



# Sandford Hill Primary School Newsletter

Thoughtfulness and Respect



Week 16 - Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

Clayfield Grove, Longton, ST3 5AQ ☎ 01782 235518 /235781, [parent@sandfordhill.org.uk](mailto:parent@sandfordhill.org.uk) [www.sandfordhill.org.uk](http://www.sandfordhill.org.uk)

## Welcome Back?

Can I start by saying a massive "Thank you" to you all for your co-operation, understanding and supportive messages that we have received during this extremely difficult first week back. To switch from face-to-face teaching to on-line learning within the space of a day has presented a significant challenge to us all. Please be assured that everyone continues to work hard to iron out the little problems that we are all experiencing in this new way of learning. Many thanks to all the children and their families for your continued support. I would also like to say a ....

### Thank you to my fabulous colleagues

Over the past year, we have all had to adapt and change. Since September, adult training in school, has focused on high-quality remote learning. Twice-weekly meetings, for teachers and support staff, have been taking place so that :

- we are able to deliver an effective remote education;
- we are further developing the range of strategies that we are able to use effectively, to support teaching and learning.

The children are becoming more and more familiar with how to log in to Teams and respond to posts. They are being reminded of key e-safety messages and encouraged to use full, grammatically correct sentences. The children are also being taught how to access tasks through Teams. SLT are members of class Teams themselves too and so are able to monitor provision.

All of this has taken a great deal of hard work and despite our best efforts, we know that when providing remote education, we are still novices. Even for those of us who have been teaching for many, many years, to change the way in which we teach (which is what is being asked of schools) makes even our most experienced workers feel like they did when they were newly qualified. Add to this that I, like so many Headteachers across England, was left scrambling to implement a last-minute, partial school closure, on Monday evening, following yet another U-turn and confusing announcement by the government. I am immensely proud of the way in which my colleagues responded to this and the many other challenges that have been thrown their way, and would like to thank each and every one of them for their response.

For those of you whose children are able to access the online learning (and we do appreciate that for a number of reasons not every pupil is able to) I am sure you would agree that the progress we have made, in providing remote learning, since the first national lockdown is huge. This is a result of our fabulous staff engaging with the professional development process we have in school but also the outstanding leadership of Mr Walford and Mrs Wildgoose.

Next week we aim to resolve the issues which a small number of families may be having with accessing a device and / or broadband and would ask for your patience as we work our way through the needs of individual families. Indeed a particular frustration of mine is that the school purchased a number of new iPads back in October, but we are still waiting to take receipt of them, learning recently that our order was moved towards the back of the queue by the Department for Education.

### On-line learning advice

#### CBBC supporting home learning

We've learned that from Monday 11 January, the CBBC channel on television will have a three-hour block of primary school programmes from 9 a.m. We think these may compliment our remote education provision. [bbc.co.uk/news](http://bbc.co.uk/news)



#### Using games consoles for online learning

Did you know you can use a web browser in a Playstation or Xbox to access the internet and therefore to access Teams via Office.com - Here's a simple [guide](#) from a school pupil that can be adapted to show you how.



### September 2021 Admissions for Nursery and Reception

To apply for a place NOW for your child at Sandford Hill Primary please visit:

[stoke.gov.uk/school\\_admissions](http://stoke.gov.uk/school_admissions)

For parents/carers of our current Nursery children, remember you must reapply for a Reception place at Sandford Hill

For your information, Admissions close as below:

- ◆ Reception admissions close next Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ Nursery admissions close 31<sup>st</sup> January



### Birthdays

Wishing all these children a very **Happy Birthday** next week.

- Henry R
- Sophie M
- Katie W
- Maddison C
- Ivy-Jane F
- Hunter H
- Brooke M
- Max B
- Kai A



## Read, read, read!

Supporting your child with their remote on-line learning, is incredibly helpful, especially for the younger children, but it remains that one of the most valuable things that you can do that will benefit your child for life, is to read to them and with them. Try to build into your routine 20 minutes of relaxing together with a book - you never know it might do you good too. Below are some simple tips to help you make the reading experience as beneficial for your child as possible. Thank you.

# 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1** Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2** Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3** Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4** Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5** Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6** Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7** Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'