



# Sandhill News



Welcome back to school everyone. I was so proud of the improvements that we made together as a school last year and I'm pleased to say that our return in September has seen further improvements in the way that our children conduct themselves across school. They have returned Ready, Responsible and Respectful! Well done everybody!

## Celebrating Success

We have a number of ways that we celebrate our children at Sandhill. Some you may be familiar with, others may be new to parents:

- ✓ Class Dojo - children earn dojo points for following our 4R's. When a child reaches a milestone of 200, they will receive a badge (bronze, silver, gold etc.) and unlock rewards for themselves and their class. Our pupils really like this new incentive and are trying to impress staff at all opportunities to earn their badges.
- ✓ Class Keys - This is a whole-class incentive where when the class all make the right choices, they receive a key. Each class then choose what whole-class reward they want for reaching their agreed total.
- ✓ In The Spotlight Certificate - Children going above and beyond what the teacher expects receive an instant certificate.
- ✓ Star of the Week Certificates - Children get to sit on a chair in assembly for the following week and are responsible for handing out keys for classes sat beautifully.

They will receive a hot chocolate or ice cream with Mr Haywood on a Friday afternoon.

Parents are invited to assembly to watch them receive their award - **Watch out for a text on a Thursday afternoon to say that your child has been selected for their award for the following morning.**

- ✓ Always Certificates - At Sandhill we want to reward children who sometimes may go unnoticed because they are **always** following our school rules; these certificates that are handed out each half term are to show those children that their **efforts have not gone unnoticed!**

Children **ALWAYS** doing the right thing:

**ALWAYS** ready for learning

**ALWAYS** respectful to everyone

**ALWAYS** responsible



We have added an extra R to our behaviour policy this year – Resilience:

*“the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness”*

We want our children to not be afraid of failure and to develop a mental toughness to accept when mistakes are made and to learn from them.

## School Organisation and Routines

Class	PE Day
Nursery – Carle Class	Friday
Reception – Waddell Class	Friday
Year 1 – Donaldson	Monday
Year 2 – Tomlinson Class	Monday
Year 3 – Seuss Class	Wednesday
Year 4 – Dahl Class	Wednesday
Year 5 – Rowling Class	Thursday
Year 6 – Morpurgo Class	Thursday

All children in school will be involved in PE each week. All children will require an indoor PE kit as well as suitable trainers or pumps. Children who forget their PE kit or who have not brought a suitable kit, will be given a spare school kit. These will be in each classroom so the size should be appropriate.

### Lunchtime Club (12:30pm - 13:00pm)

Monday	- Top Trumps & Board Games
Tuesday	- Lego
Wednesday	- Art
Thursday	- Reading
Friday	- ICT

If any families have any spare items for our clubs that are no longer needed, we would appreciate them in school!

## Our Reception Area - Celebrating Our Learning

One change that we have made this academic year is that our classes are now named after famous authors that the children voted for. Children in the first week of term studied their author in detail creating writing and art work in the style of the authors that they chose. This will be going up in the main entrance to celebrate and develop their love of reading and in particular that author's work.

### Attendance Matters!

For a child to achieve their potential and thrive in school, good attendance is a must. Our attendance target for this academic year is 97%. It was also 97% last year. Our attendance rose by 2.5% from the previous year; however, this is still considerably below our target.

Whilst it is important that we celebrate the increase, we also need to be mindful that this total is too low and our children deserve better. We need to work together to improve this. We hope you will continue to work with school in trying to achieve this target!



In order to reward children and families for their increased efforts with attendance, we are launching new incentives this year:

#### Pupil Incentives

- The class that scores the highest attendance each week will receive £5 Piggy Pounds that can be spent on any class reward at any point in the school year.
- The classes that come first and second each week will receive an extra play time.
- The class that has the best attendance over the course of a half term will receive an afternoon reward of their choice.

#### Family Incentives

- Each week that a child has 100% attendance in school, they will receive a raffle ticket. Every half-term a draw will be made with families winning a hamper of themed products. The first hamper will be a Halloween / Bonfire Night themed with the raffle taking place prior to half term.

## Reading Records

We love to see how the children are sharing books at home and impressing their parents. The importance of reading with your child is limitless. For the older children the Reading Record is used as a 'Magpie Book'. As they read at home, the children write down words, phrases or sentences that they like that the author has used. This could be one or two or twenty! These ideas can then be used in their own writing back in school. If your child doesn't want to read aloud, they could review the book in their own words, what they enjoyed etc. That way you are still sharing the book, but in a different way.

We still want our youngest children to develop love for reading therefore they will now have a library slot each week where they can take a book home that parents can read to them. It doesn't matter what book they choose and they will not be encouraged to pick alternatives as that is the book that has caught their attention so that is the one that they want to read at home.

### Reading Race

A new initiative that we are launching this year is the reading race. Each week the records of children reading in each class will be added up, the class that has the most reads (a maximum of 5 per child) will move one step along the race. The class who is winning at the end of each half term will have a whole-class reward at the start of the next term.

As mentioned above, even our nursery children are part of this competition. Parents simply have to sign to say that they have read to their child that week for it to count towards the competition.

### Library Reading Slots

Children in KS1 and KS2 can go to the library each day during break time and read quietly in there. These reads will be signed by a member of staff and count towards the competition.

THANK  
YOU!



WE'LL  
MISS  
YOU

Today is officially Mrs Hunt's last day in school working as our Executive Headteacher. I know you will join me in thanking her for all the support that she has given Sandhill over the last two years. This is not goodbye however, she will still come to Sandhill but as a friend of the school.