



SANDHURST  
— PRIMARY SCHOOL —

*Rye Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5JE*

*Tel: 01580 850288*

*Email: [office@sandhurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@sandhurst.kent.sch.uk)*

*Website: [www.sandhurst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sandhurst.kent.sch.uk)*

# NEWSLETTER

February 2023

## Whole School Update

As we come to the end of another busy term, I just want to thank all of our children and staff for working so well together. No matter what time of day, visitors always comment on the happy, cheerful feeling around our school, along with the politeness and interest of all our children.



This was never so apparent as last week, when we faced staff absences and the country faced a national teachers' strike. At Sandhurst, all remained calm and everyone managed to keep up with their learning.

Highlights of this term included a trip to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices Choir, the Y3 and Y4 netball tournament at Dulwich and the start of our new tuck shop on Friday evenings.



Within school, we have been busy working on phonics—teachers have now moved to an hour long small group lesson for every child in Potter, Nightingale and Darwin and this is already proving to make a big difference. Further up the school, some of our students are working equally hard on a similar programme designed to help them catch up on lost learning over the last few years.

We continued to have the pleasure of Miss Foot, Miss Howe and Miss Mireille (trainee teachers from Canterbury University) helping to teach and we would like to wish them well as they return to university, ready for the start of their final teaching placement.

Have a great week's holiday, our new term starts on Monday 20th February.



**Enjoyment Challenge Friendship Independence Confidence Resilience**

## Potter Class Update



What a fabulous term Potter Class have had! Our theme for this term is 'Long Ago' and it has been wonderful watching the children immerse themselves into the topic. We kicked off the term by learning about ourselves as babies. We all brought in pictures of ourselves as babies and discussed how we have changed from birth until now. It was really funny to see Mrs Lucas and Mrs Crossley as babies! Following on from this, we explored grandparents and their roles in our lives. We loved bringing in pictures of our grandparents and discussing their lives, jobs and some special times we have shared with them.

Term 3 has been an exciting term to explore new skills. In Potter Class, we are extremely lucky to have own set of BeeBots which are programmable bugs that we can practise coding skills on. We explored position and direction as we programmed our BeeBots to move around our carpet spaces. In addition to the class BeeBots, we also began our woodwork sessions. This term we have been learning about the different tools in the class tool box. We have learnt the safety rules and have practised using the tools at our class workbench. Next term, with our newly acquired skills, we will begin to make things in our weekly woodwork sessions.

In maths, we have been learning about the numbers 6, 7 and 8 and making sure we have a concrete understanding of what the number looks like in a variety of ways. We have also explored comparing the weight of items and perfected our measuring skills by counting measures for recipes very carefully. Some delicious cakes, biscuits and magic potions were made!

Finally, Potter Class wanted to end Term 3 by saying a huge thank you to Miss Mireille. We have loved having Miss Mireille in our class, and we wish her luck at her next student teacher placement.



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## Nightingale Class Update



Nightingale Class have had a fantastic start to the year 2023 and what a wonderful term it has been. We are thrilled to see the progress children are making in their learning as well as approaching new challenges in a mature, resilient manner.

So far, we have really enjoyed our new topic “Bright Lights, Big City” as we are discovering all sorts of geographical knowledge about the United Kingdom, and more specifically about London landmarks.

In RE, we have been learning about the prophet Muhammad and considering his role as a leader of the Muslim people. Being kind, gentle natured and caring were things that stood out as qualities of a leader and we have enjoyed many meaningful discussion around these behaviours.



Our Science and Art topics have been closely linked as we have been looking at seasonal weather and creating weather motif collagraphs in art. The children have loved exploring different textures and materials.

In maths, we have been exploring the ‘teen’ numbers and creating a secure understanding of place value up to 20. We will expand this to up to 50 after half term. It has been an exciting journey as the children have explored representing ‘tens and ones’ in two-digit numbers.

We have seen a fantastic improvement in reading and we are grateful for all of your support at home. Please keep reading and recording—the children love to receive their Read and Discover awards in celebration assembly and we love to celebrate this!

Have a super half term!



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## Darwin Class Update

Darwin Class have thrived in all areas of their learning this term and have enjoyed their new topic, 'Coastline'. The children have been learning all things relating to beaches including human features, physical features, coastal erosion, Whitby (as a case study) and many more things! Our book linking to our topic was 'Katie Morag and the New Pier' which the children have enjoyed. We have dug deep in our learning about new vocabulary which has included 'redundant' and what a pier is.



In maths, children have been working hard on their times tables. Children have become more confident with their 2, 5 and 10 times tables which is fantastic as this can be applied to so many areas of learning in maths.

In science, we have learnt all about materials, the properties of materials and why we use specific materials for certain things. We have carried out several experiments including testing how strong different types of paper are and which types of water are absorbent.

In art, the children have been produced the most amazing clay flowers based around the work of artist Yayoi Kusama. The children designed, made and painted their very own flowers!

Well done for a fantastic term of learning!



## Pankhurst Class Update

Pankhurst Class have had a blast in Term 3...

There was great excitement as we started our topic of 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles'. During our topic lessons, we have investigated the make up of the inside of the Earth. You can see in the photos that we actually demonstrated the layers using food. Jaren said, 'The inner core is so scorching hot and the hottest part of the Earth.'

Our studies in art have taught us about the artist called Fibbonacci. Have you seen any Fibbonacci spiral patterns? We made spiral motifs and transferred this onto polystyrene to enable us to make a print of our design. There were quite a few steps to create our final print, and the children were impressed with the results.

Do you know how many 'push' and 'pull' forces you use in one day? We actually investigated the amount of force we needed to carry out simple tasks in class, such as pulling out our drawers. We measured in 'Newtons'. Charlie concluded that the English book drawer used 15N to open, and this was due to the frictional force caused by the heavy weight. More recently, Pankhurst class have tested the effects of frictional forces using shoes on a variety of surfaces. Nylah said, 'the grip on trainers makes sure we don't slip over!'

Pankhurst would like to recommend the class book we have been reading this term; 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. The children have really improved their comprehension skills this term from answering questions about the story.

Finally, Pankhurst have had the pleasure of Miss Howe teaching in class this term. We have all enjoyed having her and wish her well in her future career!



## Shakespeare Class Update

Here we are at the end of another busy term.

We have been working hard to master fractions in maths and really enjoying our class text, 'King of the Cloud Mountains' in English. We have written newspaper articles and fact files and debated whether Yetis exist (we think they do!).

In our topic lessons we have learnt all about rivers: the different parts of a river, what rivers are used for and where the major world rivers are located. Our science has been about states of matter and we have been conducting experiments on the time it takes ice to melt and recording the temperatures at different times. We have been studied techniques in our art lessons and really enjoyed using these to produce pencil drawings of landscapes.

By far the best thing about this term is that it has been our turn to go to Forest School. We have been cooking, building fires, using tools, building dens and playing team-building games. However, our favourite thing to do in Windmill Woods is do get really dirty in the stream and in all the gooey mud!

Happy half term everyone!



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## Churchill Class Update

This term, we have been having so much fun in our PE lessons and have very much enjoyed putting our strength, technique and balance to the test!

Our topic, 'Frozen Kingdoms', has been extremely enjoyable. So far, we have really loved learning about the Arctic and the Antarctic, and the similarities and differences between the two.



In art, our Inuit sculptures (carved out of soap) have been a big hit.



In science, we have enjoyed revising electrical circuit components and symbols. We have investigated changing variables within a circuit and made predictions.

As always with year 6, the SATs are fast approaching in May and we are very proud of the conscientious attitude and approach the class is already taking in preparing for these.

The Churchill Team would like to wish everyone a very happy half term. We are already looking forward to term 4...especially Bikeability and our year 6 residential trip to Bewl Water Education Centre.

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## Book Week: Monday 27th February – 4th March

# WORLD BOOK DAY

2 MARCH 2023

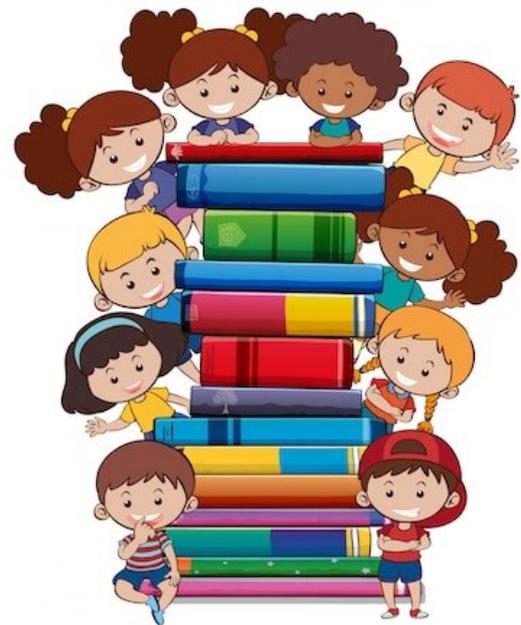
We are very excited for our annual Book Week.

This year, the theme of our Book Week is “Storybook Animals”.

On Monday 27th February, we will launch Book Week with an assembly during which Mrs Saunders will share snippets of stories involving animals. In addition, we have lots of other exciting events planned, including teacher story time and storytelling tents.

We will also have a travelling book fair in school. All parents are welcome to come along to the book fair on Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March from 15:20 - 16:00. We will also be running the book fair for parents to come along to, after school drop-off, on Tuesday 28th February in the morning from 09:00 – 09:30. Children will be able to use their £1 book token, already sent home, as part payment against a book of their choice. Every purchase made from the book fair will contribute towards commission for the school to buy new books for our library, so it really would be great if you could take part!

We will end the week with a dress-up assembly. On Friday 3rd March, pupils and staff will be encouraged to dress up as a book character of their choice. There will be book prize for a child in each class for creative dressing up.



We hope that the children will have a wonderful time and look forward to welcoming you at the book fair.

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## Attendance



A huge congratulations to Oliver who won the decorate a Christmas tree competition before Christmas. Children could colour in a bauble for each day they were in school for the sixteen days before the Christmas holiday. One of our student teachers kindly picked the winner. Oliver's prize was to find something he wanted on Amazon to the value of £10 - he chose fidget spinners! Well done to everyone else who entered. We will be running some more of these competitions later in the year too.

After half term we will have an attendance bounce. All children who have 98% attendance or more in this term will have a bounce after half term. Don't worry if you missed out - we will do this again and there will still be a bounce for our 'gold' star winners. Congratulations also, to Darwin Class for the best group attendance this term - they will choose a special treat for the whole class after half term.

Did you know that the school day is made up of two sessions? The morning registration and the afternoon registration. Should you need to take your child for an appointment, it would be good if you could work them around registration times. Registers close at 9.20 a.m. and 1.20 p.m. This could really help your children to bump up their attendance.

Overall our attendance is on the up - let's try and keep it that way. Well done to everyone for coming to school. Our current percentage is 92.8% for the whole school which is so much better than last year, but we need to get it up to 96% and above if we can.



## News from our PTFA

Thank you to the PTFA, who work hard to provide exciting activities for our children as well as their fundraising efforts. The latest venture of a school tuck shop was a fantastic success.

This will now continue every Friday at the end of the day. This week's 'highlights' are 'pick and mix' bags selling for £1.



### Highlights for next term include:



Shrove Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – the PTFA will provide pancakes, lemon, sugar and syrup for all classes to enjoy pancakes.

Mother's Day On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the PTFA will provide bunches of daffodils for all children to take home to mum or another close adult at home.



Thank you to Tesco for providing all the pancakes and daffodils as part of their charity support. If you have any unwanted books, please consider donating them to Jan at Tesco's in Tenterden to help her raise money to support schools like us.

**TESCO**  
*Every little helps*

## Parent Surveys

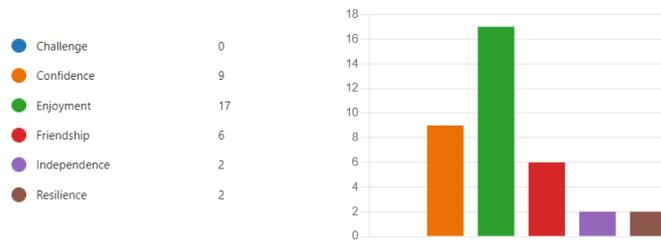
This term, we asked for your opinions on our School Values as we all felt that having six words to remember was too long for many of our youngest children...and many staff!

As a result of this survey, 'challenge' and 'enjoyment' emerged as the clear favourites. 'Confidence' and 'friendship' also scored highly. Additionally, 'kindness' was suggested by many adults as an important value to consider. Many parents commented that it was something that they felt was a fundamental part of being at Sandhurst

Next term, we plan to ask our children to give their opinions on whether these values are important to them, before adopting the three new favourites as our new school values.

1. Sandhurst School has six 'values': challenge, confidence, enjoyment, friendship, independence, resilience. If we chose to have only 3 values, which 'value' would be your **first** choice?

[More Details](#)

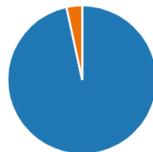


Similarly, our uniform survey demonstrated some great results. Thank you to everyone who participated. We will still have a few unresolved dilemmas, such as the colour of PE shirts. We plan to ask children their opinion after half term, before making a final decision.

1. Are you happy with the new navy uniform? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

Yes 57  
No 2



2. Do you prefer your children wearing PE uniform on PE days? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

Yes 57  
No 3



3. Would you like children to wear a tie? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

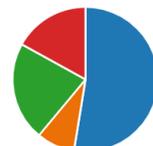
Yes - a clip on one with a shirt 7  
Yes - a traditional tie with a shirt 13  
No - I would prefer my child to ... 39



4. Would you prefer your child to wear a sweatshirt, knitted jumper, sweatshirt cardigan or knitted cardigan?

[More Details](#)

Sweatshirt £14.00 31  
Knitted Jumper £22.00 to £26.50... 5  
Sweatshirt cardigan £14.75 13  
Knitted cardigan £23.00 to £26... 10



5. Would you like the PE t-shirt to be navy or gold? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

Navy 32  
Gold 28



6. Should the summer dress be navy or gold (gingham checked)? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

Navy 35  
Gold 24



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## Community & Local Events

# Come in from the cold and keep warm this winter...

Every week from 3<sup>rd</sup> January we are providing a warm space and a friendly face at:

The Mission Church, Back Road, TN18 5JU

Tuesdays 1pm – 3pm

The Old School Hall, Back Road, TN18 5JS

Thursdays 1pm - 3pm

Come into the warmth, enjoy a tea or coffee, have a chat and get to know your neighbours.

Entry is completely free and everybody is welcome!  
(Under 18s are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult)



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## Diary Dates 2023

3rd Feb	PTFA Tuck Shop after school
10th Feb	PTFA Non-Uniform Day - theme wear something you love for £1 PTFA Tuck Shop after school
13th-17th Feb	Holiday
21st Feb	Pancake Day - PTFA to provide all children with a pancake
27th Feb-3rd Mar	Book Week
3rd Mar	PTFA Tuck Shop after school
10th Mar	PTFA Tuck Shop after school
17th Mar	PTFA Tuck Shop after school
20th Mar	Parent Consultations - Face to Face
20th – 23rd Mar	Bikeability - Year 6
21st - 24th Mar	Parent Consultations - Virtual
22nd Mar	School Photographer visiting - class photos
24th Mar	PTFA Non-Uniform Day in exchange for an Easter Egg PTFA Tuck Shop after school
27th - 29th Mar	Year 6 Residential Trip to Bewl Water
30th Mar	Easter Tombola after school
31st Mar	Last Day of Term
3rd - 14th April	Easter Holiday
17th April	Children back to school

