



Newsletter 16th January 2020

Attendance and Punctuality

We strive to put our pupils at the heart of everything we do. Their education and well-being are vitally important. It is really hard for children to learn and flourish if they are not in school. Our Attendance Improvement Officer has recommended that we review attendance every four weeks. Mrs McGill will be speaking to the parents of any children who fall below 90% attendance over half a term. Not only do children miss essential learning if they have extended periods of time off school they can also find it harder to maintain friendships. We understand that children get ill and that they sometimes need time off for special family events.

Currently we do not impose fines for poor attendance, however in our safeguarding role we must consider the best interests of all of our pupils – in the future for cases of persistent absence we will be asking for proof of doctors' appointments and prescriptions. In extreme, individual cases the Governing Body may consider imposing fines to ensure children receive the education they are entitled to and deserve.

We are also looking closely at punctuality. If your child is late twice or more in a week you will receive a letter from the school. If the situation continues Mrs McGill will call you into school in order to discuss ways to improve your punctuality. We understand that lateness is sometimes unavoidable and that there are exceptional situations, however we also know that persistent lateness is detrimental to a smooth start to the day. Not only does the late child feel embarrassed and miss essential learning, their late arrival also disrupts the rest of the class. Moving forward, if children arrive after 9.20am they will be marked as U – unauthorised rather than L – late.

As a school we are working very hard to instil the values of respect, responsibility and resilience, your assistance with this is invaluable.

Playground

The fitness equipment is now fully up and running. The children are really keen to use it. They have been waiting patiently for their go, lining up beautifully along the safety fence and moving really carefully onto the equipment. Our vision for the playground was that we would have a variety of areas for children to spend their free time and we are really pleased with the results. We have the main playground with sports fencing to prevent balls going out into the car park (well, most of them). We have our quiet garden area where the children have opportunities to grow flowers, fruits and vegetables or just sit quietly. The area beyond the new small fence is also a calm zone. There is table for children to sit and draw at and the new fence is a physical indicator for the children that they need to get ready to re-enter school. This helps the children to start their learning again calmly after being outside. The fence is also there for safety reasons, to remind children that the undercover area is place area for walking, not running.

The local community are also free to use the playground out of school hours. We do ask that people stay in the main playground/field area and don't go thorough gates into the Reception/Cygnets garden or the undercover area.

Class 1 Australia Fundraising

Class 1 are very concerned about wild animals caught up in the Australian bushfires. They would like to raise some money for the WWF koala appeal and will be doing a sponsored obstacle course. Amanda Ledster has kindly agreed to make one of her excellent cakes, which we will raffle at the parent assembly on Friday 31st January. Raffle tickets will be on sale for £1 each in the school office from Monday 27th January.

Science Week

Our annual Science Week will start on February 10th. Classes 1, 2 and 3 will be going on trips and we have visitors coming into school. If any parent works in science or engineering would like to come into school to talk to the children, we would be delighted. Please contact Mrs Hart if you would be interested.

Giving Tree

In the next week we will be putting some new items on the Giving Tree in the reception area. Items will include compost, books for the reading scheme that children have requested and some small world toys for Reception.

FOSS

Thank you very much to FOSS for all of their fundraising efforts. They have just bought lots of new atlas' and dictionaries which will help the children with their independent study skills. Our next big fundraising drive will focus on IT equipment.

Local SEND News

Have you heard of the Local Offer website?

The Local Offer lets parents and young people know what special educational needs and disabilities services (SEND) are available in Hertfordshire and who can access them.

There will be an event to launch the brand-new website! Come along and chat with professionals, community groups and services featured on the Local Offer. You can also attend workshops that are aimed at helping you to support yourself and your family. #SENDLOlaunch

<https://www.facebook.com/events/893411541056685/>

Date: Tuesday 21 January

Time: 12pm – 7pm

Where: The Stanborough Centre, St Albans Road, Watford WD25 9JL

Club Cancellations

Parents will be informed via the School Gateway (email) when clubs are cancelled. Please use the School Gateway App if you wish to see if a club is running or not.

Assemblies this week:

Monday	We re-read the story Perfectly Norman and discussed the importance of being kind to everyone. We discussed the fact that we are all unique and that it is vital to respect our differences
Tuesday	We talked about British Values and why they are important. The five British Values are: Democracy, The rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect, Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.
Wednesday	We continued to talk about British Values, focusing on laws and why they are important.
Thursday	Mrs Bowden led singing assembly.
Friday	Celebration Assembly.

Congratulations to:

Stars of the Week

Reception: Zac

Class1: Ralph

Class 2: Sienna

Class 3: Jamie

Writers of the week

Reception: Florence

Class1: Eleri

Class 2: Jenson

Class 3: George

Sports Person of the Week

Isabelle C



Thank you for everyone who came to the FOSS meeting this week. It was lovely to see some new faces, and there were some exciting new ideas put forward. We will be trying some new things this year, so keep an eye out for FOSS updates!

The deadline for the FOSS 100 club is the 13th of the month, so forms need to be in before that to be included in that month's draw. Any forms received after the 13th will go forward to the next draw. The more members we have the bigger the prize pot! It's only £1 a month per number, and half the proceeds go to enhancing the education of all the children at school.

There are a few spare tea-towels available for £4 each. They will be available from the office from next week.

Diary Dates

Spring Term Dates

January

Friday 31st : Celebration Assembly

February

Monday 10th : 10th – 14th, Science Week

Monday 10th : Cambridge Science Trip Classes 2 and 3

Wednesday 12th : STEM Discovery Centre Class 1

Friday 14th : Valentines Disco

: Last Day of Half Term

Thurs 27th : FOSS AGM

Friday 28th : Celebration Assembly

March

Tuesday 3rd : Parents' Evening

Wednesday 4th : Parents' Evening

Thursday 5th : World Book Day

Saturday 7th : FOSS Bingo Evening

Saturday 21st : Village Market

Friday 27th : Celebration Assembly

: Grow £1 launch day

May

Saturday 16th : Family Forest day

Please see the school website for more dates throughout the year www.sandon.herts.sch.uk