

April Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy term, with only two more left in the academic year. The monthly newsletters will now include any messages, reminders or dates from class teachers as opposed to these being shared on individual class newsletters. This is to avoid any missed messages. A reminder that all newsletters are uploaded to the school website as well as sent out on MCAS. Any additional messages will continue to be sent as notifications on MCAS.

Miss Bennett

WORLD DOWNS SYNDROME DAY

On Friday 14th March we celebrated World Downs Syndrome with a very special assembly led by Beau and her dad. We encourage our children to celebrate their differences and to support others in being inclusive with this. Not only does this raise awareness, but it also answers some of our children's questions that 5 year olds always have! 😊 We will next be joining in with Cleft Lip and Palate Awareness Week on 4th May.

THIS MONTH...

4th FOSIS EASTER EGG HUNT

4th LAST DAY OF TERM

21st BANK HOLIDAY

22nd BOOK SHARE

25th PARENT REP MEETING

PARENTS EVENING

A big thank you to you all for attending Parents Evening this term - this was a fantastic opportunity for you to see the fantastic effort that each and every one of your children put into their work on a daily basis. We couldn't be more proud of what they achieved over the last four terms. Your next opportunity to see your child's work will be at our Open afternoon on Friday 23rd May at 2:00pm.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance last week: 96.1%

Overall attendance this year: 94.4%

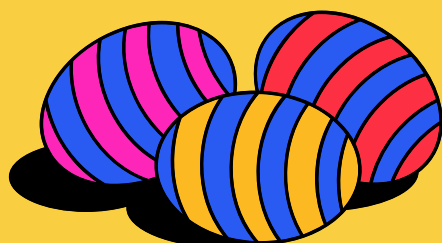
Foxes - 96%

Squirrels - 96%

Otters - 94%

Rabbits - 93%

Robins - 94%



FUNDRAISING

FOSIS (Our PTFA) are still seeking support from parents and carers in organising, coordinating or even just supporting on some of our events throughout the year. If you are available for any of our upcoming events, please email FOSISfundraising@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk.

Sandwich Infant School has a small budget from the government which is required to cover resources, repairs, maintenance, wages, compliance and a lot more. Any additional funds into the school allow us to provide enriching resources and experiences for the children.



WORLD BOOK DAY

It was wonderful seeing so many children dressed up in their costumes for World Book day a few weeks ago. Phonics and reading is at the centre of everything we do as this enables our children to become competent, enthusiastic readers. We have a fantastic programme that allows the children to progress at an appropriate rate. Class teachers will be once again sending home any gaps in phonic knowledge that the children may have - any practice over the holidays will be much appreciated.



WHATS APP GROUPS

We appreciate your active involvement in our school community and recognise the value of WhatsApp class groups as a tool for communication. These groups serve as a platform for sharing important updates, reminders, and relevant information regarding your child's education. As a school, we have not set up these groups and therefore have no control over their content or participants. It is our hope that they are inclusive and are a positive and respectful space for all. We kindly ask that messages be shared with care, focusing on constructive discussions and school-related topics. We encourage a tone of kindness and respect in all interactions and request that concerns or personal queries be addressed directly with the relevant teachers rather than in the group. By working together, we can maintain a supportive and productive communication channel that benefits our children's learning experience. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week is always one of the children's (and adult's) favourite part of Term 4. We had sessions delivered by Sandwich Technology school and Unilab and the children also experienced Science teaching across each class.

It was a real pleasure having Michelle and her students from Sandwich Technology School in one afternoon to help lead and deliver investigations and experiments with our children. It was such an inspiring afternoon of science. The students were polite, friendly and they just engaged with our children in such a lovely manner. It was a wonderful opportunity to see how well the mix of older and younger pupils can work so well.



FOOD WASTE

From 31 March 2025 new government legislation regarding how food waste is managed by schools comes into effect. The requirement for a food specific waste container comes with an additional cost of £367 per year for waste disposal.

With this in mind, our servers from Whole School Meals have asked us to share with you that on some days there is a substantial amount of food waste where the children do not like the meal on offer. Please can you review the menu with your child to work out which meals are liked/not liked so that we are avoiding additional waste.

You will notice that we have separate food waste bins in classrooms, on the playground and in the hall and will continue having discussions with the children to reinforce this. Please can you discuss this at home your your child too.



BANK HOLIDAY

A reminder that Monday 21st April is a bank holiday and therefore the school will not be open on this day.

FOREST SCHOOL

We are excited to announce that Rabbits will be taking part in Forest School on Friday afternoons from 25th April to 23rd May. These sessions will be run during the school day, led by Mrs Prestleton, who holds a Forest School Level 3 qualification.

As pupils will be outside in ALL weathers, they should come into school on Fridays wearing clothes suitable for outdoor play, bringing additional items of clothing and boots labelled with their name, in a bag to put on their peg. Boots and waterproofs can stay in school for the whole term.

Please note that due to our open afternoon on Friday 23rd May, Forest School will take place on Monday 19th May in the afternoon for this week only.

VENTURE CAMPS

Venture Camps hope to deliver an after school club next term - the children loved their taster session last week. This involves lots of team building and fun! Please scan the QR code below to sign up. A minimum of 12 participants are required in order for the club to run.

Multi-Activity After School Club

at Sandwich Infant School

Venture Camps deliver the very best in children's activity camps and after school clubs.

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new after school club at Sandwich Infant School, starting on the 24th April and running every Thursday for Term 5 from 3:10pm - 4:15pm.

Activities will vary weekly and will include different fun games, sports and popular activities from our camps including Archery, Net Challenges and Bunk-a-forts.

The Details

Dates: 24th April to 22nd May

Times: 3:10pm - 4:15pm

Cost: £6.50 per week

Book online at venturecamps.co.uk/clubs or scan the QR code

"Children are very excited to come into the camp. The staff are welcoming and ensure children settle and engage in activities as soon as they arrive. Children feel happy and safe as they interact with new and existing friends. They are keen to join in with the exciting range of activities on offer"



A MESSAGE FROM FOSIS...

We are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of term (04/04/2025) during the school day! Each child will receive an egg or suitable alternative (allergies considered).

We are asking for a £3.00 donation. You'd be welcome to drop this off at any time during the week into the school office, or at the start/ end of the day to teaching staff.

Thank you again for all of your support.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS FOR 2025-2026

We know families like to plan ahead. Please find below the staff development days for 2025/26 academic year:

- ✓ Tuesday 1st September 2025
- ✓ Wednesday 2nd September 2025
- ✓ Monday 2nd November 2025
- ✓ Monday 4th January 2026
- ✓ Monday 7th June 2026

YR2 VICTORIAN DAY

To consolidate Year 2's learning on the Victorians as part of their History topic this term, they will be having an enrichment day on Wednesday 23rd April. We hope that this will provide you with enough time to organise an outfit over the Easter holidays but there is no expectation that you purchase one... old shirts often work well. Please speak to the class teachers if you would like some ideas.

EGGS

On occasions, there will be eggs available to purchase next term during pick up times. Holly Richards will kindly be providing these in return for a small donation. There will be an honesty box available on the school playground.

BOOK SHARE

Our next book share will be on Tuesday 22nd April. Please pop into your child's classroom at 2:55 to share a story with them.

PARENT REP MEETING

Our parent rep meeting will next take place on Friday 25th April. I would be particularly interested in gaining your feedback on what you would like us to continue delivering for your children next academic year in terms of enrichment opportunities and whether there would be any demand for parent workshops on particular aspects of the curriculum.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

We have been providing pre-loved school clothing for a number of years now, however have recently found that parents have not been purchasing this. We will continue to offer pre-loved, but at a reduced quantity. If you would like any pre-loved clothing, please ask at the school office so they can help you find the relevant sizing.

YR1 MONKTON TRIP

Year 1 plan to go on a school trip to Monkton Nature Reserve on Friday 2nd May. Transport will be via a coach. The children will get a chance to explore the museum and nature reserve, take part in a mini-beast hunt, search for fossils, and visit the play area. Children will need to bring a packed lunch and water bottle with them on this day and wear trainers/wellies, sun cream, sun hat and a waterproof coat dependent on the weather. We ask for a contribution of £3.54 per child. Please pay this via the store tab in MCAS by Wednesday 2nd April to ensure this trip can go ahead. There may be an opportunity to buy a small item from the gift shop, in advance, but we will send out a message about this at a later date. Please note that this trip includes Yr 1 Rabbits and Yr 1 Otters



GOVERNORS CORNER

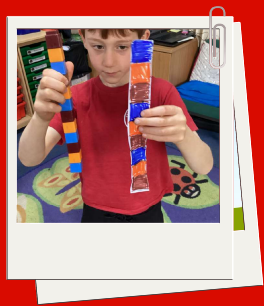
It has now been a few years since a new phonic system, 'Little Wandle' was introduced to the school. I still remember the excitement, of both staff and children, when the first lessons started to roll out, and children could be heard practicing their sounds in the corridors on the way out to play. A challenge for staff was to ensure that they were all delivering phonics in exactly the same way (which when you get into it is a real and genuine challenge), and this was achieved by sheer determination and focus on the part of teachers and teaching assistants. The school has now introduced a similarly comprehensive package for maths named 'Power Maths'. I was present at a maths monitoring deep dive last year and saw first hand the energy on the room as a fast paced and exciting lesson was delivered to the two reception classes. I look forward to seeing how this very promising teaching system develops in the school over the coming years.

Phil Buckley
(Acting Chair)



A LOOK INTO THE CURRICULUM

RABBITS



What a busy term we have had in Rabbits' class! In Drawing Club we have been looking at traditional tales and have produced some fabulous writing. We have been working hard on number bonds and fractions in Maths as well as creating some brilliant repeating patterns. Our art topic this term has been centered around portraits especially the artist Frida Karlo and we have been very impressed by the children's artist talents. One of the many highlights of this term was Science week where the children got to work with real scientists and take part in experiments, hopefully we have inspired some future scientists! We also had a trip to the local library where the children enjoyed meeting the local librarians and listening to a story before choosing a book. Most recently we had a fantastic den building session led by Venture Camps. The children showed great teamwork and resilience and most importantly had great fun! We are so proud of all the Rabbits, well done! Enjoy the break and we hope you have a lovely Easter.

ROBINS



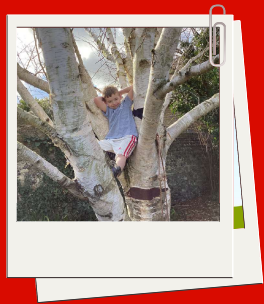
The Robins learnt all about traditional tales. They learnt to retell a range of stories and created some amazing pictures and writing in their drawing club! A particular favourite was drawing a house that the wolf couldn't blow down, the children all thought of amazing ideas to keep him out! They have been working on writing short sentences and the children are starting to do so independently.

The Robins class loved taking part in science week and enjoyed taking part in lots of experiments, especially dancing raisins and making rainbows!

Now that the weather has given us some sunny days, the children have been enjoying learning outside. The children have looked for signs of spring in the garden and have gotten to enjoy weekly time in the garden. Den building was a firm favourite!

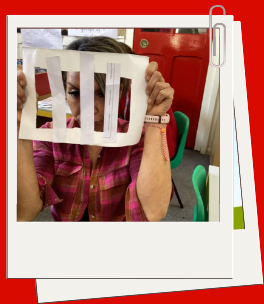
The children have made so much fantastic progress this term and we are so proud of them!

OTTERS



This term, Otters have loved exploring the garden and being adventurous in Forest School. In English, Otters have been writing recounts and their own version of the 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth'. They learnt about extinct and endangered animals - like dodo's, sabre tooth tigers and the golden toad. In Maths, they have been learning about length, height, mass and capacity, as well as beginning to look at multiplication. In History, they have loved learning about Neil Armstrong and the first moon landing. We have enjoyed many discussions about whether they would or wouldn't like to go to space - it seems most of them would! In Art, they have been learning about Frida Kahlo and have had a go at recreating some of her famous artwork, whilst in Music, they have been learning how to play an ocarina. We are very proud of all the progress they have made!

FOXES



In Term 4, Squirrels and Foxes used their investigative skills to solve the mystery: who ate the donuts from the staffroom? They inspected evidence, wrote questions and conducted interviews with the suspects before they found the culprit: Mrs. Dimova! In maths they have been using scales in order to measure height, weight, length and temperature, as well as beginning to look at fractions. They have continued their study of living things and their habitats this term in science lessons and have developed their understanding of how animals adapt to their surroundings and food chains. Squirrels have particularly enjoyed learning about the Victorians and how schooling was during that time period, and are very much looking forward to living a day in the life of a Victorian child next term! They have produced some amazing artwork in the style of Clare Caulfield, focussing on drawing landscapes and adding detail to their pictures, as well as colour washing with watercolours. The children have enjoyed using boomwhackers, chime bars and drums to create their own pieces of music to accompany their study of African drumming this term, which has been fantastic! RE this term has been a continuation of our study on Christianity, exploring bible stories and what they teach Christians. PE lessons have been lots of fun this term, looking at yoga and ball skills. The children have all worked very hard this term and deserve a very well-earned break!

SQUIRRELS

