

With **kindness** in our hearts,  
we find **enjoyment** in our learning and  
seek **challenge** in all that we do.



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# NEWSLETTER

February 2024

## Whole School Update

Wow! January has been a long dark and chilly month — full of flu, sickness and Covid too — so we were all glad to see February start.

Despite staff shortages and children off sick, we have been proud of the Team Sandhurst spirit. 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.



A big highlight of this term included a trip to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices Choir. This year we took thirty nine children, our biggest choir ever. As usual, it was a wonderful day and the evening performance was stunning.



Children in school were also entertained by a performance from the Kent Music School teachers who played a variety of instruments and demonstrated various genres of music.

This term we welcomed Mrs Dodson to Shakespeare Class and she and her class have begun to settle in nicely. We continued to have the pleasure of Miss Lavery (our new trainee teacher from

Canterbury University) helping to teach in Darwin Class and we would like to wish her well as she returns to university, ready for the start of her final teaching placement.

Have a great week's holiday; our new term starts on Monday 19th February.



**Kindness   Enjoyment   Challenge**

## Potter Class Update



What a fabulous term Potter Class have had! Our theme for this term is 'Long Ago' and it has been wonderful to watch 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. We also had a fabulous visit from the grandmother of one of the children, who was part of the Windrush generation. It was amazing hearing about her life in St. Kitts compared to her life in England.

Term 3 has been an exciting term to explore new skills. In Potter Class, we are extremely lucky to have our 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 numbers look like in a variety of ways. We have also explored compared the weight of items and perfected our measuring skills by counting measures for recipes very carefully. We made some delicious cakes, biscuits and magic potions!

Finally, Potter Class ended Term 3 by celebrating Chinese New Year. We learnt some traditional Chinese dancing and even tried some Chinese food.



## Nightingale Class Update



We have had a fabulous start to 2024 in Nightingale Class. The children have excelled in their geographical knowledge of London and can confidently talk about some of the most famous landmarks. We have learnt direction language and can direct our friends around a map of London. To celebrate our learning we had a virtual trip to London which the children seemed to really enjoy. We visited the National History Museum and became archeologists. At the museum, we also learnt about the polar regions and carried out some ice exploration.

In science, the children have been busy learning about seasonal change. We will continue this topic after half term which will allow us more time to engage even further. So far, we have learnt about seasonal changes in trees and animals and we now understand why animals might hibernate and trees go dormant in the Winter.



In our maths lessons, we have been introduced to place value in numbers up to 20. We have learnt the true value of the tens and ones in teen numbers and we have used that knowledge for our addition and subtraction; for example, we now know that  $3 + 4 = 7$  and therefore  $13 + 4 = 17$ .



In our RE lessons, we have learnt about the birth of Muhammad and how Muslims celebrate him as being a prophet. We learnt that he had a very difficult start in life but that he demonstrated being a good natured, kind person who people trusted and they followed his guidance.

In PSHE, we have really enjoyed talking about our dreams and goals. We have been discussing our own personal goals we would set and thinking about how we can achieve those goals. The children have been very reflective and create a lovely atmosphere for discussion.

Of course, we have had a wonderful time in Windmill Woods and I have loved hearing the reports of the goings on. Lots of children have challenged themselves to try new things and overcome their nerves. They have really jumped in and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and it has been amazing to hear of them thriving in all areas of their learning.



## Darwin Class Update

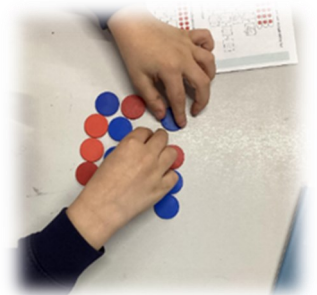
Darwin came back after Christmas extremely excited to start our new topic, "Coastline". We have been learning all about beach safety, the RNLI, Whitby and Salwick Nab, human and physical features of the coast and much more! We still have lots to look forward to in this unit next term!

Darwin have started creating their own beach huts in DT. The children have looked at the features of a beach hut, planned and designed their own, and started to create one. We can't wait to see the final product - watch this space!

In maths, we started our multiplication and division unit. We have looked at the multiplication and division symbols and what they mean, learnt how to write number sentences, checking our answers using the inverse, and looked at arrays. The children have become confident in their reasoning.

In science, we have been looking at material. The children enjoyed bending, stretching, twisting and squashing different materials! We also looked at subject specific vocabulary such as waterproof, opaque and transparent.

We would like to thank Miss Lavery for all her hard work during the past two terms. We wish her



## Pankhurst Class Update



Some highlights from Pankhurst Class this term:

Evie and Willow: “We love every gymnastic lesson with Mr Digby. It is our favourite thing to do. We have been balancing, rolling and jumping and then making a sequence. We liked making up our own balances and we have got better at the straddle roll.”

Finbarr wanted to tell you about our science lessons this term: “We measured the force needed to pull shoes along on different surfaces; lots of different ones took different force. For example, on grass, it took the most force to pull the trainer along, because it was bumpy and there was a lot of friction.”

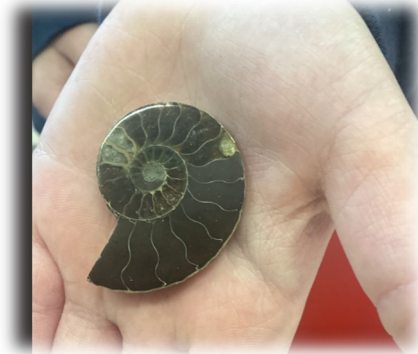
Hudson: “I like doing science investigations because I was learning something new and we use equipment I have never used before.”

In topic and art, we have been studying fossils.

Libby: “I brought in some ammonites from home, so we could have a closer look. They are from prehistoric times.”

Reuben: “We looked at the spiral shapes and had a go at sketching them in our art books. Did you know Fibonacci was an artist who loves spirals? We used pencil and a fine lined pen to sketch our own spiral picture.”

We have been thoroughly enjoying our class text called the “Firework Maker’s Daughter” and the children have produced some super writing linked to the text, including a persuasive advert and imaginative story. We would highly recommend this book.



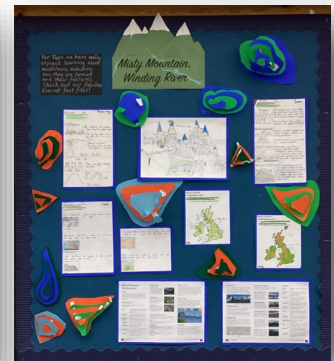
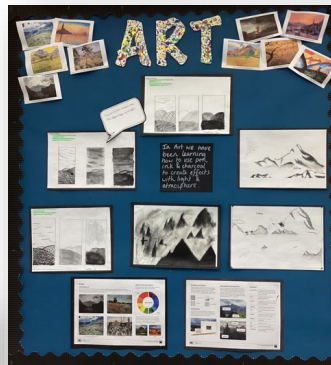
## Shakespeare Class Update

It has been wonderful to join Shakespeare Class and we have done so much this half term!

Year 4 have been working so fantastically on their maths and have been learning all about factor pairs and multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers. Year 5 have been working hard to master multiplying fractions. All the children have been really enjoying our class text, 'King of the Cloud Mountains', which we have used to write a setting description, fact files and debated whether Yetis exist (we think they do!) to help us write a persuasive text. In our topic lessons, we have learnt all about mountains: what a mountain is and its different parts and where the major mountains of the world are located. We even made a 3D model to show the contours of mountains. Our science has been about states of matter. We learnt how matter in solids, liquids and gases moves and we have been working scientifically, conducting experiments on the time it takes for ice to melt and recording the temperatures at different times.

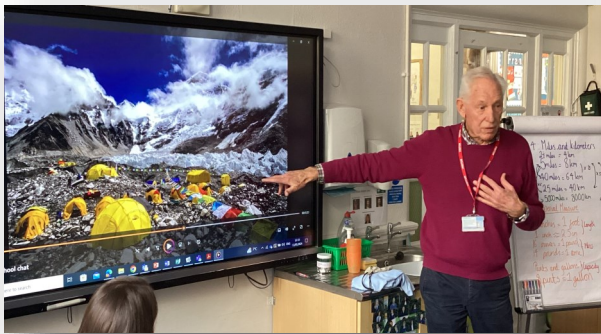


We have been studying different techniques in our art lessons and really enjoyed using these to produce pencil drawings of landscapes. In PE, we have been practising our gymnastics skills and working in pairs to help each other learn how to do cartwheel and we also took part in an inter-house competition. By far the best thing about this term has been getting to know all of the children in Shakespeare Class! Happy half term everyone!



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

## Churchill Class Update



Churchill Class has worked exceptionally hard this term and has been incredibly engaged in our new topic, Frozen Kingdoms. To kick-start our topic, we were delighted to welcome Savannah's grandad, Mr Bellinger, to Churchill Class. Mr Bellinger delivered a fascinating presentation about his incredible adventures and experiences when he attempted to climb Mount Everest in 1984. He also told us all about the extremely cold temperatures and treacherous conditions he had to endure. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Mr Bellinger for giving up his time so generously to inspire us all!

Churchill Class has also been very much enjoying our forest school lessons, especially the den-making, fire-making... and of course - not forgetting - the infamous mud slide!

Our Frozen Kingdom topic has also proven very popular during art, where Churchill Class has imitated the style of Inuit carving, using bars of soap, and Inuit printing; they have created some really wonderful masterpieces!

It has been a fabulous half term for Churchill Class and we are now very much looking forward to next term... especially the year 6 residential trip to Bewl Water.



## Attendance

- ◆ Attendance remains at 94.4% across the school so far this year. This is still an improvement on last year so well done to everyone. Keep at it!
- ◆ As of today, twenty eight children have under 90% attendance and are classed by the DfE as Persistent Absentees.
- ◆ There will be another Attendance Bounce after the February holiday for all children who missed no more than one day of school in Term 3.



Please remember that we are happy to administer medicine in school, if you think your child is recovering and could cope with a day at school.



## Diary Dates so far 2023-24

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7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6 Parents meeting – re Bewl Water Trip 3.30 p.m.
12-16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holiday
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Term 4 Begins
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Bikeability - Year 6
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parent Consultations Face to Face
19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Parent Consultations Virtual
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Darwin Class Visit to Great Dixter
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Darwin Class Assembly 9.00 a.m.
25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 6 Residential Trip to Bewl Water
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Service
28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	School Photographer Class Photos
	Last Day of Term
29 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Holiday
15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Term 5 Begins
23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Year 6 Safety in Action Trip
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Pankhurst Trip to Living Land
13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs Week
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	Term 6 Begins



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## Term Dates 2023 - 2024

### Sandhurst Primary School Term Dates 2023/2024

#### Term 1

**INSET** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023  
Starts Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Ends Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
**Holiday** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### Term 2

**INSET** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Starts Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023  
Ends Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
**Holiday** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

#### Term 3

**INSET** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024  
Starts Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
Ends Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
**Holiday** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### Term 4

Starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Ends Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
**Holiday** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### Term 5

Starts Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
**Bank Holiday** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Ends Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
**Holiday** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

#### Term 6

Starts Monday 3<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**INSET** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024  
Ends Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

#### **INSET DAYS**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024