

Sandown Primary School Newsletter



Caretaker

A strength of our school is that everyone on our team truly cares about our school. None more so than our Caretaker – Keith Lawrence. Over the summer Keith worked brilliantly with many contractors including the highways team to ensure our new entrance and the carpark was completed and ready to keep our children and staff safe. Keith truly represents what Sandown stands for. His role in the community linked to his work in the school brings home and school together and helps us to ensure we are the best that we can be. Thankyou Keith.

ParentMail



Please help us to keep you up to date with events by ensuring we have your correct email address and mobile telephone number. Please ensure you have registered via email or sms. If you have a smart phone please download the **FREE** ParentMail PMX app.

Parking

As always, parking outside the school continues to be an issue. Please be considerate towards our neighbours. Please **do not** park across driveways or on the zigzags.

Pride In All We Do

Once again, Sandown has been a busy and productive place to be this term. We are always so proud to be chosen as the host school for many of the Hastings Storytelling Week events and our pupils and staff benefit from so many rich experiences. We enjoyed the puppet show and a performance by the Kathakali Dancers who enthralled us with not only their dancing but also their intricate make up.



Our community links are an ever increasing strength of our

school and we know that we are changing lives by working across the wider area.

This term we have also taken part in several sporting fixtures including the school's football tournament, a netball tournament and the Partnership area cross country. In recent years we have seen a rapid improvement in our results and our pupils are becoming more resilient both on and off the sports field. Year 5 and Year 6 have been taking part in Barvember – ask your children about this method for making maths calculations and follow us on Twitter to see the daily winner. [@WhiteRoseMaths](#) [#barvember](#) [@sandown_school](#) [#primarymaths](#)



In January, Sandown will be inviting 2 teachers from Shanghai in China to showcase their approach to maths. We are a lead school in this area and this is reflected in us having the best mathematic results in Hastings and St.Leonards.

We would like to welcome all our new Nursery parents to the Sandown community. I have already met many of our younger children and we are all very excited about our new school now being for 2-11 year olds. Watch this space for new opportunities for our nursery children including prizes in Funky Friday assembly.

Focus on Reading

Our main focus across the school this year is on reading. We have worked hard with families over recent years to ensure children are reading at home regularly and writing a quality comment in their HomeLink Book. The next step to improving reading further is to ensure that children are reading for long enough each evening so that they really get into a book. We talk to the children about authors that they know and try to introduce them to new writers. We want to make sure that children are reading for pleasure – not just because they are told to. In school we have worked hard to make our Book Corners comfortable and attractive and made sure that children are choosing the books that they want in their Book Corner. We are spending money to update and improve our school library as it is so well used that it needs some attention. Our Ambassadors in Year 6 have given us ideas about how to make the library an attractive, comfortable place to read and share books and they are involved in the new design as a legacy for future Sandown pupils. Are you a reader that inspires your own children? Do your children see you reading a real book or newspaper? We know that children who are positive about reading have strong role models.



If the school can raise £1000 for The Royal Marsden Hospital and Ronald McDonald Family House, Mr. Lindsay will shave his hair **AND** his beard off in Funky Friday assembly on Friday 1st December.

Several of our families have been affected by cancer and we all know how difficult life can be when we are supporting a loved one through any illness. Please help us to raise £1000 and help make life easier for others at the hardest of times.

Come on Sandown – we can do this. ☺

Christmas Concerts

Advance Notice (further details to follow)

Reception Nativity Dates:

Tues 5th Dec – 2pm

Weds 6th Dec – 2pm

Thurs 7th Dec – 2pm

KS1 Nativity Dates:

Tues 12th Dec – 2pm

Thurs 14th Dec – 5pm

Fri 15th Dec – 10am

PTA Mufti Day

We will be holding a mufti day on **1st December** (no theme) for the Xmas Fair. Instead of a monetary donation, we are asking if you could please send in a quality gift eg chocolates, smellys etc which can be used as raffle/tombola prizes.

Diary

2017

NOVEMBER

20th, 22nd, 23rd – Prospective Parents for Rec 2018 open afternoons 1.15pm & -2.00pm

DECEMBER

1st – PTA Mufti Day for Xmas

Fair

4th - Flu Immunisations for Rec - Yr 4

8th – PTA Xmas Fair 3.30 - 5.00pm

8th – Last Day for Activity Clubs

13th - Christmas Lunch

19th – Last Sunset Session this year

20th - End of Term 2

2018

JANUARY

2nd – Inset Day – School Closed

3rd – Start of Term 3

Nursery News

This term the nursery has undergone some positive and exciting changes. Maplehurst nursery has been a children's centre nursery for the past ten years but this year in October Sandown school took over the line management of the setting. This is a wonderful opportunity for all staff at the setting to share their expertise in Early Years and access support from the teaching staff across the school enabling us to foster, scaffold and strengthen children's learning across the nursery ensuring they have the best possible start in their education and are confident and competent learners ready to start school. Please remember the nursery provides a range of home learning resources if you would like to borrow any of these, please see a member of the nursery team.

Now the weather is getting colder please could all parent/ carers remember to send your children into nursery wearing the appropriate clothing ie: Warm coats, hats and gloves and appropriate shoes or wellies in wet weather. It is important that children experience all weathers and children do continue to free flow between the indoor and outdoor environment during the colder months. Please ensure all clothing is named.

Please can we remind all parents/ carers that the nursery has a 'No Nuts' policy which includes spreads such as peanut butter and Nutella. This is due to children who may have a nut allergy.

All payments must now be paid promptly at the main school office.

Attendance

We have had a high number of requests for holidays during term time. Please help us to remain being a "good" school by not booking holidays during school time. Our current school attendance is 96.6% and we have been set a target of 97.5%. Whilst we appreciate that children do get poorly we request that routine appointments eg opticians/dental appointments are made out of school time when possible. Please can we remind you that the children should arrive to school by 8.40am for an 8.45am start.

After School Clubs

The new Sunrise and Sunset room is here, the children and staff have settled well into the new environment and we look forward to some exciting projects over the coming year. Sunset will have a stall at the Christmas fair so please come along and buy our wares.

The last Sunset session of the term will be on the **19th December**, as we will not be running on the last day of term. Sunrise (Breakfast Club) will run as normal. **All** activity clubs will finish this

term on the **8th Dec**. Club letters for terms 3&4 will be out the first week of December. Please make a note of the deadline on the letter and ensure slips are returned in good time to secure your child a place. Also, a reminder that all club fees are to be paid to the club organisers and on time. If you do not pay within two weeks your child will no longer be able to attend.

Parent/Carer Courses

We are very lucky to be able

to offer weekly courses to Parents/Carers by GRH training. They deliver a great selection of rewarding and exciting courses that cover a wide range of different categories. All of these courses are FREE and tailor made to meet your needs,

This term

Tuesdays @ 9am- Playing with Maths
Wednesdays @9am- Parent & Child signing.

Term 3

Mondays @ 9am - SATS explained.
Wednesdays @9am- Crafty English

Please speak to Miss Fraser for more details