



Sandfield Close Primary School



Autumn 1 2025 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the first half-term break, I would like to say thank you for your continued support and to reflect on what has been a wonderful start to the school year. It has been a pleasure to see the children settling so well into their new classes, especially our new Reception children. We're proud of the progress already being made and look forward to building on this strong foundation after the break.

Thank you to all the families who attended our Parent Welcome Meetings at the beginning of the year. We hope you found the information helpful. We look forward to seeing many of you again at our Parents Evening on Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th October (3.15pm – 5.50pm).

We will be sad to say goodbye to Greg, who has been coaching the children badminton for many years at the school. Greg's dedication and enthusiasm made a lasting impact on the children and I know many of them will continue to attend the sessions at Babington College. Greg is now going to spend more time with his grandchildren.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term holiday and a Happy Diwali to all of our families celebrating.

Mrs S Lad



Important Dates

- Monday 20th -Friday 24th October – Half- Term Break
- Tuesday 28th & Thursday 30th October – Parents Evening
- Wednesday 5th November – Year 3 Sharing Learning Afternoon
- Thursday 6th November – Open afternoon (1.30pm) for prospective Reception 2026
- Friday 7th November – Year 4 Class Assembly
- Monday 10th November – Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week
- Thursday 13th November – Year 6 SATS Information Meeting for Parents (2.15pm)
- Friday 14th November – Children in Need
- Wednesday 19th -Friday 21st November – Year 6 Residential
- Tuesday 16th December – Reception & Year 1 Nativity (2.00pm)
- Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day
- Thursday 18th December – Last day of term
- Friday 19th December – INSET Day for staff
- Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January – Christmas Holidays
- Monday 5th January – INSET Day for staff
- Tuesday 6th January 2026- Children return to school
- Friday 9th January – Year 6 Trip to Warning Zone

Reminders

Punctuality

The school day starts at **8.30am**. Please can you ensure your child is in school by 8.30am every day as this is when the learning starts in class. Although the gate closes at 8.40am, this is really to allow parents who have dropped off children to leave the site.

Home School Partnership

We are always here to work with you. If you have any questions or concerns you want to speak to us about, please follow our school procedure:

- Discuss any concerns with the class teacher in the first instance
- Arrange a follow up meeting with the class teacher to discuss actions taken and the outcome
- If you feel the issue has not been resolved arrange to talk to the phase leader if your child is in KS2
- If you are still not happy with the outcome, arrange to speak to the Deputy Head via the school office
 - In some significant cases arrange to speak to the Headteacher

Attendance

Autumn 1 Class Attendance Figures

Wow look at how well we are all doing with our attendance. Every class is above 95%. Well done to Year 4 Victoria class for best attendance this half term. What a great achievement.

Sunshine Room	97.8 %
Reception Bradgate	97 %
Year 1 Abbey	97 %
Year 2 Watermead	96 %
Year 3 Appleton	96.9 %
Year 4 Victoria	99 %
Year 5 Beacon	96.4%
Year 5 Cossington	97.9 %
Year 6 Swithland	97.6 %

Green	Amber	Red
Attendance is 95% and above	Attendance is 91%-94%	Attendance is 90% and below

School News

World Mental Health Day 2025

To celebrate and raise awareness of World Mental Health Day, we had Mental Health Practitioners Demi Turner and Muskan Bhardwa talk to the children in assembly about this special day. Demi will also be available during Parents Evening on Thursday 30th October if any parents would like to talk to her about the services the team offer.



School News

New Staff

We are really pleased to welcome experienced and committed staff to the school. They have all settled well and already making lots of positive changes in school.



Mrs Lilian Reading – Deputy Head and Phase Leader for Reception and KS1

Mrs. Reading is a highly experienced and committed educational leader. She has held leadership roles in four different schools across the city and has been instrumental in driving school improvement across a range of key areas, including Assessment, Mathematics, and the Wider Curriculum.

She has also worked outside of schools with LA consultants including developing example resources to illustrate standards and moderating SAT's.



Mrs Samantha Heselton – SENDCo

Mrs Heselton has many years of experience working as a SENDCo in schools in Leicestershire and the City; she has extensive expertise in supporting pupils with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to working closely with staff, parents, and external agencies to ensure inclusive practice and positive outcomes for all learners.



Miss Becki Trickitt – Year 5/6 Phase Leader

Miss Trickitt is an inspirational and experienced teacher who has worked in several schools in Leicestershire. She has led school improvement in a variety of subjects throughout her career, including Science, Art, PSHE and Music but her passion truly lies within Reading and Writing.



Mrs Cindy Lynch – DSP Teacher

Mrs Lynch has a passion for providing the best care and education for children with additional needs. She previously worked in an early years settings and a broad-spectrum special school teaching children aged from primary up to 6th form with a wide range of needs. She believes that no child should be left behind and works to raise the aspirations of children by adapting the curriculum to meet their educational, communication and sensory needs.

School News

Diwali Celebrations

It was wonderful to see so many children dressing up for Diwali in their beautiful traditional outfits.



PTA News



New Benches

Our wonderful PTA have generously funded some lovely new benches for the children to enjoy. These have been placed around the KS2 playground, giving the children a comfortable spot to relax, talk with peers, or enjoy some quiet reflection time outside. It's great to see them already making the most of this thoughtful addition to the school environment!

We hope the PTA will be organising some more fund-raising events later this term.

Other News

Dad's Football Club

One of our Dads whose children came here many years ago has a message for current Sandfield Dads:

Hi Sandfield Dads

*Back in December 2005 I started a **Sandfield Dads Football Club** (after putting it in the newsletter).*

I got over 18 replies and we first played in December 2005.

It went very well and it was decided that from January 2006 we would play once a week on Thursdays.

Here we are almost 20 years later and the club is still running and playing EVERY Thursday.

My children are now 29 years old, but I would like to start a 2nd Sandfield Dads Football club (2025).

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please whatsapp me on 07357319657 and just put in the message "Interested in playing football."

Just think a club we started officially on Thursday 12th January 2006 will be 20 years old on 12th Jan 2026.

It would be great to start a SDFC (2025) club for dads at the school now.

Hope to hear from you soon.

*Mayur
07404097249*



Sunshine Room

The children in Sunshine Room have been settling well into the new term's routines and getting to know their new teacher and their new friends. They have been engaging in learning in a sensory way, exploring a broad and balanced curriculum incorporating communication, interaction and independent life skills.



In English, we have been reading the book *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas, learning about different feelings we experience using sensory playdough, rice and coloured spaghetti to influence our writing in an 'emotions' diary. In Maths we have had lots of sensory fun, using gems, Lego, cheerios to make different amounts, count in steps of twos, threes and use the whole part model to partition a variety of numbers. In PSHE we talked about what makes us special and learned how we can like things that are the same or different to our friends. We are learning how to take turns and how to communicate our needs and wants in kind ways. In Science we explored using our senses to explore a variety of colourful chemical reactions and materials describing and deciding which ones we like or do not like. In Geography, we explored maps and created a map of KS1 areas using key directional skills. Children have also started using computers, learning to independently log on. Finally, we incorporated cooking across the curriculum to embed those important independent life skills. What a great start to the school year!

Mrs Lynch and the Sunshine Team.

Reception – Bradgate Class

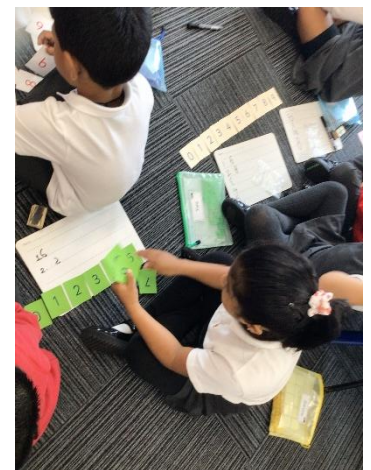


The Reception children have had a super start to their new school! They have been settling into class, getting to know the different adults working with them and becoming familiar with their new surroundings. They have been engaged in a variety of activities inside and outside of the classroom. This has enabled them to begin to talk to one another, get to know each other and start to make some new friends. The children have explored some of our outdoor areas and they even know their way to the big hall. At the start of the day the children have been learning our respectful classroom rules. They have been understanding how to follow them and have been thinking about why it is important to have rules and boundaries. The Reception Class has also been understanding how to listen carefully and think about why listening is important. During the school day the children have started to learn about their feelings and express why they are feeling a certain way. We have started to talk about feeling happy, sad, angry, worried, scared and calm. In Literacy, they have shared the Colour Monster story and have helped the monster sort out his feelings.



Year 1 – Abbey Class

The children have settled well into Year 1, quickly adapting to new routines and expectations and have had a positive start to our learning. We have been learning about the seasons in Science and enjoyed autumn walks around the school to observe the seasonal changes. During our Art Day, the children explored line, shape, and colour, creating fantastic Paul Klee-inspired portraits using oil pastels and charcoal. They looked carefully at their facial features and experimented with different lines and shapes. In our Geography, we have started the topic “What’s it like here?” exploring our local area through maps and photos. In PE, we’ve been developing ball skills and teamwork through the Send and Return unit. It’s been a great start to the term!



Year 2 – Watermead Class



The children have settled well into Year 2.

We have been learning about animals in Science, including their habitats and what they need to survive. We will learn even more next half term!

In Geography we have learnt about the oceans and continent. Did you know that there are 7 continents?

We learnt a song about them all and looked at the climate here and in Kenya.

During our Art Day, explored lines, texture and tone. We used observational skills to draw our teddys, inspired by the work of Käthe Kollwitz (1847 – 1945) and Max Ernst (1891 – 1976)

Computing has been FUN! We have taken photographs and looked at how to frame and edit them with filters.

In PE, we've been developing ball skills and teamwork through the Send and Return unit.

It's been a great start to the term!



Year 3 – Appleton Class

The children have had a positive start to Year 3 settling in well and adapting to the new routines within KS2. They have shown resilience, kindness and maturity in their behaviour and we are super excited to continue all our exciting learning this year!

So far, we have done some fantastic writing in our English lessons all linked to Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have written character descriptions, letters of an apology to the Giant and an alternative ending to the story.

In PE, we have been learning all about fitness and ways to stay healthy. We have played lots of games to build up our team working skills and our fitness.

We have been exploring texture and looking at different plants up close in our art lessons. The children have thought carefully about tones and patterns and have taken inspiration from artist called Yelena James to create their own pictures similar to Yelena's work. They also used a programme called Sketch on the ipads to create their own online pictures exploring shapes and patterns. We have also created half of our self-portraits which the children really enjoyed making at the beginning of the year.

In our music lessons, we have been learning all about Ballads, the children have had the opportunity to break down a song and think carefully about the story that it is telling us.

We have really enjoyed singing Bruno Mars – Count on me, it is one of our favourite songs!

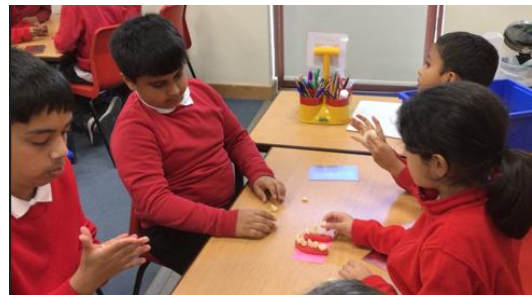


In Science, we have been learning about human and animal skeletons. We have learnt that some animals have endoskeletons like humans and some have exoskeletons such as crabs! We have also looked at different joints, how our muscles work and why we should all have a balanced diet.



Year 4 – Victoria Class

The children have settled in to the beginning of Year 4 well and have had a positive start to our learning. They have adapted well to new routines and expectations and have been working hard in class. In Science this half term we have been learning about the digestive system in humans and other animals. We have made models of teeth, making careful observations about the different types of teeth and the way animals use them when they eat. We have also used our skills to work scientifically looking at animal poo photos to try to work out if the animal is an omnivore, herbivore or a carnivore. During our History lessons we have been learning about how children's lives have changed over different periods of History. Victoria class have decided that we definitely don't want to travel back in time to the Victorian period as it was much harder for children then with working down mines, up chimneys and in service. In PE, we've been developing our badminton skills and netball skills and learning how to work well in a team and in game situations. As part of our Music unit, we have also learnt how to compose and perform melodies using body percussion and tuned percussion instruments. It's been a busy half term in Victoria class and we have really enjoyed learning about our new topics and have had a great start to the term!



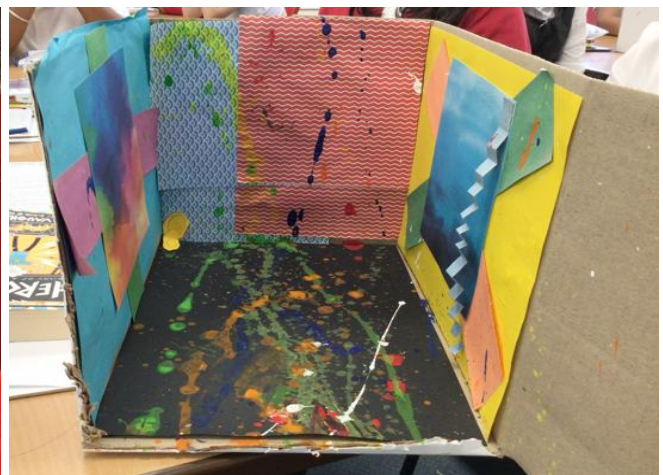
Year 5 – Beacon Class

Beacon class have had a busy first half-term! We have covered place value and addition and subtraction in maths; written a recount and a character description; learned some new football skills and even made our own, special Bolognese.

Beacon Class had great fun in PHSE! The children needed to practise their teamwork and organisational skills by working together to create the tallest, most stable newspaper tower they could. There were some awesome towers and built by the teams!



We have been learning about installation art this term. We looked at the art of the renowned artist, Cai Guo-Qiang. The children created miniature installation art displays by decorating the inside of a box and 'splattering' paint at it from a distance. The overall effect was very impressive!



Year 5 – Cossington Class

Cossington Class have settled in so well to Year 5 and have had a fantastic first half term. They have adapted well to new routines and have shown an increased maturity even in a few short weeks! In Maths, we have looked at place value of numbers up to 1,000,000 which also includes rounding, as well as looking at addition and subtraction methods and strategies to solve problems. In English, we have looked at the novel, 'The Boy At The Back Of The Class.' They have written a first person recount and a character description.

They have developed their understanding of using expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, relative clauses and informal language. They also wrote some beautiful poems about Autumn at the start of term which they were very proud of!



They have really loved our history topic looking at the Vikings. They have enjoyed learning about how they were raiders, traders, invaders and settlers, using this knowledge to create their own board games and posters to display the information. They have also enjoyed their art lessons focussing on the ideas of installation art, creating their own pieces of artwork with objects around school, as well as experimenting with mixtures in Science!

Year 6 – Swithland Class

The Year 6 children have had a positive start to their final year at Sandfield and have settled in well to their new class. They have adapted to new routines and the fast-paced curriculum of Year 6.

So far, in Maths, the children have learnt about the place value of numbers up to 10 million, multiplying and dividing three and four digit numbers by two-digits, multiples, factors and prime numbers and are now learning about fractions.

In English, children have studied the novels 'Wonder' and 'Holes'. Children have written a recount from a characters viewpoint, a letter of apology and an informative letter. They have been trying hard to include the grammar features they have been learning and to extend and uplevel their sentence structure.

In Art, children have created their own neurographic artwork (a type of therepeutic drawing technique which combines art and psychology to promote mindfulness and creativity) and drew their own self portraits for the foreground. They used contrasting colours and their final pieces were very impressive!

The children have also been learning about photomontages and had a go at creating their own cityscape using pictures related to a chosen department as an advert for a department store. They have also learnt about macro photography, looking at attention to detail and talking about why an artist may use monochromatic tones in a photo.

