

# Sandy Lane News!

## January 2023



Resilience, Excellence, Self-awareness, Passion, Empathy, Communication, Teamwork

### School Fundraising

As we reflect on the last half term we are extremely thankful to all of our families and how they have supported so many wonderful causes. We were advised before Christmas that we raised £212 during our World Mental Health Dress Down Day. This year we will continue to raise awareness for the many charities that we have both locally and nationally. We have however made the decision that with many of our families finding the rises to the cost of living very challenging, our fundraising events will be focused on supporting the school fund and in turn enabling the school to support the cost of school trips where ever possible.

**Thank you for your continued support**

### A message from Mrs Newsome

Dear Families,

Firstly can I start by wishing you all a very happy New Year!!! It has been wonderful to stand on the gate each morning and see the children arriving smiling and happy to be back to school for the Spring term.

This half term already seems to be going extremely quickly as we see ourselves approaching the end of the second week. Across the school I have seen some wonderful work being produced by the children including, a Dinosaur workshop in Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 delving into the world of Chocolate and Upper Key Stage 2 learning about World War 2. Please look out for the Phase overview sheet that helps to explain to parents the different learning that will be going on over the half term.

Here at Sandy Lane Primary school we want the very best for each and every child who comes through our doors. To ensure that our children are able to reach their potential we ensure that every child is heard read by an adult in school every week as we know that reading is the window into the world and opens the door for children to be able to become independent readers.

As a school we have made a conscious decision to keep homework to a minimum, this is to ensure that parents have time to read with their children at home. It would be my plea to families to make one really important New Years resolution this year and that is to ensure you find time to hear your children read at home each week.

Last year the school embarked on a Reading for Pleasure project with the Open University, this work highlighted the importance of engaging children in books from a very young age and has been vital to ensuring the children of Sandy Lane are enthusiastic about books. Although the project has ended, the journey hasn't, please look out for other invitations to come into school to share books with your child in our whole school book and bun sessions.

### School Attendance

The school has seen a dramatic increase in pupil absence before the Christmas break, please can I remind families about the importance of your children being in school everyday. Before the holidays the teachers carried out their Autumn Term assessments, the results from these have now been analysed by the Senior Leadership Team and Governing body and clearly show that children who have an attendance of below 95% are struggling to make good progress. Many of these children are already working below age related expectation due to poor attendance over the last couple of years. As a school we are finding these results to be extremely frustrating as we cannot teach children who are not in school. I have attached the school attendance flow chart to remind parent of the school policies and procedures around attendance.

# Diary Dates

- Tuesday 24th January @ 2.45pm - Blossom Class Assembly
- Thursday 2nd February @ 2.45pm - Bonsai Class Assembly
- Friday 3rd February - Whole School Numbers Day (more information to follow)
- Tuesday 7th February @ 2.45pm - Elder Class Assembly
- Thursday 9th February - Parents evening (more information to follow)

## School Crossing Patrol

Unfortunately, we are back to not having a crossing patrol person outside of school at the start and end of the school day. I have contacted the council and despite having the advert out since before Christmas they have had no one apply. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this position please ask them to call 01274 439458

## Lates

Over the last few weeks school has seen an increase in the number of children who are arriving late to school. The school day starts at 8.55am, if your children are not in school at this time they are late. The start of the school day is a crucial part of your child's education, children who are often late miss the teachers explanation of the daily timetable, phonics and reading time and are left feeling embarrassed, confused and falling behind in their lessons. I will be standing on the school door over the next few weeks to speaking to parents who are late and will be holding meetings with families who have children who are late on more than 5 occasions. Children who are late after 9.15am are recorded as having an unauthorised absence, 6 late marks will result in a £60 penalty notice fine.

## Parking

Please do not to park on the single yellow line outside for school between the times of 8.30am and 9.15am and 2.45pm and 3.30pm. Parking on the single yellow line puts the children's

## Additional Bank Holiday

Please add the to your diary's an additional school closure on Monday 8th May as requested by DfE for the Kings Coronation.

## Meet the Governors

### Sajid Hussain

A father of 3 children who attend Sandy Lane Primary school. I had the privilege of being co-opted on the Governing body for the school in 2019. My full time role is as the 'Head of Customer Service Delivery and Banking Operations' for HSBC bank, at their telephone/digital bank First Direct. My responsibilities are to head, lead, manage and direct the recruitment, learning & development and the customer service teams.

With the experience of leading large scale teams, creating and bringing strategy to life and maximising outcomes from a finite budget, I feel I bring a very different perspective to the board. My area of Governance is Early Years and I am the named Governor for "Looked After Children".

Brought up in Bradford in a very modest household, I have felt the impact of not having the same opportunities as many of my peers. Sandy Lane truly strives for a 'world of opportunities' which speaks to my personal values. This has made me driven and passionate to ensure the right outcomes for our children.

I play an active part in the community as Vice-Chair for the Sandy Lane Parish council and also as a NED for the Cafe West community centre.

I am often found doing the school run. Please do come and say hello!

### Aamar Mahmood

I am currently a resident of Sandy Lane Village and have lived in the village since 2016. I have a daughter who is currently a pupil in reception and another child due in February 2023. Exciting news I know!!! But I want to provide reassurance to each and every parent / carer that for years to come, I will continue to be committed to this role.

I currently work as a manager for Bradford Children's Services and have worked across the different departments bringing with me the vast experience of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people for over 16 years. I have gained experience of managing staff, managing budgets, health & safety and workplace mediation. I am currently based in the Children's Disabilities Team and have extensive knowledge on the Children Act 1989, SEND framework and a background in Fostering & Adoption. I have a reputation for listening, supporting and encouraging that I bring with me into this role.

I am genuinely passionate about education and want to play a more active role in supporting the parents of Sandy Lane to maximise the opportunity for children to discover their full potential. My primary aim is to follow closely the journey of our children and promote the best working relationship between parents and School to ensure our children do not miss out.

I'm delighted to be part the governing body at Sandy Lane as a parent governor and I'm looking forward to working with staff in the continued enrichment of our children's lives.

I'm always happy to have a chat so if you see me around and want to ask me anything, feel free.

# School Uniform

**Please can we remind parents of the school high expectations around uniform. Please see highlighted our expectations around hair and school bags.**

We ask that all children come in full school uniform each day, this includes school PE kit on PE days.

## **Clothing**

Our school uniform comprises a plain navy or black skirt or trousers, a plain white polo shirt and jade sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo on. Children in Year 6 wear a purple sweatshirt. There is also a school hoodie available for PE if required. The school sweatshirts and cardigans are stocked and can be purchased from Natasha's in Bradford, Whittakers in Shipley and on line at "School Trends".

In Summer girls can wear either jade or navy gingham checked dresses which can be purchased from any major High Street store. Plain navy or black tights or shalwar kameez bottoms or leggings can be worn under skirts. Plain black, navy or white headscarves may be worn.

## **Footwear**

Sensible black school shoes without a heel should be worn. Trainers are only allowed to be worn on P.E days. Children can come to school in boots or wellingtons during the Winter months - but must change into their normal school shoes or pumps whilst in school.

## **Jewellery**

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery except for stud earrings and/or a small watch. If parents request that jewellery is to be worn as part of religious practice, this should be discussed with the Class teacher and a written form signed for health and safety reasons.

## **Hair**

**We would recommend that girls with long hair tie it back for practical reasons. No extreme haircuts or styles should be worn. This includes no excessive colour and/or lines or patterns cut into the hair. No make-up or nail polish should be worn. Hair accessories should be school colours and small in size.**

## **Bags**

**From Reception to Year 4 children must use a school book bag or pump bag, as the school uniform list states. We do not have enough space in the cloakrooms for children to use large rucksacks. Children in Years 5 and 6 can use a rucksack but these are to be kept to a small size. Children who do not have the correct uniform will be sent home with a reminder slip and parents will be expected to replace items correctly.**