



Sandhill News

Head of School: Mr D Hickey
Phone: (01226) 345030

sandhilloffice@shiremat.co.uk

Thursday 21st November 2019

Thank you to everyone in the Sandhill community for helping me to settle in after my first three weeks in school. I will make myself available on the school yard most mornings before and after school to get the chance to meet as many parents as possible. I have already had the opportunity to meet some parents at the weekly coffee morning on a Thursday - please feel free to come along and join this group if you are available.

Parent view: We have had chance to review the parent/ carer questionnaire that was issued in the first half term. There were a total of 37 responses received by school and 19 responses gave written feedback. There are some positives in this feedback as well as key areas that the school needs to improve upon. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with parents who gave written feedback to elaborate on the points they have made.

The table below shows comparative views that parents/carers had of school in the summer term compared to the first part of the Autumn Term.

Parent / Carer Questionnaire		Agree + May 2019	Agree + Sep 2019
1	My child likes school	89%	95%
2	My child is making good progress	91%	89%
3	Teaching at Sandhill is good	87%	97%
4	I am kept informed about how my child is getting on	89%	92%
5	The school gives me information about events and activities	93%	89%
6	Communication between school and home is effective	64%	70%
7	The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	62%	68%
8	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or a complaint	36%	35%
9	If I have had a query/issue this has always been resolved appropriately	44%	57%
10	I find it easy to contact my child's teacher	62%	73%
11	Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	76%	81%
12	Most children behave well	89%	92%

Common themes in comments from parents	What is the school doing about this?
Staff turnover is far too high –no consistency in leadership and management.	Appointment of new 'Head of School' to be in school full time plus the appointment of a full time teacher in KS1.
Ofsted areas for improvements not communicated	Sandhill staff have worked with and are continuing to work with senior leaders from the 'Every Child Matters' trust to improve the quality of teaching and learning in school.
Teaching and Learning behaviours need to improve.	The school has adopted a new behaviour policy and incidents of poor behaviour have reduced over time.

Book Bus – Book sale Thursday 28th Nov 8am: This will be open all day for children to buy books and parents will have the opportunity to buy books on the playground before and after school.

Children in Need:

Well done to all the children who took part in the Children in Need activities and raised money for this worthy cause. A huge total of £674 was raised and a big thank you to Miss Whincup for organising the reading challenge.

Kingswood Residential:

Our Y5 children had a fabulous time at Kingswood and they enjoyed this while braving the elements of the rain. They will take away lasting memories of challenging and rewarding experiences. Thank you to Mrs Jackson, Miss Whincup, Mr Crouch & Mrs Stevenson for looking after our children so well over the two days.

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. There are a limited number of tickets available for this event. These are free; however will be distributed on a ‘first come first served’ basis. Please collect these soon to avoid disappointment.

Special Mentions Assembly:

	★ Friday 8 th November	★ Friday 15 th November
Owlets	Ella, Teddy & Ronnie	Connor, Lydia & Gabriel
Spotty	Amy & Mason	Madeline & Abigail
Grey	George & Raegan	Landon & Charlie
Snowy	Lexi & Isla	Alex & Bobby
Elf	Lucie & Daniel	Riley & Emily
Tawny	Poppy	Harrison & Eva
Sooty	Teagan	Harley
Barn	Logan & Alana	All Y4
Hawk	William & Isobel	Grace & Keira
Eagle	Lewis & Ty	All Y6

Diary Dates ~ Autumn Term (2)

AUTUMN TERM 2019(1B)	
Tue 26 th Nov	Y 6 Crucial Crew & Christmas Crafts Miss Stoppard
Thu 28 th Nov 8am	Book Bus – Book sale on the back playground.
Tue 3 rd Dec	Christmas Crafts Miss Stoppard. Christmas Light switch on – Sandhill Choir
Tuesday 10 th Dec	KS 1 Nativity am 9:30am. Christmas Craft session
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
Tue 17 th Dec	EYFS Christmas Stay and Play gam
Wed 18 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 20 th Dec	Carols around the Christmas Tree Eagle/ Hawk & Barn Owls 9:15am Non Uniform Day – Last Day of School
23rd Dec – 3rd January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 th January 2020	Children return to school

Thank you for your continued support.
Kind Regards,

David Hickey (Head of School)