



# SANDY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS NEWSOME

Dear Families,

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the mornings get colder and frost starts to sparkle on the pavements, we know just how tricky it can be to get out the door on time! Whether it's scraping the car or finding that missing glove, these wintry mornings certainly bring their challenges.

That's why we want to say a huge thank you for everything you've done to keep things running smoothly. We're thrilled to share that our school attendance has reached an amazing 95%, the highest it's been in three years! This is a real achievement and shows just how committed you are to your children's education.

Even more impressively, less than 2% of children are arriving after 9am. That's no small feat, especially on icy mornings, and we're so grateful for your efforts to get everyone here on time. It makes such a difference to their day and their learning.

As we head into the busy run-up to Christmas, we've got plenty of events planned to celebrate the season. Make sure to pop these dates in your diary so you don't miss out: Once again, thank you for all your support this year. Together, we've achieved so much, and we couldn't do it without you. Let's keep working as a team to finish the year on a high!

Take care on those frosty mornings, and we look forward to seeing you at our festive events.

Thanks

Mrs Newsome



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# DIARY DATES

Maple Class Assembly - 27th November  
Key Stage 1 Phonics Event - 4th December  
Nativity - 12th December  
Christmas Day at Sandy Lane - 11th December  
Year 1 Carol Concert - 16th December  
Year 2 Carol Concert - 16th December  
Year 3 Carol Concert - 17th December  
Year 4 Carol Concert - 17th December  
Year 5 Carol Concert - 18th December  
Year 6 Carol Concert - 18th December  
Reception Christmas Party - 19th December  
Nursery Christmas Party - To be advised  
Key Stage 1 Medieval Christmas Party - 18th December  
Key Stage 1 Medieval Showcase - 19th December  
Lower Key Stage 2 Christmas Party - To be advised  
Upper Key Stage 2 Christmas Party - To be advised

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR 2025-26

Following our recent consultation regarding the 2025-26 school holiday dates, we are pleased to share that we will be trialling the suggested changes. These include a 5-week summer holiday, a 1-week and 4-day break in October, and a 2-week holiday at Spring Bank. Additionally, to better support families celebrating Eid, we will allow you to choose when to take the three religious observance days so they best suit your needs. We hope these adjustments will offer greater flexibility and balance for our school community, and we will carefully review the trial's impact at the end of the year.

## ITEMS FROM HOME

We would like to remind parents that children should not bring toys, balls, or snacks from home into school. This policy helps prevent items from being lost or broken and avoids unnecessary distractions during the school day. At playtimes, ball games need to be closely monitored, and additional equipment from home can make this more difficult to manage. Regarding snacks, the school provides bagels and fruit for all children from Nursery through to Year 6, ensuring everyone has access to healthy options. This also helps us protect children in school who may have allergies, as we need to maintain a safe environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## PARENTAL PERMISSIONS

We would just like to remind parents that you are able to change the parent permission for photos and videos that the school might use of your child. We will send a new request sheet out at our next parents evening but permissions can be changed at any time.

**R E S P E C T**



## BRADFORD FOOD BANK

We are delighted to share the heartfelt thanks we have received from Bradford Food Bank for your generous donations following our Harvest Festival collection. Your kindness and support have made a real difference to families in need across our community. The Food Bank expressed their gratitude for the wonderful contribution from Sandy Lane, and we are incredibly proud of the caring and compassionate spirit shown by our school family. Thank you for coming together to make such a positive impact—it is truly appreciated.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We'd like to remind parents of the importance of children wearing the correct school uniform each day, as it helps create a sense of belonging and pride in our school community. As the weather turns colder, it's also essential that children come to school in sensible and warm clothing, such as a proper coat, hat, scarf, and gloves. Ensuring they are dressed appropriately for the winter months means they can stay comfortable and focused on their learning, both in the classroom and during outdoor play. Thank you for your support in keeping our children warm, safe and ready to learn.

## STAFF CHANGES

It is with mixed emotions that we let you know that Mr. Paton will be leaving Sandy Lane on Friday, 20th December. Having worked at the school for many years, he has been a true asset to our community, supporting so many children to leave Sandy Lane with happy memories and a sense of success. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited for him as he begins a new chapter as an education consultant. I am sure parents will join us in wishing him all the best for the future. At the same time, we are delighted to warmly welcome Mr. Pool, who will be stepping into Mr. Paton's role and joining the Sandy Lane team.

In addition to saying goodbye to Mr. Paton, we are also saddened to announce that Mrs. Walker will be retiring on Friday, 6th December, after an incredible 25 years of service to Sandy Lane. Throughout her time at the school, she has made an extraordinary difference, providing unwavering support to children and their families. Whether offering guidance, lending a listening ear, or helping with practical matters, Mrs. Walker has been a constant source of care and compassion. Her dedication has touched the lives of so many, and her positive impact will be felt for years to come. While we will truly miss her warmth, kindness, and commitment, we wish her all the very best for the future as she begins this well-deserved new phase of her working life.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT BEHAVIOUR

At Sandy Lane, we strongly believe that home and school working together is key to supporting children's behaviour and development. Children are constantly learning about what is right and wrong, and it's completely natural for them to make mistakes along the way. This is an important part of their growth. Our role, both at school and at home, is to help children recognise when they make the wrong choices and to support them in understanding the consequences of their actions. By working together, we can help them reflect on their behaviour and guide them to make better decisions in the future.

In school, we focus on fostering positive behaviour through various approaches such as our RESPECT principles, CoJo sessions, RSHE lessons, Pupil Passports, and whole-school and phase assemblies. These programmes provide children with opportunities to develop their social and emotional skills, build self-awareness, and learn about empathy, respect, and responsibility. By reinforcing these values in the classroom, we create a consistent environment where children understand what is expected of them.

The partnership between home and school is essential in creating a supportive framework for children. When parents and carers acknowledge their child's behaviour—both the positive and the challenging—it helps children understand that their actions have consequences. It also encourages them to take responsibility for their behaviour, which is a key part of developing good decision-making skills. We understand that it can sometimes be difficult for families to acknowledge or accept challenging behaviours, and it's common to want to find reasons or excuses for a child's actions. However, this can make it harder for children to recognise the impact of their behaviour and take steps to improve.

When parents work alongside us to address their child's behaviour, the positive impact is significant. We see children thrive when parents are involved in the process, helping to set clear expectations, discussing behaviour openly, and reinforcing the importance of making better choices at home. This joint approach creates a stronger sense of consistency between home and school, and children benefit from knowing that their behaviour is taken seriously and supported in all areas of their lives. Together, we can help children develop the skills they need to make thoughtful and respectful decisions, and to grow into responsible, considerate individuals.

Ultimately, the most successful outcomes are achieved when we all pull together—school, parents, and children—to create an environment where children feel supported, understood, and empowered to make positive changes. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us provide the best possible support for your child's development.

RESPECT