

Sandy Lane News!

January 2022



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

School Fundraising

What another busy half term we have had raising money for some very valuable causes. The school raised £176.86 for the NSPCC on Number day and another £68.01 for Young Minds on our whole school SCARF day.



A message from Mrs Newsome

Dear Families,

I really can't believe we are heading towards the end of February already. I hope that once we come back to school after the half term break we will be free from the many restrictions we have all had to live under due to COVID 19 and we will be able to go back to living a normal life, treating COVID 19 in the same way we do many other common viruses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for the support you have shown the school over this extremely challenging time. I continue to look forward to seeing parents back in school, celebrating and sharing the golden moments that primary schools should be filled with and that parents and children should be able to share and cherish together.

Over the second half of the Spring term, we will be going back to holding class assemblies. Please see the diary dates on the back of this letter to see when your child's class assembly will be held.

On Thursday 3rd March, to help celebrate World Book Day, we are holding a book fair, please feel free to pop into school at the end of the day to treat yourself or your child to a new book. There will be letter going out this week to encourage the children to take part in a sponsored book read that could enable school to purchase lots of new books for our class libraries.

Sandy Lane Nursery

We are still awaiting news from Bradford Council about the opening of the school nursery, we hope to have confirmation at the beginning of March and will let you know as soon as we do.

Pupil Offer

Over the last few months the school has been designing a pupil offer. This is a list of experiences we want all the children at Sandy Lane to take part in while they are at Primary School. I have attached the overview for parents to look at. We will be continually building this over the next few years and welcome ideas and suggestions from parents.

Diary Dates

- School opens - Tuesday 1st March
- Class assembly dates - **Larch Class** - Tuesday 15th March
- Book Fair - Thursday 3rd March
- World Book Day—Friday 5th March
- Entertainments evening - Tuesday 5th April
- EYFS trip to Eureka - Wednesday 2nd March
- KS1 Trip to Nell Bank - Monday 14th March
- Red Nose Day - Friday 18th March
- School closes - Friday 8th April

Crossing Patrol

Bradford council are looking to recruit a new crossing patrol person, which is great news for the school. They have asked us to send out the contact number for anyone who may be interested in the role.

Please contact Sue Heaton on 01274 439458 if this is something you would be interested in. Thank you

Holidays

School works under the guidance of the government when looking at holiday requests. We are not allowed to authorise any holidays in school time. Since September alone we have fined 7 families. Please do not book to go away in term time, the children have 13 weeks holiday a year and all family holidays need to be taken during these times.

Food Allergies

Could we please ask that parents do not send their children into school with nuts or any items containing nuts, this includes birthday chocolates as well as packed lunches, as we have a number of children in school with allergies.

Thank you

Attendance

The schools attendance level is at 92.5% this is well below the national expectation of 96%. Children must not be kept off school for minor illnesses.

Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a big deal, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on children's learning.

Children who miss a substantial amount of school fall behind their peers, and struggle to catch up.

Most of the work they miss is never made up, which can lead to big gaps in their learning.

Poor attendance often starts at primary school, and children who fall into this pattern are likely to underachieve at secondary school. Pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (that's 19 to 38 days per year) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

Lateness

The school day starts at 8.55am, children must be in school by this time, the doors open at 8.45am to ensure children can be in school for the start of the day and ready to start their lessons.

Below you will find a article I found suggesting way the to improve lateness:

It may seem like 10 minutes isn't really that much, but for the typical school day of 6.5 hours, a student who is only 10 minutes late every day will miss **30 hours** of school time that year. If a child is 10 minutes late getting to school, it is more like 20 minutes until they are actually learning. The impact on the class as a whole is even larger. If two kids are late, one by 5 minutes and one by 10 minutes, then the class schedule might get pushed back. That means the teacher will need to alter something else during the day to account for time the class lost helping a late student catch up.

The occasional tardy is nearly inevitable. Things happen to all of us. Coffee spills and shoes get lost. Conversations need to happen. There are a million things that can cause people to run behind. Ideally our daily routines would include time to account for mishaps to minimize tardiness. If you are finding that your child is late one or more times per week, though, you may need to change your routine to ensure a successful start to your day. Here are a few suggestions that may help.

- 1) Pack bags/lunchboxes the night before.** The last thing you want to be doing as you are rushing out the door is trying to find lost homework. Make sure everyone's bags are ready to go and prepare home lunches as much as you can. Also fill their water bottles ahead of time and store in the refrigerator.
- 2) Lay clothes out.** Seems too simple to make a difference, but hunting down matching socks or pants without holes in the knees is quite the time consumer. Not only that, but you won't have to worry that you didn't notice your child was wearing shorts in negative degree weather until after you arrived at school.
- 3) Set up a "last stop" area.** Pick any available area near the door you typically leave through and put everything there for the day: bags, phones, homework, and especially coats and shoes. There are no last-minute distractions this way.
- 4) Play a family favourite music list.** Music can get people moving and can even turn a mood around. Pick upbeat songs that everyone enjoys. Play the same set each day so that everyone starts to recognise the cues and where they should be. For example, when the second song ends, breakfast is over. The third song ending means teeth should be brushed, and when the last song starts, they should be heading to get their coats and backpacks on.
- 5) If all else fails, wake up earlier.** Not the most enjoyable solution, but sometimes drastic measures are needed.

A View from the School Governors

The School Governors appreciate the work of all staff, parents and pupils over the past two years of the Covid pandemic – and say a big ‘thank you’ to everyone. Hopefully, we are now well on the way to a return to normality, with no more lockdowns or other disruption to children’s education.

The School Governors recognise that Covid restrictions, whilst necessary, have affected children’s learning as well as their opportunities to be with friends and develop their social skills. We are very supportive of all the school’s efforts to help pupils to catch up and am pleased to note that these are having an effect.

We are, however, very concerned about the current levels of absence, with too many children missing schooling. Sandy Lane Primary School offers a fantastic experience to its pupils – but they won’t benefit if they are not in school. We will support the school leaders in taking steps to address unauthorised absence from school because we want the best possible primary education for all of Sandy Lane’s pupils.

You can find out more about the school Governing Body through the Sandy Lane Primary School website <https://www.sandylaneprimary.co.uk> (click on ‘About Us’ for the link)

School Uniform

Please can we remind parent 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 use large rucksack. Children in Year 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.

Dropping Children Off

Please can I ask parents to be careful when dropping their children off. I have had reports of parents mounting the pavements and nearly causing accidents when dropping their children off in the morning. Please think of the other around you and the safety of the children.



Library Card Competition

Please look out for the Bradford Library Card competition. The school will be sending all children home with a piece of A5 paper to draw their entry over the February half term.

The picture needs to be:

- A5 Landscape
- Colourful using felt tips; paints or pencils. Think bold.
- The use of text in pictures should be limited to one; two or three words.
- Each picture must have the form completed which you will find on the back of the A5 paper, Entries without the entry form attached will not be considered.

The competition is open to children from 4 to 11 years old (Reception to Y6). By entering the competition, the child and parent/carer are agreeing that the artwork selected can be used by Bradford Libraries.

Forest Schools

As you will all be aware the school has been raising money for our Forest Schools area over the last year.

I am very pleased to announce that the work to excavate the area will start in the February half term and we hope to add our camp fire area, bug hotel and Tepee before Easter.

