



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Spring Term
29th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

I am sure, that by now, you will have seen that schools are not opening after half term. There will be a review but currently nothing will change before 8th March. I know this is really difficult news but while infection rates are still so high I am honestly not surprised. I will say again, just do what you can and what is manageable for your family. I was utterly blown away with how quickly the children settled when we fully opened in September and they will do the same again. I was on some training yesterday and saw a really old photograph from the 1950's with a group of children huddled around a radio when schools had to shut due to an outbreak of polio. How technology has moved on!

I know some of you are debating the use of live lessons. For children of primary school age there is a real balance to be had, not all children can work independently, even on live lessons they need a huge amount of support. We feel that the introduction given on zoom is a good way to set up the day, followed up by a further zoom in the afternoon. If a child has really not understood the introduction they can stay on the zoom and tell the teacher they have not understood and the teacher will either explain again, or if needing to attend another zoom, arrange for a teaching assistant or themselves to do a call back later. In this way parents and carers can work around their own work schedule and access to technology. We are always looking to improve; we are adjusting our offer week by week but we feel our offer best suits the majority of our families. But finally, please remember, if one member of the teaching team is sick, it falls to the teacher delivering zoom to manage the home learning of up to 75 pupils. So please do bear with us.

We have taken a huge step forward this week though. We have now taken delivery of Lateral Flow Tests for all staff. All staff have been trained in how to administer the tests on themselves and will test themselves twice a week. This should really help us to identify asymptomatic staff and hopefully help to break the chain of infection. Of course, the down side is we would need to close bubbles if we do identify positive cases. But we would work with Track and Trace if that were the case.

I have recorded a short assembly for you all, it will be uploaded to the website today.

Free School Meals

I am delighted to say that Lewisham Council is going to provide a free school meal payment for the half term holiday. This will be in the form of a cash payment. The office will sort this out and text you when it is ready to collect. We have had a number of queries so just to clarify, we made a cash payment for week 1 of the Spring Term, week 2 was a food hamper via Chartwells, then weeks 3,4,5 and 6 are by vouchers from Edenred. You should, by now, have all received four weeks' worth of vouchers. Mrs Manso will generate two weeks' worth of vouchers for the two weeks after the half term holiday. This will be reviewed when we hear what the plan for schools is after March 8th.

Coffee / Tea with Me

On Monday I am going to hold two zoom sessions where parents and carers can make themselves a drink, step away from their children's home learning, and join me on line for a coffee morning or afternoon tea. It will be a chance to see each other, catch up and hear any of your thoughts. I for one, am really missing that face to face contact and I thought this would be the next best thing. So I will send a zoom invitation for 11am or 2pm. See some of you there.

Poetry Competition

I have included a link to a poetry competition that Mrs Christie has seen for children in Yr 4 to 6. You might want to enter:

<https://www.livecanon.co.uk/competitions-and-opportunities/childrenscompetition>

Mindfulness Yoga

I have attached a flyer from Tara Taylor, a community Outreach Worker from Lewisham Children's Centre. It is about a community event you might like to join.

Birthdays

Yesterday was the birthday of Olamiposi who was 5 and Amelia and Scott who were 8. Today we wish happy birthday to Raheel who is 5 and Daniel who is 10. I hope you have all had a lovely birthday.

Please have a lovely weekend. I am making my next 3 sets of hospital scrubs, who knew nurses need so many pockets, each set has 6 pockets! There were no instructions so it has really tested my dressmaking skills!

Take care and join me for a coffee on Monday if you fancy a chat.

Yours truly
Mrs R A Dove