

Another part of water pollution is plastic. We recycle many things and even though we do some still end up in landfills and the sea. This is so harmful to animals of the ocean. It can do a variety of terrible things to them (lots that can kill them). Some of the few things that can happen are swallowing it, getting it caught around their necks and even laying their eggs in it. All of this is fatal and can affect them for life. Many people, when they go fishing, find animals with fishing nets caught around them.

How can we help at home? Well it's really quite simple. To start with you could go out and get a reusable bag and a bottle. Then try and find a local milkman. This helps since the milk is delivered in glass bottles. When you have finished using them you simply put them out for the milkman to collect. Another thing you could easily do is stop using wipes as they are made up of 80% plastic! If you wanted to take it a step further then use shampoo and conditioner bars. These come in little tins and are plastic free.

Jasmine C

