

Sandown Primary School Newsletter



Swimming Pool

We will be saying goodbye to our old swimming pool building over half term. We know that this will be a sad day for many of our families who helped to build it and learned to swim there.

Outside Grounds

Our school has the largest school grounds in Sussex and we are determined to make more of them. We are building raised beds for gardening, developing our den building area and fairy walk path. We are creating a wild flower meadow and potentially a fire pit. You might have spotted our fabulous new henhouse 'Clucking ham Palace' and we hope to be hatching some new poultry. If you keep your eyes peeled, you might even spot some new ponies in the near future.

Yellow Day

Thank you so much for your kind donations for Yellow Day, raising money to support St. Michael's Hospice. There has been a very positive buzz in the school today with all this happy yellow. Thank you to the staff who baked cakes to raise extra funds too.



Aspirations Week – 6th – 10th March 2017

Thank you for another great term at Sandown Primary School.

Next term looks like it is going to be the most exciting yet.

Watch this space for the times table wrist band challenge!

The children have achieved 25000 Dojos this term and instead of a day treat we are going to have a whole school treat from the 6th-10th March to celebrate High Aspirations.

Aim for the stars and you reach the highest tree.
Aim for the highest tree

and you never leave the ground.

During the week there will be lots of activities focused on:

- Leisure Aspirations
- Career Aspirations
- Community Aspirations

Visitors will be coming into the school to talk about their jobs. Staff and Parents will be holding a leisure day where the children get a chance to try out new leisure

activities. Classes will have projects around improving the school and the local community area.

We may have some new friends joining us and I am looking for some Pony Champions to help me build a paddock for them ☺. Please come and see me if you are interested. See the clue below.



School Council

Our School Council members met with Chartwells earlier this term. We asked every class to tell us their thoughts about school dinners. Everyone had lots to say and the team from Chartwells were very impressed with our children's confidence. Thank you to all of the children who completed a questionnaire. Gabe and Joey did an amazing job collating all of the results and we found out that most children rated the school dinners as excellent and the kitchen staff as friendly but they would like to see more choices.

We have been discussing every pupil this term with the teachers. We have come to a decision that the 2 main things our children need to get better at is knowing their times tables within 3 seconds and being able to spell the words they use every day in their writing. We will be launching our Times Tables wristbands next term which the children can win by knowing their timetables. Which one will you win first? We are also changing our Home learning to 5 minutes of spelling and counting / times tables, and 10 minutes of quality reading on weekdays only. This gives you time at the weekends to spend enjoying family time together which is something several parents have commented on. We are listening.

Volunteer Champions

Thank you to the new group of Reading and Maths Champions who have started in school this term. It is great to see how many of our parents want to get involved in the children's learning. The work our Champions do is having a good impact on the children's learning. If you want to be a volunteer helper in school, please come to our next meeting in the Cabin on Thursday 23rd February 1-2pm.

Diary

2017

- 20th Feb - Start of Term 4
- 27th Feb - Yr5 PGL Meeting - 3.20pm.
- 2nd Mch - World Book Day
- 17th Mch - Mufti day for Easter Fair
- 24th Mch - Easter fair 3pm.
- 22nd Mch - 1.15-3.20pm Inter school Cross country at Sandown School.
- 31st Mch - End of Term 4
- 18th Apr - School closed (INSET day)
- 19th Apr - Start of Term 5
- 20th Apr - Class Photos
- 25th Apr - Parents Evening (4 - 7pm)
- 27th Apr - Parents Evening (3.30 - 5.30pm)
- 1st May - Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- 8th May - YR6 SATS week
- 25th May - End of Term 5
- 5th June - Start of Term
- 17th July - Y6 Prom

Goodbye Annette

We will be very sad to say farewell to Annette at the end of February as she has decided to move on and do other things with her life. Many of you will have been supported by Annette over the years and I know she will be greatly missed. Her knowledge of local support groups and agencies we can call on has helped so many of our families, often in times of crisis and sadness.

Annette was a really big part of us getting the cabin built and this resource has given us a really special place for parents, children and groups to meet. This will always be Annette's legacy.

If you have worked closely with Annette and would like to come and wish her luck for the future and say goodbye, please come to a tea party in the cabin on Tuesday 28th February from 2:45-3.30pm.

PTA News

The PTA now have new page on the Sandown Primary School website. This is where you can find out who the PTA members are, dates for meetings and see which items around the school they have raised funds for. The PTA are a great team and work well together to make Sandown the great place it is. They always need extra help at events, so even if you can't commit to regular meetings, please speak to Kim Evans or Melissa Smith about helping out. Their next project will be the Easter Fair.

Healthy Lunchboxes

Sandown is a healthy school and part of our ethos is promoting healthy choices across our school day. We have developed a Healthy Lunchbox Policy and we just want to remind all parents and carers that children cannot have sweets or fizzy drinks in their lunchboxes. Whilst we understand that some parents feel it is up to them what they put in their child's lunchbox, we do not want children eating sweets in school. Please save this for weekends or after school on special occasions. Dental hygiene is a major concern in our local area based

wards. We know that the good habits children learn from a very young age will set them up for the rest of their lives.

If our MDSAs see sweets or fizzy drinks in lunchboxes they will hand them to the class teachers to return to you at the end of the day. I know you will support us with this important matter.



Sports Kit Sponsor

Thank You to Melissa and Jim Smith for agreeing to sponsor our new Sports Kit. We look forward to seeing our children looking smart at local sporting events.

Thank You

Thank you so much Mr. Leader for the hours of work you have put into building our fantastic new henhouse. The hens love it ☺

