



Sandy Hill Academy

Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed.



End of Term Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023-2024



Sandy Hill
Academy



Forthcoming events:

December:

19th Last day of term (2pm finish)

January 2024:

4th Spring term begins - pupils return to school

15th After school clubs begin this week

15th Deadline for applying for reception class place in September 2024 (children born between 01-09-2019 & 31-08-2020)

17th Year 1-6 Open Afternoon (3:00pm)

17th Together for Families drop in session for parents with senior family worker, Geraldine Matthews (3:00pm-4:30pm)

31st Parent/Carer Workshop 'Internet Safety' (2:30pm)

31st Reception Classes & Nursery Parent Meetings (3:15pm - 6:00pm)

February 2024:

1st Reception Classes & Nursery Parent Meetings (3:15pm - 6:00pm)

9th INSET Day (School & Nursery closed to pupils)

12th - 16th Half term holiday

March 2024:

5th St Piran's Day - Cornish Celebration

7th World Book Day (Non-uniform: Dress as your favourite book character)

15th Red Nose Day (Non-uniform: Wear red)

25th Last week of after-school clubs

28th Last day of Spring term (School & Kids Club finish 2pm)

April 2024:

15th Summer term begins - pupils return to school

May 2024:

2nd Nursery & School closed (School in use as a Polling Station)

Head of School Welcome



Another busy and exciting half term where we've enjoyed sharing Christmas performances, singalongs, nativities, pantomimes and much more - festive celebrations have certainly been underway!

With glitter and sparkle in an abundance, creative crafts and festive cards have been made across the school from Nursery to Year 6. It's wonderful to have such a super selection of Christmas cards, with a nostalgic Cornish theme, to deliver to our local community residential, nursing and care homes - Sandy Hill children are certainly spreading their cheer with true Christmas spirit.

Looking ahead to next term, when my secondment for 2 terms starts, I look forward to seeing Sandy Hill children continue to thrive, well supported by a dedicated staff team, lead by Mr. Walker, a true team who go above and beyond for the children.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with family and friends! 🎄🧑🎅🎄



Nursery - Acorn Class



FIRE ENGINE FUN



SHARING TAPESTRY
WITH OUR FRIENDS



BRRRRRRR



AUTUMNAL
COOKING!



ONWARDS!



CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY



WE LOVE
CREATING



YUM!

Nursery - Acorn Class



What a wonderful first term we have had here in Acorn Class. Lots of Autumnal learning from watching the season changes in our outdoor areas to looking at our planet frozen! The children loved freezing their Nursery toys and then enjoying an ice pop after.

We were lucky to have a visit from the local fire brigade, and we loved climbing up into the engine and seeing all the exciting equipment they use everyday to help us.

Acorn Class were so excited to have all the parents visit for our open afternoon. Sharing their learning, and seeing how proud they are really does put smiles on all around. Getting to Chalk Draw everywhere is a highlight each day. Even the cleaning up part!

Our Christmas sing-a-long was a wonderful afternoon. The children were amazing and so brave! Lots of future performers in the making. Watch out Sandy Hill!

Christmas Lunch and Jumper day was so exciting. It was a pleasure to see so many enjoy these festivities and the children really enjoyed their roast.

Thank you all for a fantastic term and have a peaceful Christmas. From the Nursery Team

Reception - Apple Class

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!



FIREWORK
ART



COLLABORATIVE
WRITING



WE LOVE READING



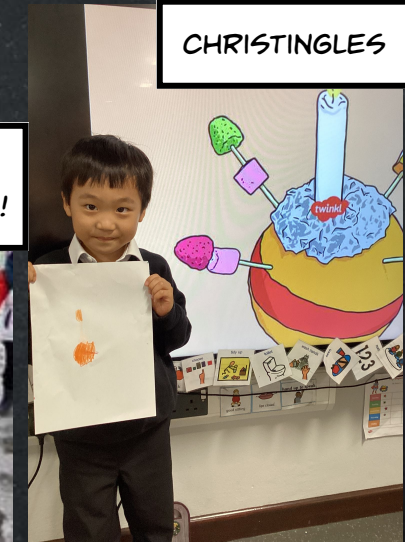
OUTDOOR
LEARNING



SNOW
MAGIC!



CHRISTINGLES



Reception - Cherry Class



A VISIT FROM THE OWLS



MATHS



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY



FUN IN THE SNOW!



CHRISTINGLE



SPORT FOR CHAMPIONS



Reception - Apple & Cherry Classes



Wow! What an amazing first full term in Reception. We have been amazed by the children in Apple and Cherry class this Autumn term. They have approached learning with curiosity, awe and wonder.

This term, the children have got to know new friends, learnt the rules and routines of being at school at Sandy Hill Academy, and flourished in their new learning environment. A huge moment for many children has been beginning to segment and blend words to read them, and getting their very first phonic reading book. The children have continued to show interest and enthusiasm for phonics, and learning new sounds. We have encouraged the love of reading through stories and song, and learning rhymes during the recent 'Nursery Rhyme Week'.

We have been working on our play skills, and have enjoyed our weekly 'We Thinkers' sessions, where we have been learning to talk about our feelings, and think about how we move our bodies, including thinking before we react.

In our maths sessions, we have explored shape, including finding 2D and 3D shapes in our environment. We have explored numbers to 5, and have been working on our number recognition and formation. The children have been practising subitising to 6, and using these skills in every day contexts.

A huge well done to all of the children for their wonderful singing and signing at our Christingle Sing-A-Long service - what a special evening.

We hope you all have a wonderful break over Christmas, thank you for being such Sandy Stars this term! 😊

Year 1 - Chestnut Class



SNOW!



CHILDREN IN NEED



OUR CINEMA TRIP TO
WATCH EPIC TAILS



WRITING TRICKY
WORDS AND
EXPLORING 3D
SHAPES



REMEMBRANCE DAY



Year 1 - Holly Class



Super reading



Fun in the snow!



Christmas craft



Cinema trip



Children in need



Music



Using
shapes
to
create

Year 1 - Chestnut & Holly Classes



All the children have transitioned amazingly into their new learning environment. They have really gone from strength to strength within every lesson across the curriculum. Year One have shown great resilience when taking on new learning and shown how they can be supportive friends. They have also enjoyed exploring all the areas in the classroom as part of their continuous provision.

Year One loved visiting the White River Cinema to see to watch Epic Tails this term as part of the Into Film Festival, the children walked very sensibly and safely.

It has been a busy term of celebrations, with European Languages Day, Black History Month, Children in Need, Remembrance Day and the children's first official Nativity. A huge congratulations to Year One for preforming an amazing Christmas Nativity. You all worked extremely hard on learning lines and songs!

All the adults in Chestnut and Holly Class would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year★

Year 2 - Maple Class



FUN IN THE SNOW!



CINEMA TRIP!



LOCAL FIRE
BRIGADE VISIT



EUROPEAN
LANGUAGES DAY



NATIVITY



TALES FROM PORTH
POP-UP BOOKS

Year 2 - Willow Class



HEY EWE!

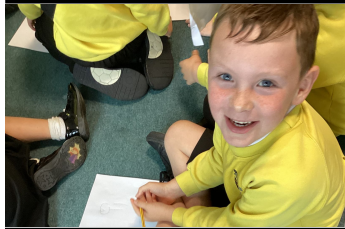
HISTORY DETECTIVES



EXPLORING THE EFFECT OF
EXERCISE ON OUR BODIES



EXPERIMENTING WITH JOTTINGS



BBC 500 WORDS
AUTHOR WORKSHOP



CINEMA TRIP TO WATCH SUPER
MARIO BROS.



BASKETBALL AT POLTAIR



WARM AND COOL
COLOURS



MENTAL HEALTH
SESSIONS



SPANISH
SINGING



BIRD FEEDERS



ECO COUNCIL



SNOW!

Year 2 - Maple & Willow Classes



All the children have had a fantastic first term in Year 2. They have been brilliant Sandy Stars, showing high levels of perseverance and resilience in their new learning.

The children have also enjoyed sharing their creativity during our DT days this term. They did a brilliant job of creating their very own pop-up books based on the 'Tales from Porth - Goolan' story. It was also wonderful to see how the children were able to support one another when making the different mechanisms inside their pop-up books.

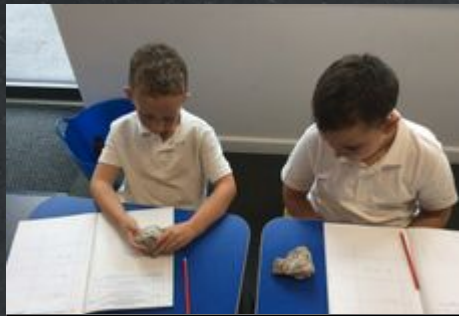
Year 2 loved visiting the White River Cinema to watch Super Mario Bros. this term as part of the Into Film Festival. We were so proud of how sensibly and safely our children walked to and from the cinema.

It has been a busy term of celebrations, with European Languages Day, Black History Month, Children in Need, Remembrance Day and of course our Nativity performance.

A BIG well done to all the Year 2 children for preforming a BAA-brilliant Christmas Nativity. You all worked extremely hard to learn your lines and songs and your hard work truly paid off! Thank you to all of our parents and carers for the fantastic costumes.

All the adults in Maple and Willow Class would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🎄☀️

Year 3 - Ash Class



LEARNING ABOUT ROCKS IN SCIENCE



SNOW DAY WHICH MADE US FEEL
FESTIVE!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!



CODING
COMPUTING DAY!



LANGUAGES DAY



USING THE
GLOCKENSPIELS IN
MUSIC LESSONS



LEARNING A VARIETY OF
BALANCES IN GYMNASTICS!



CINEMA TRIP! WE LOVED THIS!

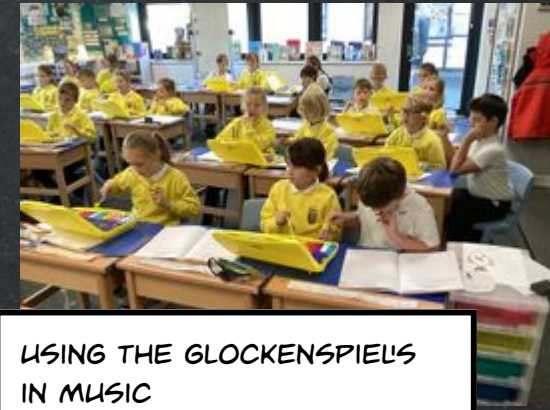
Year 3 - Elm Class



USING MILK BOTTLES TO
CREATE MAMMOTHS IN
ENGLISH



PRINTING IN DT



USING THE GLOCKENSPIEL'S
IN MUSIC



USING
CHOCOLATE TO
UNDERSTAND
HOW ROCKS ARE
MADE!

LANGUAGES DAY



SNOW DAY! WE FELT REALLY FESTIVE AFTER
THIS DAY!

OUR CLASS CINEMA TRIP TO WATCH
MATILDA THE MUSICAL



Year 3 - Ash & Elm Classes



All the children in Year 3 have had a fantastic first term! They have made exceptional progress so far, whilst also being brilliant Sandy starts by showing great self-motivation and resilience through their new learning!

All the children have loved engaging within their first topic in Year 3 which has been the 'Stone Age to the Iron Age'. In this topic, the children have completed some fantastic cross curriculum work. For example, they have created a Stone Age fact book on book creator, created some Stone Age art, and written some some Stone Age stories in English which are linked to the book 'Stone Age Boy'.

It has also been a busy term where the children have engaged in some creativity days during DT where they designed and created crown based on their personalities using printing techniques. And we have had lots of celebrations where they have created some superb work and shown great teamwork during these days! The children in Year 3 have celebrated European languages day, Black History month, Children in Need, Remembrance day, and of course our Christmas performance.

Year 3 have also loved their trip out to the cinema for the 'Into film festival', where Elm class watched Matilda the musical, and Ash class watched the Super Mario film. Both classes showed great respect, manners, and resilience whilst walking to and from the cinema. Well done Year 3!

All of the adults within Ash class and Elm class are so proud of all year 3 have achieved already! And we would all like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🌲☀️

Year 4 - Beech Class



Meeting Jaydon
Paddock Team GB
Gymnast!



Cinema trip



Christmas Fun!



Cross Country



Hinduism
learning in R.E



Making torches in science



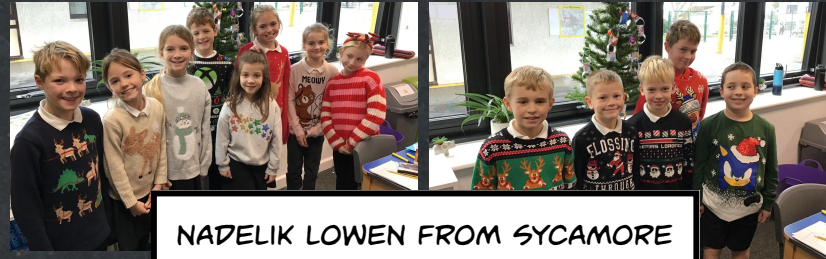
Music lessons on the
glockenspiels

Year 4 - Sycamore Class

TORCH MAKING



HUNTING FOR ROMAN NUMERALS!



FITNESS TRAINING!



INVESTIGATING SOUND



FINDING OUR WAY IN ORIENTEERING!



Year 4 - Beech & Sycamore Classes



Our Year 4's have had a great start to their new academic year and it has been a pleasure to get to know them! They have immersed themselves in all our topics across the curriculum from learning how to sew a Celtic inspired purse in DT lessons at the very beginning of the year, to learning new skills in map reading when orienteering in P.E recently; it has certainly been jam packed!

In English, we have worked on handwriting alongside enjoying using Spelling Shed to learn the weekly spellings. The children have written descriptions, instructions and biography's all linked to our history topic of The Romans Vs The Celts. In maths, each child has enjoyed placing themselves on the TTRockstars leader board in preparation for the Multiplication Check coming up in June. We have also focused on place value, addition and subtraction, area and multiplication and division. We have been extremely impressed with the increasing mental arithmetic scores each week and the children's dedication to handing in homework to support this.

In science lessons, the children have loved taking part in experiments linked to our topics of electricity and sound. A particular highlight was making our own torches out of pringle tubes! Computing lessons have been focused around staying safe online as well as honing fundamental keyboard skills which will be essential for accessing the computing curriculum as we move through KS2. In geography, we have learnt all about sustainability and this will be great knowledge to bring into our next topic, The Amazon Rainforest! We have been lucky enough to be involved in the cross country event at Poltair school as well as our enjoyable trip to the cinema. We are looking forward to many more events to come in the new year (such as learning how to play the ukulele!) and hope you have a brilliant Christmas with your loved ones.

Merry Christmas, The Year 4 Team :)

Year 5 - Cedar Class



CREATING BENIN BRONZES



PERFORMING MUSIC TOGETHER



PAINTING IN THE STYLE OF ALFRED WALLIS



OUR AMAZING CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE!



WORKING
COLLABORATIVELY



ENJOYING AN AUTHOR VISIT



PE

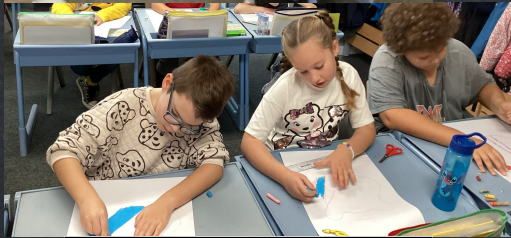


Year 5 - Pine Class

MUSIC



ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP



CHILDREN IN NEED



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



CHRISTMAS DINNER



Year 5 - Cedar & Pine Classes



Wow, what an amazing Autumn Term the Year 5 children have had! Mr Lockett and Miss Rogers are so incredibly proud of how the children have settled into the routines and expectations of Upper Key Stage 2!

Across the curriculum, the children have completed some exceptional learning. We have really enjoyed our first Year 5 topic - The Benin Kingdom. During which, we have learnt all about this civilisation and the many incredible skills their people had. We have studied a range of intricate artefacts from this time and also created our own Benin inspired bronzes.

Within English lessons, the children have written for a range of purposes and enjoyed adapting their writing to suit the required style. At the start of the Autumn Term, the children enjoyed using an animation - The Shadow of Blue - as an inspiration for their writing. This was an excellent motivator for writing and the children composed some excellent written adaptations of the short film.

Across each maths lesson, the children have worked hard to develop an understanding of the key arithmetic strategies for Year 5. The children are really enjoying witnessing their scores increase during the year and are striving to beat their personal arithmetic best! The children have also learnt all about the place value of numbers up to 1,000,000, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.

Finally, Mr Lockett and Miss Rogers would like to wish the children a very Merry Christmas and a restful break.

Year 6 - Oak Class



Year 6 - Redwood Class



MEETING JAYDON PADDOCK

CHRISTMAS CHEER!



VISIT TO PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



FUN WITH
THE KERNOW
KING!

Year 6 - Oak & Redwood Classes



Year 6 has been buzzing with activity this term! We delved into our World War Two topic, diving into stories like "Carrie's War" and exploring themes of resilience through the poem "Invictus." Ending the term with "Letters from the Lighthouse," we've been captivated by these tales.

In Maths, we worked incredibly hard during our daily arithmetic, seeing our scores soar each week. Plus, we tackled place value, the four operations, and fractions. Art became an adventure in drawing techniques, inspired by war themes and the works of artist Cherry Crawford. We even got crafty in DT, using our textile skills to create comforting pillows from old materials.

Geography broadened our understanding of fair trade, while in History, we delved deep into World War 2—debating Britain's entry, evacuations, the Blitz, and coping strategies. Computing taught us internet safety and web creation, and Science took us on a journey from exploring blood to experimenting with electricity, building circuits and solving puzzling problems.

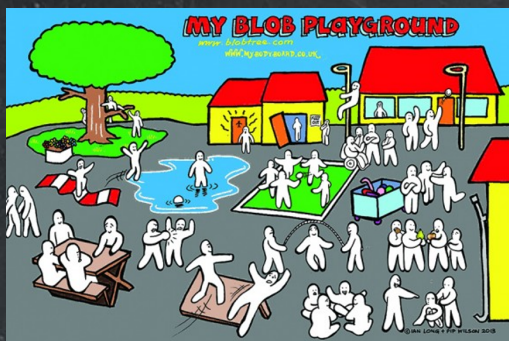
Trips added excitement to our learning: from a Kernow King workshop at the library to cinema outings and an inspiring day at Plymouth University—learning about exciting courses and career paths. Year 6 has been a whirlwind of learning and adventures!

It's been exciting for all our pupils to gain some new experiences again this half term, including the visit from Jaydon Paddock who, along with his teammates, was crowned 2019 World Champions. Aspirations around gymnastics and the wider world of sport were discussed with many ambitions clear!



Inter house tournaments have continued to be a part of our sporting experiences and widened awareness of the range of sports as well as opportunities available, for example bocce, a Paralympic sport introduced in 1984, a precision ball sport was the focus of our latest inter-house tournament.

Super to see all Sandy Hill students aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed!



Talking with children it's been super to hear how children view themselves both in the playground and in the classroom.

Excellent discussions have supported adults to continue to meet the needs of all pupils.



We know pupil voice can contribute to a school's improvement and continue to actively encourage and involve children in self-evaluation, planning, and decision-making processes.



IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS, PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK:

[FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT FREE SCHOOL MEALS - CORNWALL COUNCIL](#)

COMMUNICATION & INTERACTION - MAKATON

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable to communicate. Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Almost everything we do involves communication! Makaton uses signs along with speech in spoken word order to help provide extra clues about what someone is saying. It can help people with no speech or whose speech is unclear. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.

We are so proud of Mrs Facey who has successfully completed her Makaton Tutor training following lots of hard work and study over the last few years. Mrs Facey already runs the after school Makaton club with Mrs Whetter, and is leading the development of Makaton use through Early Years and beyond!

You can find out more about Makaton by visiting the [Makaton Charity webpage here](#) or search for 'Makaton' on platforms such as YouTube for tonnes of videos showing you how to get started.



Domestic Abuse Support

Domestic abuse refers to any form of violence or mistreatment that occurs within a household or intimate relationship. It can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse. Domestic abuse is a serious issue that affects people of all genders, ages, and backgrounds. It is important to recognize the signs of domestic abuse and seek help if you or someone you know is experiencing it.

For support, contact our local domestic abuse and sexual violence service, Safer Futures:

saferfutures.org.uk 0300 777 4777 (9am – 5pm, Mon – Fri)

or:

Cornwall Refuge Trust's 24hr helpline on 01872 225629 for support outside of those hours.

If you or your children are in immediate danger call 999

Safeguarding across the curriculum

Online Safety

- Parent workshops (Spring Term – [G.Hill](#))
- Internet Safety Day
- National Online Safety Weekly Update
- Newsletter
- Incidental teaching and learning including refinement to [curriculum](#)

Fire and water safety

- RNLI assembly and visit
- Fire Service Visit
- Hazard Alley
- Swimming Lessons

Drugs, Alcohol and vaping/tobacco

- PSHE and Science Curriculum
- Police visit, assembly, Q/A

Homophobic, transphobic and racist abuse

- Diverse reading books and texts
- Behaviour policy and values
- Picture News

Road and Rail safety

- Police visits: assembly, Q and A, and speed awareness (Spring Term)
- Assemblies

Radicalisation and Extremism

- PSHE and Computing Curriculum
- Assemblies
- Picture News
- British Values

Stranger Danger

- PSHE and Computing curriculum
- Assemblies
- Picture News

Safeguarding in our curriculum



British Values

- Picture News (weekly)
- RE Curriculum
- SCARF curriculum
- School Values
- Diverse reading books and texts

Keeping Physically Healthy

- PE, Science, PSHE/SRE
- Active learning [e.g.](#) times tables/spelling
- Sports offer – Physical Activity, School Sport and Physical Education.
- Key reading books and texts

Mental and Emotional Health

- PSHE curriculum
- World Mental Health Day
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Assemblies
- Robust policies and systems in place
- Reading books and texts

Bullying, Cyberbullying

- School behaviour policy
- Vision and values
- Diverse texts and reading [books](#)
- Assemblies
- Weekly theme within PSHE
- Raise parental awareness – [newsletter](#)
- Feedback to pupils after dealing with [incidents](#)

Sex and Relationships

- SRE curriculum
- PSHE
- School values
- Assemblies
- Reading books and texts

WITH LOTS
ALREADY
PLANNED AND
PLENTY MORE
TO COME, WE
CONSTANTLY
REFINE AND
DEVELOP
SAFEGUARDING
ACROSS THE
CURRICULUM.

Attendance



Attending school regularly is so important, both academically and socially. We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. Children who are absent from school,

- miss vital learning,
- miss their friends,
- can find it difficult to catch up when they return to school.

Catching up an absent child can also affect others in the class, as adults time has to be spent on one child.

We recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head of School using the school's request form.

Subject to the guidance below, we may apply for a penalty notice for unauthorised leave:

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

If you have any concerns regarding your child(ren)'s attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

"Working together, inspiring excellence"

As a member of the [Aspire Academy Trust](#) we have a centralised approach to policies. We have an extensive list of policies that cover the nursery, school and Kids Club.

All Ofsted statutory policies are located under the '[Statutory Information](#)' page on our school website.

In addition to these statutory policies, a selection of additional useful policies can be found on our '[Parents/Useful Links & Downloads](#)' page.

Please also read our '[Aspire Social Media Policy](#)' and '[Aspire Parent Code of Conduct](#)'. If you are unable to find a particular policy, please contact the school office.

Thank you.

Please may we remind parents/carers that neither smoking nor vaping is permitted whilst on school premises.



Thank you.



Events & Activities



The Time2Move Holiday Programme will offer fun physical activities, games and wider activities plus a meal for all children.

Activities take place across the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. All children aged 5 to 16 are welcome to attend and it is completely **funded** for children that are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

The activities are all delivered by approved providers. Click [here](#) to search for activities near you.



Cost of Living Support Hub

When: 3rd Thursday of every month exc. Dec
2023/24 dates: 14th Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Feb, 21st Mar
Time: Arrive anytime between 10:00 – 12:00

Location: Light and Life Centre, Unit 4, Brunel Business Park The Sidings, St Austell PL25 4TJ

5 minute walk from St Austell bus and train station. Some parking spaces available; off street parking nearby and pay and display at Polkyth behind the centre if preferred.



Provided

- Free Hot Drinks & Biscuits
- Free Lunch

Support With

- Financial Support in a crisis
- Benefits and welfare checks
 - Council tax support
 - Housing advice
- Support with Employment
- Help with cost of Utility Bills
- Debt advice and support
- Support with form filling
- Access to your local Social Prescribing team

Worried about a child?

Who to contact if you have concerns about a child:

Multi-agency Referral Unit (MARU): 0300 123 1116

Out of Hours Service: 01208 251300

NSPCC

If you're worried
about a child:

0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk



Cornwall's Early Help Hub offers family support to help with common family matters (i.e. parenting support, health visiting, school nursing) for children and young people.

To request help:
earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk
01872 322 277



SAMARITANS

Call free day or night on

116 123

Email
jo@samaritans.org

Crisis Care Award (Cornwall Council)
0300 1234 121

Housing (Cornwall Council)
0300 1234 161

First Light (Domestic Violence Support)
0300 777 4777

Citizens Advice Cornwall
0800 144 8848

Remake Cornwall
07480 135818
remakecornwall@gmail.com

St Austell Foodbank
01726 65313
info@staustell.foodbank.org.uk



Sandy Hill Academy

Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed.



Staying in Touch

Address: Sandy Hill Academy, Sandy Hill, St Austell, PL25 3AT

Email: hello@sandyhill.org.uk

Nursery enquiries: nursery@sandyhill.org.uk

Phone: 01726 75858

Website: www.sandyhill.org.uk



Arbor



ParentPay

CLICK ICONS
FOR MORE INFO