



Sandwich Junior School NEWSLETTER



Term 4 – Newsletter 4 - 24th February 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 4

It seems barely believable that we are already half way through this academic year; however, the pace of education still continues and we have lots of activities for your children to participate in. For our Year 6 children, end of year SAT tests are approaching (the week beginning 9th May) and the children are working very hard to refine their skills in preparation. To support children, we will put together some practice materials to share with you in order that you can also support your children during this part of the year. Details will follow closer to Easter.

Moving forward, we would also (as always) appreciate your ongoing support with homework, reading, spellings and learning times tables; all of these support learning and help build confidence.

PTFA Support

Our wonderful 'Friends of Sandwich Junior School' have been hard at work planning events for this term to enrich all the children's experiences of school. As you will have already seen in their letter, they are offering the children a 'Movie Night' on Tuesday 1st March (3:15 – 5:15) and will also be holding their annual Easter egg Raffle closer to the end of term (details to follow).

In addition, on the lunchtimes of 22nd, 23rd and 24th March, the PTFA will be running a Mother's day Shop for children to buy affordable gifts for this day.

As always, the Friends of Sandwich Junior School would welcome any new members to help with the organization of this vital school body. Simply contact the School Office.

COVID Update

As you will already know, the Government stance on COVID precautions has changed somewhat this week. Staff and pupils are no longer expected to test twice weekly for COVID, although, for the time being some free Lateral Flow Tests are still available.

Should your child test positive for COVID or show symptoms and therefore are awaiting tests, the guidance is that, whilst there not being a specific demand for self-isolation (as was previously the case), it is still scientific advice that people may choose to still isolate for 5 days before taking two consecutive LFT tests 24 hours apart (hopefully with negative outcomes). Whilst this advice can seem somewhat contradictory, the Government stance is that people should individually make their own decisions in this regard according to their own sense of responsibility.

Science Week

I am pleased to announce that our annual Science Week will be taking place from the 14th to the 18th March. This week always enables the children to immerse themselves in scientific explorations suitable for their stage of learning and provides many opportunities for awe and wonder in the hidden world around us. Miss Blair is already hard at work in preparation for this week and is ensuring that the culmination will be a fabulous immersive Investigation Day where children will have the opportunity to experience and participate in a whole series of different experiments to broaden their understanding of practical Science.

Headteacher: Mr Martin Dyson

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Staff Changes

I am extremely pleased to announce formally that Miss Blair has accepted the position of Interim Assistant Head for at least the remainder of this academic year. This will be in addition to her role as Class Teacher, which will remain as it was.

Dates for Your Diary

Tues 1st March – PTFA Movie Night
Fri 4th March – Fantastic Fred Day
Thurs 10th March – National Reading Competition
Mon 14th March – Fri 18th March – Science Week
Tues 22nd – Thurs 24th March – Mother’s Day Shops (Lunchtimes)
Wed 30th March – Interim Reports
Fri 1st April – Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle Winners
Fri 1st April – Term 4 ends.
Tues 19th April – Term 5 begins
W/B Mon 9th May – Year 6 SATs Week
Mon 16th May – Fri 20th May – Shakespeare Week
Wed 18th May – Kent Test Information Evening (Year 5)
Wed 25th May – Open Afternoon
Fri 27th May – Term 5 ends

Internet Safety

Recently, there have been a few issues raised by children regarding ‘mean conversations’ which have taken place between groups of children via social media platforms and online gaming / chatroom situations.

With this in mind, I would just like to raise the issue of ‘Staying Safe Online’ as so many devices give children the opportunity to engage with others whilst playing games or in chatroom type situations. It is imperative that children are made aware of the dangers of having an online presence of any type. At school we regularly refer to being cyber smart. If any parents would like to work with their children on this aspect of life, then that would be very much appreciated. Useful links for conversations of this type:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Assessment Schedule

As stated in ‘Dates for Your Diary’, Key Stage 2 SATS run from the 9th May to 12th May inclusive. During this period, as ever, it is vitally important that children are in full attendance and the school will be unable to authorise any absence during this period unless totally unavoidable due to ill health, COVID etc.

PE Kit

Could parents please support us in ensuring that children, on PE Days, still attend school on these days in a school sweater or cardigan and with the appropriate SJS house coloured T-Shirt. If the weather is inclement then children can also bring a long sleeved top or hoodie to change into for the PE session but without logos and patterns if at all possible. On non PE days, footwear should be appropriate school shoes rather than trainers (in line with uniform policy).

Clubs

We will be resuming clubs at the beginning of next week (W/B 28/02/2022). Clubs are as follows:

Monday: Netball Club - Miss Byrne (All Years)
Tuesday: Yoga Club - Ms Lewis (All Years)
Bird Watchers Club - Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory
Wednesday: Science Club - Miss Blair (Y3 & Y4)
Debating Club - Mr Dyson (All Years)
Thursday: Junior Voices - Mrs Clark (Y4, Y5 & Y6)
Racket Sports - Mrs Mills (Y3 & Y4)
Art History Club - Miss Dutton (Y5 & Y6)

Unfortunately, Mr Smit will be unable to resume Multi Sports until Term 5 and Football Club will still not be operating until further notice.

School Dinners

School dinners must be paid for in advance by the Monday of the week in which the meals are being taken. If your circumstances have changed and you believe you may qualify for Free School Meals, then please access the link via our school website.

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.

Also, as the weather is still quite cold, could parents please ensure that children have a coat for Break and Lunch times, as well as the end of the day.