

# Sandown Primary School Newsletter



## Mrs. Jenks

We were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs. Jenks this term as she set off for pastures new to work in another school. Mrs. Jenks has worked in the office at Sandown for several years and has now progressed to becoming a school Business Manager. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her well for the future.

## Funky Friday

The golden pencil has been a great addition in Funky Friday this term. As our school has grown so much in recent years, it is becoming increasingly difficult to fit everyone into the hall to celebrate our Prize Winners on a Friday morning. We would love to have every parent in assembly whose child has won a prize but we can only invite the parents of Reading Bugs winners, Log Book Mentions and the Oscar winner. Attendance is always considered when giving out prizes.



## Activity Clubs

All activity clubs will start back the week commencing **8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Letters will go out on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** confirming places. Please can we ask that you pay the **club organiser** promptly.

## Merry Christmas

May the force be with you at this festive time of the year. I would like to thank everyone for their donations to the Marsden and Ronald McDonald housing charities. We raised over £2000 in total which was double our target. What we do in life echoes in eternity, thank you.

Next term we will be inviting our Chinese maths teachers to Sandown. Year 5 have

already prepared our welcome ceremony. This is part of our England-China mathematics teacher exchange and one of the reasons why we have the best maths results in Hastings and St. Leonards.

A great term for successes with us winning the area netball, football and hosting the Hasting Storytelling events. Next term we will be

focused on catching the reading bug. There are also 46 entrants in our new Chess Challenge. Have a wonderful Christmas everyone.



## Reading

In the New Year we will no longer have 'Superstars' in Funky Friday. Our big



focus this year at Sandown is on 'reading widely and more often,' which is about encouraging our readers to develop a life long love of books and reading. From Term 3 onwards, every class will base the house competition around good reading behaviours, recording how many times they read with bonus points for good reading behaviours in class. Each child will have a chart where they will colour in stepping stones and collect reading bug stickers. Each week each class nominates two Reading Bugs for assembly. These children's names will be put into a net and the selected winner can choose a book to give to a friend to help them '*catch the reading bug.*'

## Volunteer Champions

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful volunteers for helping us with reading and maths games and gardening this term. It makes a huge difference to those children who never read to an adult at home. If you would like to become a volunteer in school, please come to a meeting in the cabin on KS2 playground on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January @2.30pm.

## PTA Christmas Fair

An amazing total of £1170 profit was raised by the staff, pupils and PTA members at the fair this year. Thank you so much to all of the teachers who thought up such great stalls and gave their time to run the stall with their class. Great team effort.

## Staff Panto



## Diary

### 2018

**2<sup>nd</sup> Jan** - Inset Day

**3<sup>rd</sup> Jan** - Start of Term 3

**8<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Activity Clubs Start

### Feb

**8<sup>th</sup> Feb** – PTA Disco

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb** – End of term3

**12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Feb** – School Holidays

**19<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Start of Term 4

## Nursery News

Thank you to all the families who have donated fruit and vegetables. Within our daily routine the children enjoy morning and afternoon snack. The nursery provides healthy snacks for all children but we would appreciate it if families could donate any fruit, vegetables or salad for the children to share at snack time. Please remember if you provide grapes for your child at lunch time they must be cut up. Choking is a high risk for children, especially under the age of 5 years. When preparing food please follow the national guidelines and nursery policies. Any Parent/ Carers who wish to volunteer to do cooking activities with the children please see one of the nursery team

At the nursery we understand that your children may suffer from illness from time to time. Please ensure if your child is absent from nursery you contact the nursery office as soon as possible to report your child's absence. Failure to do this will result in your child's absence being logged as unauthorised

In the nursery we are always trying to look at different and creative ways to make our own resources. Next term we would like to make a bike rack for our garden so that bikes can be easily stored, if any parents have any piping or tubing that they would be willing to donate so that we are able to create one we would really appreciate it.

The nursery entitled to additional funding from the government for additional resources to help your child's learning and development. If you have not already filled out an EYPP form please collect one from the office or fill it out at the office. We will need your **national insurance number** so please have this to hand. If you require any assistance with the form the staff in the office would be more than happy to help.

Have a great Christmas break.

## Attendance

Our attendance has dropped significantly in the last 3 weeks. Obviously some children have been very unwell but attendance continues to be an issue for some children and this can significantly affect their progress in class. Our vision clearly states:

**“We will not take holidays during school time and we will come to school on time and attend daily”**

You have signed this agreement and however much I sympathise with holiday prices you have agreed to this. Therefore please do not ask for holiday in term time. Pupils in the persistent absence bracket will be referred to ESBAS (Behaviour and Attendance Service) and then may be also be referred to social services.

We do understand that there is always legitimate illness but there is absolutely no excuses for not phoning in or informing the school. Children who are persistent absentees will not be nominated for Oscars or enter the log book other than in extreme circumstances. The school attendance team will visit homes where there has been no communication.

We are all proud of Sandown being the best school in Hastings but to maintain this your children need to attend regularly. Thank you.