



Sandhill News

Friday 8th November 2019

Welcome Back:

From everyone at Sandhill welcome back to everyone after half term. We hope you enjoyed the break and managed to make the most of some dry weather! My name is David Hickey and I am delighted and honoured to introduce myself as the new head of school at Sandhill Primary. I am looking forward in getting to know everyone in our school community and have heard many positive things about Great Houghton. From my experience as a head working in schools across Derbyshire and Yorkshire, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. I have worked closely with Mrs Egginton and Miss Smith in finding out about recent changes and plans for future school improvement in getting the best outcomes for our children. You as parents/carers make an important contribution to children's achievements at school; I want to develop the relationship between the school and parents/carers for everyone's benefit. I will always try to be available on the playground before and after school, which will provide an opportunity to meet you and discuss the building of a successful partnership.

This next half term is always a busy one and is one of the most exciting times in the school calendar as the children look forward to the build up to the festive season. As a staff we are looking forward to carrying on the work of nurturing the very best from each and every child and to bring out that wonderful treasure that is inside to help them find the success they deserve. It is also important to make enthusiasm for learning an everyday reality as there is so much to learn and find out. School life makes it all the more important for us to keep a sharp focus on what we all come to school for – to educate your children to reach their full potential.

Children In Need Friday 15th November: Dressed Ready to Read

Miss Whincup has very kindly offered to organise Sandhill's Children in Need activities for this year. Children are welcome to dress in spots, their pyjamas or if your child does not want to dress up, they are welcome to come in non-uniform. To go alongside our celebration of reading, the children will take part in a reading competition and this will last for one week starting today. A special assembly has been organised for Tuesday 22nd November to celebrate their achievements.

Great Houghton Lights Switch on:

On Tuesday 3rd December at the Great Houghton Welfare Hall, Sandhill Primary School Choir will be singing carols followed by the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights. It would be great if families could come and support this event. Tickets will be available from the school office next week.

Reading at Home:

Before the holidays we launched our Reading Challenge across school: every time that a child reads at home, they will receive a 'read', these will be totalled up each Friday morning to see which class in each key stage has won the competition for that week. **Children can even read in school during their own time and earn 'reads' for their class.** The more your child reads, the better chance they have of winning that week! "You've got to be in it to win it!"

Communication:

We have numerous methods of effective communication in school including newsletters, school twitter, text messaging service & Dearne FM which enables us to reach the majority of Parents/ Carers to keep you updated. Therefore, we ask that you contact the office if your **mobile number needs updating** so communications still reach you.

As we approach the winter months should we experience any adverse weather, the same procedure for informing Parents/ Carers will apply. We will communicate any snow/adverse weather days through our **text messaging service and through Dearne FM. We will aim to communicate a decision on each adverse weather day by 7:30am.**

Good Attendance

Can we also remind you that if your child is absent, you must inform school daily. If we have no contact, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. We will also carry out a home visit if we have not had contact with you regarding your child's absence.

On the next page is a reminder of the importance of good attendance -

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|----------------------|---|
| Above 97% | Fewer than 6 days absence a year = Excellent attendance. |
| 95% | Less than 10 days absence = Pupils are likely to achieve their targets and will be well prepared as they move through school. |
| 90% | 19 days absence over the year = Missing a month of school; pupils may fall behind in maths, literacy and key skills for life, making it difficult for them to achieve their best. Rosie Smith, our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) will become involved. |
| 85% | 29 days absence = 6 weeks absence over the year; it will be very difficult for children to keep up and achieve their best. This is very poor attendance and Rosie Smith (EWO) will be involved until attendance improves. |
| 80% and below | 38 days absence = Pupils are missing a day of school every week; making it almost impossible to keep up with their learning. This is very poor attendance and will be referred to Rosie Smith (EWO) for further action to be taken. |

Weekly Results:

HOUSE CAPTAINS – Well done to the children selected by their peers to represent their houses this year!

Jacob & Sophie, Finlay & Hattie,

James & Shawnie, Freddie & Tiffani,

Key Stage 1 Reading Winners – Grey Owls Key Stage 2 Reading Winners – Hawk Owls

Diary Dates ~ Autumn Term (2)

| AUTUMN TERM 2019(1B) | |
|---|---|
| Wed 13 th – Fri 15 th Nov | Y5 Residential to Kingswood (Peak Venture |
| Fri 15 th Nov | Children In Need |
| Wed 20 th Nov | Reception, Y1 Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5 & Y6 Flu Immunisation |
| Thurs 21 st Nov | Y2 SATs information 8:45 am in the school hall |
| Tues 26 th Nov | Y 6 Crucial Crew & Christmas Crafts Miss Stoppard |
| Tuesday 10 th Dec | KS 1 Nativity am 9:30am |
| Wed 11 th Dec | KS 1 Nativity pm 2:15pm |
| Thu 12 th Dec | EYFS Christmas Performance 9:30 / EYFS Nativity pm 2:15pm |
| Fri 13 th Dec | Christingle Service am Tawny Owls & Sooty Owls |
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| 23rd Dec – 3rd January | Christmas Holidays |
| Monday 6 th January | Children return to school |

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

David Hickey (Head of School)