



Sandwich Junior School NEWSLETTER



Term 4 – Newsletter 4 – 21st February 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

As we start Term 4, we move into the second half of the academic year – an exciting time where we usually see children flourish even more than before as the skills for their year groups begin to be embedded.

As you will see from the diary, there is a lot happening this term with some great enrichment opportunities for the children to enjoy across the year groups.

We hope the weather also starts to improve and that we will be able to use our field to the best advantage at break times and in P.E. but please be mindful that, at the moment, the weather is still quite chilly and children will need appropriate clothing, coats etc. to avoid the plethora of bugs and colds which can do the rounds at this time of year.

World Book Day

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day.

The school will be celebrating this through a range of different lessons and reading assemblies, along with a few surprises.

The children are invited to use their creativity in coming to school dressed as their favourite book character, using as much imagination as possible.

There is no expectation that any child should purchase an outfit and in fact, if they do not wish to dress up then that is absolutely fine.

Recruitment

Our wonderful PTFA are always seeking new recruits to allow them to continue in providing the children with all the fantastic experiences they lay on during the school year.

The school is also looking to recruit a Governor to bolster our existing Governing Body. This is a crucial area of school management – if anyone has skills which they feel they can offer, then please pass your details to the School Office.

Attendance

It is crucially important that children attend school for as many sessions as possible. Even missing a couple of days learning can have a significant impact on a child's progress and understanding, as the curriculum is constantly moving forwards in a progressive manner. This is the reason why school is unable to authorise holidays within term time and therefore, we would request that parents avoid booking such holidays as it is extremely detrimental to a child's education. Many schools (including ours) have seen a rise in such holidays being taken over the past couple of years.

Unless it is absolutely necessary for children to be off due to illness, then the aim should be 100% attendance. The school is duty bound to request medical evidence should attendance fall below 95% for any child. The attendance figures also have to take into account lateness – this is classed as an unauthorised attendance.

Parental Support & Engagement

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the Online Safety Workshop on 1st February – Mrs Clark felt this was very valuable in helping parents to understand the issues facing children in today's technological age. Although attendance was quite low, other parents can access the content of this evening on the School Website. I would also like to thank those parents who attended Mrs Burton's SEND open morning on 2nd February – there will be more of these type of forums held in the near future for anyone who is interested (info will follow).

The school will be organising more workshops and information evenings during the remainder of the year – if there is a specific subject that parents feel would be helpful for them, then please email the office and we can work towards refining our offer.

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Author Visit

The school is very excited to be able to announce that the successful, amazing children's author, **Jennifer Killick**, will be visiting the school on **Tuesday 26th March**. Jennifer will be delivering some workshops, a whole school assembly and also signing books for children. Information on how to order books will follow in separate communication shortly.

Science Week

The school's annual **Science Week** will take place **from 11th to 15th March**. As always, this will allow children to become immersed in specific scientific topics for the first 4 days of the week, covering a whole range of age appropriate scientific tasks and developing their scientific knowledge significantly.

The week will culminate in our Practical Science Day where classrooms will be transformed into laboratories and, with the support of our community volunteers and former Chair of Governors, will allow children to rotate through a range of hands on science investigations.

Dates for Your Diary

Mon 19 th Feb	Term 4 starts
Fri 23 rd Feb	Year 4 Dover Museum Trip
Fri 1 st March	PTFA Quiz Night
4 th ,5 th ,6 th March	Mother's Day shops
Thu 7 th March	World Book Day
Mon 11 th March	Science Week
Fri 15 th March	Practical Science Day
Mon 18 th March	Assessment Week
Tue 26 th March	Author Visit
Thu 28 th March	End of Term 4
Mon 15 th April	Term 5 starts
Thu 25 th April	Year 6 Sleepover Info Evening (5.30-6.15pm)
Thu 9 th May	Kent Test Info Evening (6-7pm)
Mon 13 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Mon 20 th May	Shakespeare Week
Tue 21 st May	Wolfpack Movie Night
Fri 24 th May	End of Term 5

School Uniform

Could we please reiterate that the school uniform expectations are available on the school website or can be clarified with the office.

It is important that children wear the correct uniform as this is the school's identity and creates a positive environment for learning. This also avoids children feeling different to (or isolated from) their peers.

We understand how hard times are for families with the rising cost of living. With this in mind, 'Pre-Loved' uniform can be obtained from the school office for a small donation. If any parents of older children have pre-owned uniform that they would like to donate to help other families then we would be most grateful – you can simply drop it into the School Office and we will sort it into appropriate ages.

PTFA Events

This term, our amazing PTFA will be organising **Mother's Day Shops on 4th, 5th & 6th March**.

They will also be organising the annual **Scrambled Carrots House Competition** in the week prior to Easter.

Finally, if anyone would still like to enter the **PTFA Quiz Night on Friday 1st March**, then please liaise with the School Office who will pass on information.

Medical Requirements

Could we remind parents that, if your child suffers from asthma and requires an inhaler, then it is very important they have their inhaler in school and that it is in date. On the website there is a school asthma card which must be completed and returned to the school office. If you are unable to access this, then the Class Teacher will be able to arrange for a hard copy of this to be completed.

Reading Updates

The school has supplemented the library, during half term, with over £1,500 of new books – these include fiction for a variety of ages, graphic novels, non-fiction books on Geography, Science, Natural World, History, Art and Sport.

We have also separately added to our stock of dyslexia-friendly titles from Barrington Stoke.

As the weather becomes warmer, break times and lunchtimes will be enhanced by our addition of specified reading areas on the field, where children can find a quieter spot using our giant reading blankets.

During March, our team of avid readers will also set about defending our National Title of 'Best Primary School in the Country', which we won at last year's National Reading Champions Quiz (organised by the National Literacy Trust).

Once again, we ask parents to please read with children for twenty minutes each night – reading really is the gateway to the whole curriculum and also to a child's future success.