

Diary

February 2026

13th - Last day of Term 3

16th – 20th – Half term

23rd – Start of Term 4

March 2026

27th – Last day of Term 4

30th March - 10th April - Easter
Holidays

April 2026

13th - Inset day

14th – Start of Term 5

Headteacher

A very warm welcome back to all our children, parents, and staff! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for an exciting term ahead.

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Mr. Lindsay. While we were sad to see him leave, we hope he is enjoying his new role and wish him every success for the future.

Since stepping into my acting Headship, I have felt incredibly proud of our school. The support from our children, staff, and parents has been amazing, and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone for helping make this transition so smooth.

We are keeping a close eye on children's arrival and punctuality this term as there are 8 families who are late most days. Our attendance is fantastic, and we were delighted to receive an award from the DfE in recognition of this. A big thank you to all the families who understand how important it is for children to be in school every day—your support really makes a difference!



We are so proud of our children that performed at Time to Dance at the White Rock Theatre dressed as chimney sweepers to 'Step in Time' from Mary Poppins.

Thank you once again for your support. Let's make Term 4 even better!



Inset Days

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Attendance

Attendance - 95.1% Average this year.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for keeping me informed about any absences and for sending in proof of illness and appointments so promptly. I really appreciate your support it helps us keep our records up to date and make sure students are well supported when they're away from school.



We have noticed an increase in students arriving late to school, to date we have had 851 incidents of students being late in, punctuality is something we are working hard to improve. Being on time is essential for a calm and focused start to the day and helps students make the most of their learning. As a result, the school will be cracking down on lateness, and we ask for the support of parents and carers in ensuring students arrive promptly each morning. By working together to build good habits around punctuality, we can create a more positive and productive environment for everyone.



Nursery

This term the children have been exploring what happens in the world at night whilst they are asleep. They have been exploring a range of activities that include nocturnal animals, bedtime routines, moon and stars, comparing dark/ not dark with torches.

If you are in receipt of 30 hours nursery funding, please don't forget to reconfirm your details every three months. The cut off for term 5-6 is the 31st March 2026.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Caretaker

The February half term gives the chance for the school to bring in various servicing contractors - air conditioning, emergency lighting etc.

There will also be some minor internal contracting works taking place, with the caretaking team also undertaking minor maintenance activities.



PE & Sports News

This term in PE, children have focused on developing their **cognitive skills**, reflecting on strengths and areas for improvement while learning how to apply **strategy and disguise** in their performances.

We began the term with a **chess tournament**, which linked perfectly to our cognitive focus. We are incredibly proud that our **A, B and C teams all won their respective leagues** 🏆 🙌, showcasing excellent concentration, planning and resilience.

Despite challenging weather, we were pleased to host the **Year 3–4 Netball Tournament**. All pupils who took part were members of our Term 2 club. Although they did not win, they represented the school with pride, teamwork and enthusiasm.

We are looking forward to the **Time to Dance** show at White Rock, a prestigious event where the children have been working hard to refine their performance.

Still to come is the **Year 5–6 Netball Tournament**, with the top two schools progressing to the area finals. Mrs Apps has two teams ready to go.

Next term may be short, but it promises to be full of sport as we move our focus towards developing children's **creative skills** in PE.

Friends of Sandown

We can't believe we're already approaching half term! We're excited to announce that our much-loved event "Will you Find a Golden Ticket?" is making a return!

📅 "Will You Find a Golden Ticket?" - Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day, children will have the opportunity to purchase a chocolate bar which *might* contain a golden ticket 📅 / a logbook mention 📖 / or even Dojos 🌟 Chocolate options include Dairy Milk / Galaxy / Free from. 📖 Cost: £2.50 per bar. Bars can be pre-ordered via ParentPay (please see the FOS newsletter for more details). *We strongly recommend pre-ordering to avoid disappointment, as bars are limited.* Pre-sales close: Monday 23rd February

📅 Dates for the Diary – Promfest 26 – Monday 13th July 2026 🌟

Friends of Sandown (FOS) – We Need You!

After 12 amazing years as part of FOS, Nicky will be stepping down from the committee in July as her daughter leaves Sandown. Some other committee members will also be stepping back. It would be a real shame if FOS could not continue. 🧑🏻🧑🏻 Who Can Join? - Everyone is welcome, Mums, Dads, Nans, Grandads, Aunties, Uncles, guardians & carers 🙌 What FOS Makes Possible - Without FOS, events and support such as these would not happen: Fireworks 🎆 / Wrap a Gift 📦 / Santa's Grotto 🎅 / School trip donations 🚌 / PromFest 🎉 / Will You Find a Golden Ticket 📅 / pre-loved uniform 🛍️ *All funds raised by FOS are reinvested directly back into the school.* 🙋 Can You Help? Are you able to lend a hand? / Could you take on a FOS role? (*Social Media, Treasurer, Chair, Secretary*) Would you like to be part of a fun and supportive team?

📧 To find out more, please comment below or email: Nicolahomewood.fos@gmail.com