



Sandfield Close Primary School



Autumn 2 2025 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a long term, and we are extremely proud of our pupils and staff for their continued hard work over the past sixteen weeks. As always, our classrooms have been filled with exciting and high-quality learning activities which you can read about in this newsletter.

This term, there have been many highlights that have made us smile and celebrate; however, there have also been some sad moments that have led us to pause and reflect.

Earlier this week we were deeply saddened by the loss of Neeru Patel, beloved mother of Nia and Hari. Mrs Patel always had a beautiful smile and kind words to say each morning when she dropped the children off and collected them at home time. She had such a positive outlook on life and she will be greatly missed by us all.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Ahir and Mrs Pancholi in Year 3. Both teachers have been at Sandfield for many years. We wish them the best of luck with the next phase of their career. We will be welcoming back Madame Delesse who has missed teaching at Sandfield and is excited to take over as the Year 3 class teacher. We are also pleased that Mrs Kaur has returned from her maternity leave and is working part time.

We hope pupils and families have a peaceful Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Mrs S Lad



New in 2026

Morning Club with Breakfast

Superstar Sport will be running a morning club from the Spring term. The children will get to start the day with some fun activities before the school day begins. The club will run from 7.30am to 8.30am. The cost is £4.50 from 7.30am with breakfast and £4.00 from 7.45am without breakfast.

If you are interested, please contact superstar sport at www.superstarsport.co.uk



Parent Code of Conduct

In the Spring we will be sharing with you our Sandfield Parent Code of Conduct. This will help us to maintain a positive school environment and foster collaboration between parents and the school community.



Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Our colleagues from MHST will be in school for a coffee morning on Thurs 12th February. They will be talking about the services and support they can offer families and children. This is a great opportunity for parents to drop by and talk to Demi about any worries or concerns they may have and how the team can help.



Important Dates

- Monday 22nd -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
- Friday 16th January- Year 5 Beacon class assembly
- Wednesday 21st January – Year 6 Sharing learning afternoon
- Thursday 5th February – 5 Cossington start swimming
- Friday 6th February- Year 2 Sharing learning afternoon
- w/b 11th February – Children’s Mental Health Week
- Wednesday 11th February – Reception sharing learning afternoon
- Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – Half term
- Monday 23rd February – INSET day for staff
- Thurs 5th March – World Book day
- Tues 3rd and Thurs 5th March – Parents Evening

Reminders

Lyle Close Car Park

Please remember that the parking space on Lyle Close is for the residents. If you do use the car park for drop offs in the morning, please be considerate to all our parents and kindly leave once you have dropped off your child. Mornings are always a busy and hurried time of day so please show consideration to others.



No Sweets and Chocolate Treats on Birthdays

As part of Healthy Schools Award, this is a gently reminder that we do not allow the children to bring in sweets or chocolates to share with the class on their birthday. If you would like to bring in a treat for the class, children can bring fruit, raisins boxes or yogurt tubes.



Attendance

Autumn Term Class Attendance Figures

The Autumn Term is when we see a dip in attendance due to viruses and other illnesses going around. However overall we are still really proud as the vast majority of classes remain above 95%. Once again well done to Year 4 Victoria for the best attendance for the whole of this Autumn term.

Sunshine Room	95.4 %
Reception Bradgate	94.2 %
Year 1 Abbey	96.3 %
Year 2 Watermead	96 %
Year 3 Appleton	96.8 %
Year 4 Victoria	98.1 %
Year 5 Beacon	96.5%
Year 5 Cossington	97.2 %
Year 6 Swithland	97.2 %

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

School News

Reading Buddies

The children in Year 6 have been taking turns to go and read to the children in the Sunshine Room, every Thursday. This partnership has benefitted both the Year 6 children who are learning about responsibility and helping others, as well as the DSP children who have thoroughly enjoyed having stories read to them by their peers. This work is part of our commitment to inclusion.



School News

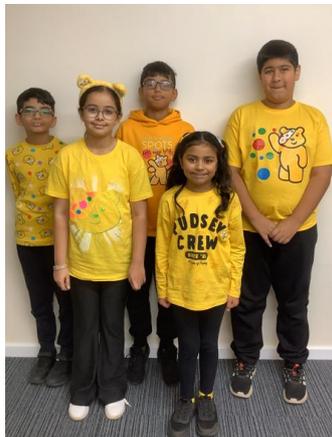


Remembrance Day

This year KS1 children made the poppy wreaths to take to the church. The whole school took part in the 2-minute silence in the hall, to remember those who have lost their lives in war.

Police Assembly

This term we had a police assembly on anti-social behaviour for the children in Y5/6. This work is part of our wider PSHE curriculum and teaches children to make good choices in life as responsible citizens.



Children in Need

We raised £103.90 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause. The children had lots of fun on the day.

Planting Spring Bulbs

Last week, we enjoyed planting our spring flower bulbs across the school grounds here at Sandfield Close Primary School. The bulbs and tools were generously provided by **Bulbs4Kids**, an organisation that encourages gardening and outdoor learning in primary schools around the world. We planted a colourful mix of daffodils, crocuses, and tulips.



Hands-on experiences like this help our children connect with the natural world and learn in meaningful, memorable ways. Once in bloom, our flower bulbs will enhance the biodiversity of our school environment, bring vibrant colour to the grounds throughout the Spring months, and contribute to everyone's sense of well-being.

It was a wonderfully fun and enriching morning for all! We are excited to see our hard work bloom.



Christmas at Sandfield

The Nativity



The Reception and Year 1 Nativity was a special highlight this week. All the children performed brilliantly and made us all very proud.

Christmas Lunch



The dining hall was full today as everyone tucked into a delicious Christmas lunch. Thank you to our lovely kitchen staff for cooking this special meal. It was great to see everyone in their Christmas jumpers too.

Christmas Sing Song



The school choir performed for us today. They were amazing with such beautiful voices. Everyone then joined in singing a few Christmas classics. Thank you to Mrs Brown for organising this event.

Christmas Performance at St Theodores Church

This half term Year 1, Year 2 and Key Stage 2 all walked to our local church 'St Theodores' for our annual Christmas performance. All the children enjoyed learning about the importance of Christmas for Christians and why they celebrate it. They also took part in a quiz to test their understanding of the Christmas story and all participated in various Christmas team games. All the children enjoyed the performance.



Orchestra

Earlier this week, Sandfield Close was visited by members of the fabulous Leicestershire Music Orchestra. We were treated to a variety of wonderful, seasonal music, expertly played by this talented four-piece ensemble!

The children were invited to sing along to the songs they recognised. Jingles Bells went down well with the chorus echoing throughout the hall, however, the undoubted favourite piece of the afternoon was 'Last Christmas' – the whole of Key Stage joined in!

The children not only got to sing along to some of their favourite songs, but they were also invited to participate several times. One lucky child was even put in charge of controlling the dynamics of the performance by signalling whether or not the orchestra should play louder or more quietly.



Other News

Special Celebrations with Royalty

In October, our Year 6 pupil Hemanshu, took part in a special event at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden. Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited the temple to mark its 30th anniversary, alongside Diwali and Hindu New Year celebrations.

During this visit, a group of children, including Hemanshu, had the honour of reciting Sanskrit verses from Satsang Diksha before the King and Queen. The children performed with great enthusiasm, discipline, and pride, representing both the temple and their schools at such a prestigious occasion. The event brought together many distinguished guests and showcased the students' cultural talents and teamwork.

Satsang Diksha is a special book written in Sanskrit by his holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj. It presents the core principles and daily practices of devotion, as taught by Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and encapsulates key spiritual teachings and values for living an ethical life. The book contains 315 concise Sanskrit verses, and Hemanshu was able to recite some of these by heart during the Royal visit.

What an inspiring and most memorable occasion for Hemanshu. We are really proud of his achievement.





Sunshine Room



Autumn learning in the Sunshine Room has seen us continue to learn how to communicate with each other and staff in safe ways using total communication (words, gestures, symbols, body movements).

Our class welcomed small groups of year 6 children who read with us weekly and modelled good listening & communication skills.



In English, we explored the text *The Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. We learned what the blurb was and practised skills such as predicting and sequencing the story. Our learning was reinforced in History where we looked at objects, people and houses during the Stone Age and we even built our own mini caves and large-scale cave in the classroom. As mathematicians, we worked on comparing numbers using the greater than, less than and equal symbols before moving on to adding and subtracting objects, pictures and numbers. In PSHE we started our first part series of finding out what happens to our bodies as we grow. Science saw us investigating the season of Autumn and creating fun experiments to find out why leaves changed their colours. Children have programmed the Bee bots to follow directions and some of them created their own algorithms. In PE we have learned how to move our bodies to music to copy dance moves and move with partners doing the Lindy Hop! Finally, we learned how to bake and decorate cookies for Children in Need Day, how to use kitchen tools and equipment such as peelers and toasters in continuing to practise our independent life skills!

Have a lovely Christmas Break from Mrs Lynch and the Sunshine Team 😊

Reception – Bradgate Class

Throughout this term, the Reception class have been listening to the Owl Babies story. When children listen to stories it helps them hear good sentences which they then go on to use and repeat. The children also hear and learn new vocabulary such as swooped, nocturnal, and anxious. By working together in the role-play tuff spot, engaging and interacting with each other the children learn to narrate their own story, articulate their own thoughts and ideas and participate in purposeful play.



Did you know that mummy owl is missing? The children have been extremely busy in the police station trying to find out where she is. There have been a few sightings, however they are still collecting information so if you see mummy owl, please let the children know. By playing in the police station the children have had the opportunity to ask questions, communicate with each other in sentences and interact collectively to find out more information. It has been lovely to observe such an excited bunch of exuberant children.



In order for the children to become more familiar with our school community, we walked around our extensive school grounds and thought about the different directions we needed to take to find various locations such as the woodlands, front office and the key stage 2 buildings. When we came back into class, we made our own physical maps by using a variety of equipment to represent different areas and then we used the map to go over, under and around. After that we thought about why we need maps and then we used paper, pencils and felt pens to draw our own map.

Our young artists created decorations for the Christmas tree in the style of the artist Kandinsky. They drew their own circle, coloured them in and cut them out.



Reception participated in the Christmas nativity. They worked hard to learn new songs, work with year 1 and remember their part in the performance. What a proud moment!

Year 1 – Abbey Class

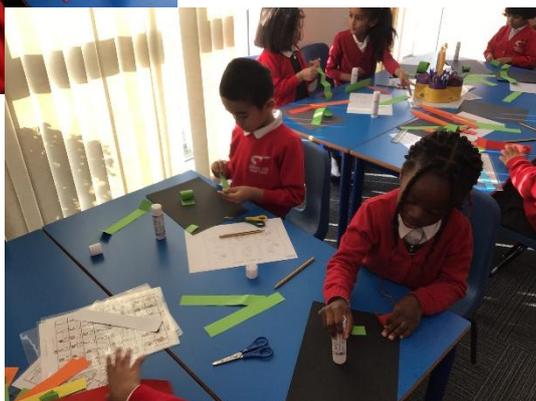
We have had a busy half a term in Year 1!

In History, the children have enjoyed looking at pictures of themselves from when they were younger and placing them into a timeline of their life. They also created a memory bank, a bit like a time capsule, to open up when they are older. Mrs Heselton also visited the class. The children generated questions to ask her about her childhood so they could compare if things are different today.

In Design and Technology, we have been hard at work designing and making our own windmills. The children loved creating their models and had great fun testing them to see if the rotors would turn in the wind. They then evaluated how well they worked and what they might improve next time. It was a great project that built creativity, problem-solving and confidence.

During our Art Day, the children explored 3D paper sculpture. They learnt how to bend, twist, fold and curl paper to create imaginative shapes and structures. The classroom was full of creativity as everyone experimented with these techniques, which they then used to create their own Tree of Life and a giant whole-class spider sculpture.

Here are some photos to show the exciting learning in Year 1.



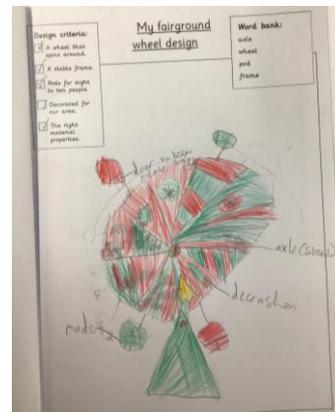
Year 2 – Watermead Class

Year 2 DT Project: Fairground Wheels

Year 2 have had a fantastic time this term designing and making their very own fairground wheels in Design and Technology.

First, the children explored how wheels and axles work by looking at real fairground rides.

Next, they sketched out their ideas and thought carefully about how to make their models strong and able to turn.



Finally, they built their fairground wheels, adding colourful designs to make them look just like the real thing.



The best part? Each child was able to take their finished fairground wheel home to share with their families. It was wonderful to see their pride in showing off what they had created — a brilliant mix of creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on making.

Year 3 – Appleton Class

We have been very busy this half term in Appleton Class.

In Science, we have been learning all about forces and how friction affects objects. The children have had lots of fun testing different textured surfaces and experimenting to see how far an object travels according to how much friction is created.



In English, we wrote our own poems about dragons and performed them for the rest of the class to listen to. We really enjoyed listening to everyone's poems and watching children add actions to bring their writing alive.



Year 4 – Victoria Class

It's been a very busy half term in Year 4!

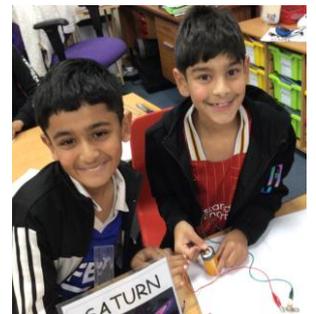
In RE we have learning about special journeys and pilgrimages and how important they are to individuals and communities. The children also decided whether they would like to make a journey to the moon and explain why.

In Music we have been learning how to create our own Samba music using percussion instruments. The children have become more confident in doing this and have practised and performed this as a class.

In Science the children in Victoria Class have been learning about electricity. They have been enjoying experimenting with circuits, investigating conductors and insulators and making their own switches. In Design Technology they made a torch each that actually worked.

In Geography they have been learning about why the rainforests are so important to us all and finding out about the lives of indigenous people who live there.

Here are some photos to show the exciting learning in Year 1.



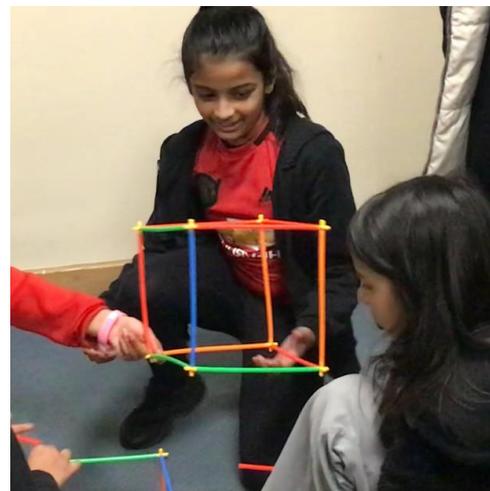
Year 5 – Beacon Class

We have been so busy this half-term!

In science we have been learning about materials as well as reversible and irreversible changes. We created a mixture of salt and water and left it in a warm place in the classroom. This caused the liquid to evaporate and we were left with the recovered salt particles!

In English we have been writing a diary entry from the viewpoint of a character named, Aveline Jones. We went outside to take part in some fun role-play! We worked in pairs to 'phone-a-friend' where we stood back-to-back and 'told' our friend (who was acting as our diary) what we wanted to write. It was cold, but a lot of fun!

We were delighted to participate in Michael Rosen day this year and Beacon Class spent a fabulous hour listening to Michael speak. He not only recited some of his better-known poems, but he also gave us some insight into how he had come up with them. This half-term has been a very wet one! During our wet play, we like to think of fun and imaginative things to do to pass the time indoors. We play games, colour, write, draw and we sometimes even build huge structures out of the building straws.



Year 5 – Cossington Class

We have had such a fabulous half term and I have been so proud of all of the children's work!

In English this term, we have produced some amazing writing based on our class novel, 'The Haunting of Aveline Jones.' We wrote some amazing setting descriptions and created a spooky atmosphere with our vocabulary choices and range of sentence structures.

In Art, we looking at printing and had a great time creating pieces of art work with our designs and prints!

In our Geography lessons, we have loved learning about the Alps. We have studied a town in the Alps called Innsbruck and compared the physical and human features to those of Leicester! We also studied which countries the Alps go through and what it is like to live there. We then designed and created board games to show all of our learning from the unit, having questions cards for children to answer to show what they had understood.

It has been such a fantastic half term and the children should feel very proud of their work!



Year 6 – Swithland Class

It has been another busy half term in year 6. One of the most exciting parts of the term was the Year 6 residential trip to the Frontier Centre. Children spent three days away from home (some for the first time!) and took part in numerous activities from the zipwire to wall climbing and abseiling. Although some of these activities were nerve-wracking, children persevered and tried their best to face their fears. Children not only developed their confidence and teamwork skills, but also their life-skills (such as putting on their own bedsheets and keeping their rooms tidy!) and also their organisational skills. Although the children missed their families, they had a lot of fun with their friends!

Children who stayed in school during this time, also had a lot of fun. They visited other classes to help teachers and younger children with their lessons and acted as good role models. They also had a chance to make a healthy fruit salad, took part in arts and crafts and also played exciting games in class. They developed their leadership skills, teamwork and also their creativity.

