

Sandford Hill Primary Newsletter



Week 39- Fri 17th July '20

Clayfield Grove, Longton, ST3 5AQ ☎ 01782 235518 /235781, office@sandfordhill.org.uk www.sandfordhill.org.uk

STOP PRESS: All the staff at Sandford Hill Primary wish you and enjoyable and safe summer break. See you on Thursday 3rd September.

Thank You from the Governors

As the year draws to a close, on behalf of all the Governors, I would like to say a big THANK YOU for your support and commitment throughout the year, and especially the past few months.

Back in September, we could not have imagined the unique and unprecedented challenges that we have all faced – ones that have affected us all in lots of different ways. However, the incredible resilience of our children, the support of parents and the hard work and dedication of the staff has allowed learning to continue, and enabled children to be as prepared as possible for their next school year. Whilst the pandemic has meant we've been unable to do lots of the wonderful things that were planned for this year, not least our 50th anniversary celebrations, there is still much to be proud of and look forward to – including the building works that are progressing well with many parts ready for our children to enjoy in the Autumn.



As we look ahead to the coming academic year, when schools across the country will be fully open once again, please be assured that the wellbeing of our school community will always be the number one priority. Leaders and staff will continue their fantastic work to ensure that Sandford Hill is a safe environment for everyone.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to wish our leavers the very best in the next stage of their school journey, and everyone a happy, relaxing and safe summer break!

Mr Austin, Chair of Governors

A Final Message

This week you should have received various communications from school:

- Children's reports should have been received, as they were either handed to children at school, hand delivered locally or sent via post.
- Class teachers have created a video message for their new class, the link to which has been ParentMailed to the relevant class. Nursery and Reception to be sent shortly.
- Yesterday an information letter went out via ParentMail with important information about arrangements for September, so please make sure you have a read. We hope that answers all your questions and alleviates any concerns. If not, here are some comments from children who returned in June which might help:

When I heard I was coming back to school I was so nervous. When I arrived I noticed everything was fine and I has no reason to worry.
Jasmine-Rose W



I Was unsure because I hadn't been to school for 2 months. When I came into school it was fun though. I had nothing to worry about.
Sam T



I thought going to school would be weird. It was for the first day but I got used to it and liked it.
Troy M



Huge Thank You and Farewell

Today we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to two of our colleagues. Mrs Clunn, one of our teaching assistants, will be leaving us to start a new phase of her career, training to be a teacher. We thank her for her care and support to the children at Sandford Hill and wish her well in the future.



We also say goodbye and a massive thank you to Mrs Dickinson, our senior cleaner, who after at least 17 years providing fantastic service to Sandford Hill, is finally hanging up (or throwing out) her apron. The dedication she has shown to our school and especially our school hall has been exceptional and we will all miss her hugely. We wish her a relaxing and enjoyable retirement.

School funded PE Kit for September

You should now have received and replied to a ParentMail asking for the sizes for your YR to Y6 child's P.E. kit consisting of:

- A red polo shirt with school logo
- Black unisex PE shorts
- A black zip up fleece hoody with school logo
- Black joggers

The P.E. kits will be in school ready for distribution during the first two days that children are back in September. Following this initial distribution, should you wish to purchase additional embroidered items for your child, they will be available to purchase through ParentMail in September.



We have a CSci Teacher!

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Carney has just been made a Chartered Science Teacher (CSci Teach). This is in recognition of all her work in promoting Science both at Sandford Hill and in other schools locally. Her assessor's report stated: "Karen is clearly working at the right level for CSciTeach. She has used both her own CPD and the experience of leading the school through PSQM to enhance the teaching of science within her school. It is clear this has had a positive effect on both her colleagues and the pupils and she has also worked to increase the science capital of the pupils. This application has been a pleasure to read and I fully support awarding CSciTeach."

Well done Mrs Carney and thank you. We are very proud of you!



Dinner orders

As it has worked so successfully in the last couple of months, at the start of next term we will send out a ParentMail with the menu choices for your child to choose if they would like a school dinner.

As usual, meals for Reception, Y1 and Y2 children and those on FSM are free. Those that normally pay will be charged for any meals they order on the form.

A reminder from last week's newsletter, that school meals from September are £2.35 per day or £11.75 for the week.



Spectacular Scientist

We have just heard that **Ruhi J** recently received the 'School Physicist Of The Year' award, from The Ogden Trust at Keele University. This is a really tremendous achievement and we are incredibly proud of her. Very well done Ruhi!



Health and Wellbeing

Friendship

We all know that by looking out for each other, we can all achieve our best. That is why it is important to think about what it means to be a good friend. There are lots of ways to be a good friend, from saying something kind, to a helpful gesture, to even just giving someone a smile. If you wanted to make your friends a present, there are lots of resources online that can support this. 'Instructables' offer a step-by-step guide to making friendship bracelets which you can find by following the link below. We'd love to see some photos of your creations.

<https://www.instructables.com/id/how-to-make-a-friendship-bracelet-1/>



Summer Holiday Building Works

A reminder that during the summer break, the building work will continue at a pace. The hall is prepped ready for various works and the front classrooms will be completed ready for use in September. A reminder also that the demolition of the old mobile at the back of the school and heavy groundworks removal is due to start in the summer, so heavy goods vehicles may be accessing the school throughout the summer break. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.



Staying safe and being a good friend on apps, sites and games

During lockdown, children and young people have spent much more time on devices than ever before, so as we approach the summer holidays, here is some information about staying safe online and principles you can help us remind your children about.

There is a handy fridge flyer to help parents at toptipscorona.lgfl.net which you may want to print out and keep.



Please do not worry too much about screen time - think instead about screen quality, balance and mental health. The Children's Commissioner has provided a framework called the '[Digital Five a Day](#)' with five things to think about each day to help put that into practice.

It is really important children get the opportunity to chat to friends, so it's great to hear that many of them have been chatting online during lockdown. We are sure that this will continue over the summer, so please help us reinforce some key messages about appropriate behaviour to keep everyone safe and happy.

There have been reports of children being upset by bullying on chat apps, as well as some very distressing images being shared between friendship groups. This can usually be avoided if we remind children and young people to look out for their friends, not say anything that they wouldn't like to hear themselves, and always stop or stand up for others if someone gets upset.

Please remind your children never to share scary or rude images, even to complain about them. If they do see something that worries them or that might be wrong, all they need to do is ask for help from a trusted adult. They could talk to you or to us, or if they feel more comfortable, report the issue on the **Whisper button** (right) at the bottom of our school website homepage. In addition to this the children may feel more comfortable talking anonymously to [Childline](#). If you or they are concerned about an adult's behaviour towards a child online, report them to [CEOP](#). And as a parent, you can also contact the NSPCC - 02 advice line on 0800 800 5002.



One more thing - this may sound like more relevant to older children, but the very youngest children need reminding not to get undressed or changed online. There's a fun song to get this message across at [undressed.lgfl.net](#) (plus background information for you).

Thank you for your continuing support in helping to keep everyone safe online support.

Home School Support

Mrs Brennan, our Home School Link Worker, in an **Emergency** situation only, can be reached on 07947104540 throughout the school holidays. I will be unavailable and not reachable between 8th August and the 23rd August.

Farewell Year 6

Our Year 6 children have been a wonderful year group who have built lasting friendships throughout their time at Sandford Hill. We are proud of every single one of them, not just today, but every single day that they have worked hard to become the best that they can be and achieve their individual potential. They are artists, athletes, footballers, comedians, scientists, carers, historians, YouTubers, designers.... the list goes on. But most importantly they are amazing, happy, confident, aspirational young people who have exemplified our school motto of 'Thoughtfulness and Respect'. Thank you Year 6 and good luck.

