



Sandhill News



Oracy Day at Sandhill

One of the areas that we are developing in school this year is oracy. We have three strands to this: Talk for Life, Talk for Learning and Talk in the Early Years.

I was very fortunate to have oracy training throughout last year which has allowed us to gradually make changes to our curriculum offer. Oracy leaders from the Trust visited school last Friday and were blown away with the respect, warmth and love that our children showed to their peers and adults in their class. One quote from the many positives that children said was, "I feel loved at Sandhill because I know I am loved at school." Amazing feedback! Well done everyone!



Stars of the Week

W/E 17th November

Waddell - Paris
Donaldson - Charlie
Tomlinson - Emily-Grace
Seuss - Freddie
Dahl - Abigail
Rowling - Lexi

W/E 24th November

Carle - Jaxson & Isla-Grace
Donaldson - Harry
Tomlinson - Oliver
Seuss - Pixie
Dahl - Sophie
Rowling - Alex
Morpurgo - Violet

Reading Race Winners

Week 1

Donaldson, Tomlinson and Seuss Class:
Harrison
Dahl, Rowling & Seuss:
Alice

Week 2

Donaldson, Tomlinson and Seuss Class:
Amber
Dahl, Rowling & Seuss:
Shaylen

We are not our thoughts
and feelings; we are simply
the space in which they
come and go!

We will not let our thoughts
and feelings define us!

School Organisation and Routines

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

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!

Understanding School Terminology.

On a recent letter that was sent out with dates for Christmas events, I used some terminology that some parents did not understand. I apologise for this; when you are working in a school-based environment, you sometimes forget that not everybody knows this language.

The following table explains what this terminology means and which classes they are describing:

| Terminology | What It Means | Classes |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| EYFS | Early Years Foundation Stage | Carle (Nursery) Waddell (Reception) |
| KS1 | Key Stage 1 | Donaldson (Year 1) Tomlinson (Year 2) |
| LKS2 | Lower Key Stage 2 | Seuss (Year 3/4) Dahl (Year 4) |
| UKS2 | Upper Key Stage 2 | Rowling (Year 5) Morpurgo (Year 6) |

Where possible, I will try to use class names on future correspondence.

Movember (Thursday 30th November)

You may have noticed that some of the male adults in school are now sporting a moustache. This is to raise awareness for the issues that males face such as mental health, suicide, prostate and testicular cancer.

“Growing a Mo is like wearing a symbol representing healthier men and a healthier world, all Movember long. It tells everyone you walk past that a healthier world matters.”

On Thursday 30th November, we will be inviting all children and staff to ‘Show Their Mo’ by wearing a moustache for the day and dressing up as people who we would associate with a moustache - Cowboys and pirates etc.

We ask that children bring a £1 donation in order to ‘Show Their Mo’ in support of this charity. Children who do not want to dress up can wear non-uniform on this day.

No Pens Day (Wednesday 29th November)

On Wednesday 29th, Sandhill will be participating in No Pens Day; all lessons on this day will be designed to be hands-on practical lessons that include group work, opportunities to talk and the use of electronics to enhance the curriculum. No pens (or pencils) allowed!

Assessment Weeks

Over the next two weeks, children from Year 3 upwards will be completing assessments in order to gauge how much of the curriculum they have been able to retain by answering questions independently. These tests that take place each term are vital to help inform teachers about what gaps in learning their children have and what next-steps they need to put in place. We know that this can be a stressful time for some children; staff will endeavour to remove any anxiety that children may have around this. All we ask is that these children try their best if they are asked to sit an assessment. Please speak to your child’s class teacher if you require any further information.