

Sandown Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

December 2025

Diary

December 2025

19th – Last day of Term 2

January 2026

5th – Inset Day

6th – Start of Term 3

February 2026

13th – Last day of Term 3

23rd – Start of Term 4

March 2026

27th – Last day of Term 4

Inset Days

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Thank you for contributing towards Mr Lindsay's leaving gift. He loves his Fire Pit.



Headteacher

I'm not really sure where to start other than thank you to everyone who has made this the best job I have ever been a part of in my life. My good friends from when I was at school are shocked (in a good way). Charlie Lindsay, least likely of my friends to be a headteacher. It just goes to show there is hope for absolutely everyone and you can do anything if you put your mind to it.

Together we are all stronger and we can make our community better if we all work as one. I am so proud of all the children, staff, governors and parents at Sandown. We are truly seen as the BEST and the conversations at the gate from you all make me realise what I am going to miss.

Every word and gift have been so thoughtful and I am certain I will look back on my 15 years at Sandown as the best of times. It takes a community to build a child. I hope that one day your children will find me when I am older and greyer as the headteachers, plumbers, conservationists, teachers, carers, scientists, artists, engineers, nurses, doctors, drivers and say being at Sandown was some of the happiest times .

In a time when there is much hatred and unrest in a world be first an foremost KIND.

BE KIND AND WORK HARD

Attendance - 95.7% Average this year.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful term, we would like to wish you a **very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year in helping your children to learn and thrive.

We hope you have a wonderful and restful Christmas break, enjoying quality time with your families.

Looking ahead to the new term, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining good attendance and punctuality. Regular attendance is crucial for your child's progress and success in school, and helps equip them with skills for life. We kindly ask that you continue to make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day possible, arriving on time when the new term begins on **6th January 2026 – gates open 8:30 – 8:45.**

Thank you again for working with us to give your child the best start in their education. We look forward to seeing everyone back safe and sound in the new year!

Also a huge thank you to the following business's for the amazing attendvent prizes kindly donated to the school. Friends of Sandown/Lets go Play/Summerfield's/Oscars Restaurant/Beefeater and The Old Rectory.



Nursery

The nursery children have had a fabulous term 2 exploring a range of fairy tale stories, as part of our project Once Upon a Time.

We would like to wish all of our nursery families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in January, where the children will be exploring Starry Night over term 3.



Friends of Sandown

Fireworks- FOS and Mr Lindsay have been liaising with Renegade Pyrotechnic as FOS and Mr Lindsay's main concern on the evening was always the public's safety, which FOS feel was compromised during the event due to the proximity of the fireworks.

"Wrap A Gift" took place— Over 300 children in the school took part. Participating children were brought to sunset to select and wrap a gift for a loved one, to be gifted on Christmas Day.

A big thank you to Lisa the TESCO Community Champion for supporting our event with gift donations. And special thanks also go to the FOS team members— Kelly, Nicky, Natalie, Daisy, Laora, Naomi, and Kyleen who were on hand to help the children.

Santa's Grotto. On Tuesday 16th December Santa will be making his annual visit to the school, all children in school and nursery will get the opportunity to see Santa. All children will be gifted a selection pack or FreeFrom alternative from FOS via Santa. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to lots of event in the new year.

PE & Sports News

This term in PE, we have been focusing on our social skills, working together as a team, taking turns fairly, and learning how to give helpful feedback and praise to our partners.

We are incredibly proud of the 13 children who qualified for the Area Finals Cross Country at Claverham, and even more delighted that seven of them have now made it through to the Sussex Finals in Crawley this March, an amazing achievement!

Our after-school football team also enjoyed a league fixture against All Saints. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to gain match experience, and they came away with a fantastic 5–3 win, putting us at the top of the table.

This December, 60 children will take part in the Indoor Athletics event at Hastings Academy, competing in sprints and either a throw, jump, or agility activity, with results compared across local schools.

After Christmas, we look forward to chess, netball, and preparing for the Time to Dance festival at the White Rock Theatre. We'll also be learning about our *cognitive cog* in PE. As the weather cools, please remember extra layers, hats, and gloves for outdoor lessons.

Caretaker

It's that time of year again! The Christmas break gives the caretaking team the chance to undertake those minor maintenance works that can't be done while children are on site. Our dedicated cleaning team will also be undertaking the last deep clean of the calendar year.

With winter now upon us, caretaking staff need to keep a close watch on the weather bulletins. Frost and snow present us with some of the biggest problems in trying to ensure everyone is safe on the site, but we have salt spreaders and shovels to try and make this possible. The school will always attempt to open, even in what might seem to be severe weather conditions - but this is only if we can maintain safety throughout the day, if keyholders are able to get to the school to unlock, and if a sufficient number of staff are able to get to the school. Personal safety is our key priority.

If you wake up to snow, always check on Dojo to see if the school is open. It may, on very rare instances, be necessary to delay the start time to enable the site team to clear pathways. Have a happy and safe Christmas.

Governors

As we come to the end of term, the Governors would like to wish all our children, families and school staff a very happy Christmas and a restful break. We also say a heartfelt thank you to Mr Lindsay who leaves us at the end of this term after many dedicated years to the school. We are deeply grateful for his commitment and leadership and wish him every happiness in the next chapter.