



Sandy Hill Academy

Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed.



Half Termly Newsletter Spring 2022



**Sandy Hill
Academy**



Forthcoming events:

February

18th INSET Day

Half Term: Monday 21st - Friday 25th February

March

1st Special Lunch Menu - Cornish Picnic Party

2nd Reception & Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme

3rd World Book Day 25th Anniversary - Non uniform (Dress as your favourite book character)

3rd Special Lunch Menu - World Book Day Story Burger

4th St.Piran's Day - Non uniform (Dress in black, white & gold)

8th Parent Meetings (Nursery - Year 6)

9th Parent Meetings (Nursery - Year 6)

14th - 18th Science Week

21st - 22nd Shakespeare Explorer Workshops (KS1 and KS2)

22nd Kernow King - The Cornish Caretakers

April

7th Special Lunch Menu - Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

8th End of Spring Term. Early finish at 2:00pm (Kids Club open as normal).

May

19th Census Day Special Menu - Around the world

Notifying change of circumstances

Please tell us of any changes to you or your child's personal details (i.e name, address, telephone numbers, emergency contact details, medical details, email address or relationship change). Certain changes may be updated directly via the Arbor Parent Portal, however if you have any difficulty please email the school office at: hello@sandyhill.org.uk

Head of School Welcome



Exciting DT days, including pottery, bridge making, Amazonian tree houses, Barbara Hepworth inspired sculptures and exciting discussions around career opportunities linked to design across the school bring another half term to a close - and what a wonderful way to finish!

As a school, this half term has proven to be challenging for us with both pupil and staffing Covid cases meaning consistency has not been as any of us would like, compounded by the lack of availability of teaching supply staff. Certainly, we look forward, to what we hope will be a more settled half term on our return and thank our own staff team who have again gone above and beyond to strive for consistency for our pupils and all classes remaining open. The Department for Education updates for schools will be announced at the start of the holiday and we look forward to sharing this with you. In the meantime, a huge thank you for your continued support and understanding at this time.

Despite the challenges, we've remained determined to ensure all our pupils continue to have an enriched learning experience. Our Y6 pupils had an inspirational trip to Falmouth University this month whilst our Nursery pupils have loved the fun and joy of performing their nursery rhyme of the week to an appreciative audience - it's been wonderful to see pupils across the school make the most of the opportunities offered, including use of the microscopes and new science equipment to build upon their investigation skills. We look forward to sharing further motivational events and career links again weaved into pupil's learning across the curriculum next half term.

I hope everyone enjoys a super half term holiday ahead!



Nursery - Acorn Class



Making Chinese Lanterns for Chinese New Year!



Healthy Movers - Coordination and Object Control



All About Me Boxes - Welcoming our new friends



In Acorn Class we have had another busy half term of learning! First of all we welcomed our new January starter children by sharing their 'All About Me' boxes. The children loved learning about their new friend's favourite hobbies, toys and families. The children who have started with us this half term have settled in brilliantly and they should be very proud of themselves!

During our Healthy Movers sessions this half term, we have been focusing on coordination and object control. We have been using scarfs and balls to help develop our physical skills. The children have been practising to throw, catch and roll objects in order to develop their coordination and object control. The children enjoyed working independently and together with their peers!

Towards the end of this half term, we have been focusing our learning on 'Chinese New Year'. We have learnt how to make Chinese lanterns and Chinese Dragons to decorate our classroom! The children showed high levels of energy and fascination during this topic, particularly during our Chinese New Year science experiments! We created fireworks in a jar and dancing noodles and we loved observing the changes that happened!

Well done Acorn Class for continuing your learning journey in Nursery! We are looking forward to starting our new topic 'In the Garden' after half term!

Reception - Apple Class



EXPLORING FRUIT
ART AND NOTICING
PATTERNS



WHAT COULD IT BE ... INVESTIGATING A VINTAGE HOT
WATER BOTTLE



Reception - Cherry Class



WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING
VINTAGE ARTEFACTS AND
LOOKING AT OLD PHOTOS OF
OUR FAMILIAR LOCAL AREA.



WE HAVE FOCUSED ON BEING A KIND FRIEND
AND WORKING COOPERATIVELY. WE LOVE
'FRIENDS FRIDAY' WHEN WE VALUE
FRIENDSHIP AND FOCUS ON SKILLS SUCH AS
TURN TAKING AND COMPLIMENTING OUR
FRIENDS.



WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF GOOD ORAL HEALTH.

WE HAVE ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS AND HOW THEY ARE PLAYED. WE HAVE
BEEN WRITING AND FOLLOWING OUR OWN MUSIC TOO!

Reception - Apple and Cherry Classes



This half term in Reception has been fun and full of learning. We started the half term exploring old artefacts, such as: a vintage hot water bottle, a wooden Pinocchio puppet, and weighing scales. The children hypothesised about what the items were once used for, and studied them to look for clues. The children were fixated on the different items that we showed them! This then led us on to looking at photographs that were taken in the past, and compared them to the present day. We looked at our local area and even an old picture of what Sandy Hill looked like before the school was built. This led on to some great discussions!

This half term we have also been inspired by the art of Dennis Wojtkiewicz. Dennis Wojtkiewicz creates incredibly detailed observational paintings of fruit slices. During our sequential sessions, the children were taught skills to enable them to create their own art pieces in the style of Dennis Wojtkiewicz's work. The children were then provided with the opportunities to use their skills independently when provided with inspiring provocations to practise their skills using different mediums.

The children have been working on their speaking and listening skills during the weekly show and tell sessions. With the children we have been working on our questioning skills and learning to be good listeners. After half term we are looking forward to continuing our show and tell sessions with a focus on our favourite stories.

Well done Reception on your journey of learning!

Year 1 - Chestnut Class



OUR ANDY GOLDSWORTHY
INSPIRED ART.



CHESTNUT CLASS DISCUSSED THEIR
DREAM JOBS AT THE START OF THE YEAR.



WE MADE OUR OWN WORRY DOLLS!



Year 1 - Holly Class



CREATING OUR
CLASS SCULPTURE.



MARY SEACOLE.



LEARNING ABOUT DAIRY.



INTER-HOUSE
COMPETITION

INVESTIGATION
FUN IN SCIENCE.



CREATING
OUR OWN
COLOUR
FIELDS.



DAILY BOOK VOTE.



INVESTIGATING OUR SENSES.



CHROME BOOKS AND
INTERNET SAFETY.



CREATING A
SEQUENCE OF
MOVEMENTS TO
MUSIC IN DANCE.



LABELLING THE BODY.



FINDING FRACTIONS OF
SHAPES.

Year 1 - Chestnut and Holly Classes



Year One have been enjoying learning about their new topic Brilliant Bodies this half term. We launched our topic by discussing what our dream jobs would be and filled in our own dream jars. We also created our own Andy Goldsworthy inspired artwork by working as a team.

We have shown excellent observational and investigational skills during our science lessons this half term answering the questions 'If we have bigger feet, can we jump further?' We are looking forward to learning more about our senses!

We have been learning about significant people in History with the focus of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children have wowed Miss Bussandri and Miss Brandreth with their excellent knowledge and positive attitude towards learning.

Year One have enjoyed learning more about Judith Kerr, author of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'Mog the Forgetful Cat.' They were super authors themselves with their innovations of both stories.

Well done Year One, Miss Brandreth and Miss Bussandri are very proud of you all!



Year 2 - Maple Class



THERE'S
ANOTHER BIRD!
#GREATSCHOOL
BIRDWATCH



WE ENJOYED
PERFORMING
AFRICAN MUSIC



WE FOUND AFRICA
ON A MAP!



EXPLORING
AFRICAN
ARTEFACTS



INSECTS LOOK
VERY COOL
UNDER THE
MICROSCOPE!



WE EXPLORED
LOTS OF
HABITATS!

Year 2 - Willow Class



WE HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE INTER-HOUSE SHOOT THE HOOPS AND PRACTICED OUR BALL SKILLS IN PE.



BUSY BIRDWATCHING



WE HAVE CREATED PIECES OF ARTWORK!



Year 2 - Maple and Willow Classes



Year 2 have had a fabulous term of learning and are thoroughly enjoying their new topic 'Africa'. We are very lucky to have an exciting range of artefacts which have helped us to start asking questions and making observations of life in Africa. We have used atlases to identify where Africa is on a world map, orienteered using maps and compasses in the school grounds and have been excited finding out about African animals.

The children have further explored African culture in music- where we learnt to sing a traditional Kenya welcoming song 'Jambo Bwana' and developed our skill of identifying the rhythm within a piece of music to help us perform with instruments.

In science we have been learning about animal habitats and particularly enjoyed making observations of animals found in the school grounds and participating in the RSPB Great school bird watch where we made a tally of all the birds we identified.

We have created some lovely pieces of artwork this term to do with our topic using paint and watercolours. Finishing off the term we designed and made our own Safari jeeps for design and technology.

What a super start to the Spring term Year 2's.

Year 3 - Ash Class





RUGBY FUN!



ELM AND ASH CLASS CELEBRATING THE
SETTING UP OF THEIR NEW TROPICAL FISH
TANK.



DT DAY - CREATING BARBARA HEPWORTH INSPIRED SCULPTURES



Year 3 - Ash and Elm Classes



Year Three have had a brilliant time back at school this half term. We have loved immersing ourselves into the topic 'Oceans and Rivers.' We have been fortunate to have been selected to look after fish in our class and have an 8-week programme that will continue after half term. During this programme, the children have been learning about different household fish and where in the world they originate from. Whilst looking at a local beach (Carlyon Bay) and how it has changed over time, the children have also been learning about sea life from the United States of America.

In science, we have been learning about forces and magnets. The children have loved experimenting with different surfaces to identify which was the best for a spinning top. They had to use a stopwatch to measure how long the spinning top spun for and then recorded it in their books.

Additionally, the children have learnt all about being safe on the internet, identifying things we can and cannot say to strangers and what we could do if we are unsure about anything when online. They completed a poster to highlight everything they learnt.

In PE, the children have been developing their skills through tag rugby and dance. We looked at wild animals in dance, and worked in groups to come up with, and perform a sequence to the rest of the class.

Year 4 - Beech Class



TECGIRLS WORKSHOP



UKULELE LESSONS



LEAF DRAWINGS
IN ART AND
AMAZON
TREEHOUSES
ON DT DAY



FUN TIMES EXPLORING
OUR AMAZON RAINFOREST
LIBRARY BOX



PLANTING
TREES



Year 4 - Sycamore Class



TAG RUGBY SESSIONS



LEARNING TO PLAY THE UKULELE



OPTICAL ILLUSION ART



PLANTING TREES



AMAZING FACT FILES ON BRAZIL



AMAZON RAINFOREST LIBRARY BOX

Year 4 - Beech and Sycamore Classes



Mr Couch and Miss Heather have been so impressed with the way Sycamore and Beech class have demonstrated the Sandy STARS this half term. We've thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into our new topic, The Amazon Rainforest! In English, we have studied the book, The Great Kapok Tree and have used this as a stimulus to write our own setting descriptions. We have also written some tricky rainforest riddles. In geography, we have learnt all about the equator and northern and southern hemispheres and have had a focus on South America. We used the Chromebooks to research Brazil and made some fact files all about their culture.

We were lucky enough to have some exciting visitors from the TecGirls where we learnt how to code a micro:bit to create a plant watering system - the team work was amazing! On Safer Internet Day, we discussed how to stay safe whilst playing games online and created our own safety aliens with guidelines for playing fairly and respectfully with others.

The children have been absolutely thrilled with their own progress and personal best scores on mental arithmetic tests this half term and their times tables knowledge is coming along fantastically. We've enjoyed taking part in Times Tables Rockstars battles and are preparing for the Year 4 Multiplication Check later this year. We have ended the term on some DT days in which we have created rainforest pop-ups and constructed some incredible treehouses! We can't wait to continue learning about The Amazon Rainforest next half term and hope you enjoy a restful week off.

Year 5 - Cedar Class



INVESTIGATING DIFFERENT MOUNTAIN RANGES ACROSS THE GLOBE.



UNDERSTANDING HOW ARTEFACTS CAN GIVE US CLUES TO THE PAST.

WORKING WITH POLTAIR SCHOOL IN PE AND DESIGNING FLAGS FOR THE CORNWALL SCHOOL GAMES.



Year 5 have enjoyed a fantastic first half of the Spring Term. The term began with investigating some of the most famous mountain ranges across the globe. We continued our knowledge of using different types of maps to compare different mountain ranges and also learnt all about how fold mountains are created.

Although we enjoyed our first topic (The Vikings), the children have really enjoyed beginning to learn all about the Ancient Greeks. We have learnt all about the origins of the first Olympic Games and written some fantastic reports about the beginnings of these events.

Similarly, across the curriculum, we have enjoyed diving into new topics: forces in Science, painting in Art and fractions in Mathematics.

We have also really enjoyed working with the Cornish Pirates and Poltair School in alternate weeks in our P.E. sessions. This has involved developing our tag rugby and teamwork skills and learning all about the Commonwealth Games. We have also had the opportunity to design and create flags which will be displayed at the Cornwall School Games.

We have also loved getting stuck into our new class novel, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

Year 6 - Oak Class



SUPER RUGBY
LEARNING WITH
THE CORNISH
PIRATES



INVESTIGATING
BIRD BEAK
ADAPTATIONS IN
SCIENCE



WORKING
TOGETHER TO
UNDERSTAND
CLIMATE CHANGE
IN GEOGRAPHY



MEASURING,
MARKING AND
SAWING SKILLS
IN DT:
CONSTRUCTION



FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY
VISIT!



The children loved visiting Falmouth University to get an insight into what life at a university is like and the different courses they had to offer - it is safe to say the children (and adults) were blown away.

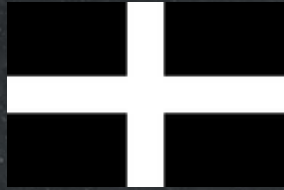
Under the topic of Cornwall, children have begun to investigate our local history and heritage, including Richard Trevithick's puffing devil. In computing, coding has been tackled, with more complex variables the focus of learning. In MFL the children have continued to develop their Spanish vocabulary learning the names of body parts, colours and clothing.

We have delighted to have Sam Teasdale from the Cornish Pirates visiting us to deliver tag rugby. In RE, the children have been interested to learn about the cycle of Samsara within Hinduism.

In Science, evolution has been the focus. The children have learned about different adaptations and undertaken some fun investigations such as 'beak challenge', studying how the shape of birds' beaks affect what it can pick up to eat. In Geography, the children have enjoyed learning about how climate change has affected different parts of the world.

In mathematics, children have continued to develop their arithmetic proficiency and many children continue to beat their personal best. The children have been learning about converting measures and have started to learn about angles around a point.

Cultural Capital - Go Cornish



Dydh da dhywgh!

Hello everyone!

Having signed up to the Go Cornish for Primary Schools programme, we are very excited to have taken our first step in our school's Go Cornish journey.

We have now completed our Run Around Survey, which helps us to understand the existing levels of knowledge before the children start learning Kernewek/Cornish. You will soon also start to see some Cornish signage appear around the school in the very near future.

We are also looking forward to celebrating St Piran's Day, where we shall enjoy a Cornish picnic themed lunch on 1st March with pupils encouraged to dress in Cornish colours (black, white or gold) on 4th March.





Dydh da dhywgh!

Hello everyone!

We are very excited to announce that we are launching a photo competition for half term, encouraging pupils to consider what Cornwall means to them.

Please see the poster for more details. Good luck!



What Cornwall Means to Me...



What does Cornwall mean to you? Take a photo of what you love most about Cornwall and email it to

shcompetition@sandyhill.org.uk

By **Monday 28th February** to enter the competition!

The winner will be announced on **Friday 4th March** - with the prize of a family cream tea!

All the teachers at Sandy Hill are excited to see your photos!

Aspens - School Meals



We are pleased to confirm that our caterers have produced an exciting new [Spring/Summer menu](#), which will start from Monday 28th February, when we return from half term.

You will notice that there has been a change to the usual menu, with our packed lunch option being replaced with a hot tomato pasta option instead. This has been trialled in other schools and proved extremely popular. We will review the success of the new menu at Easter.



Alongside our daily menu, Aspens will also provide various themed menu days throughout the year along with and monthly vegetable promotions and activity packs, to encourage the children to experience new foods.

If your child has any special dietary needs or allergies, please either download and complete the [special diet form](#) or alternatively contact the school office who will be happy to provide you with a copy.



Aspire Academy Trust has high aspirations and expectations for all children. Research has shown that missing school can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their future life chances.

For all Aspire schools, the attendance threshold is set at 96%, in line with national attendance data. We will strive to work with parents and children to remove barriers to attendance to ensure all children can access, participate and actively engage with their learning.

Our local authority has updated their procedures for the issue of penalty notices in relation to poor school attendance. Subsequently we have had to review our own Aspire Academy Trust Attendance policy to reflect the revised requirements.

A copy of the updated [Aspire Academy Trust Attendance policy](#) can be found on our school website. Please also read the '[Holiday Request](#)' letter which provides further information (a paper copy of which will be sent home with all children on 28th February).

As always we wish to work with you to achieve the best possible outcome for your child and endeavour to provide support where necessary to encourage good attendance. Should you have any concerns regarding your child(ren)'s attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



**"Coming together
is a beginning.
Keeping together
is progress.
Working together
is success." -
Henry Ford**

Every school minute counts

Minutes late add up to lost learning.

Don't let your child miss out on their education.

Every school minute counts.



COME TO SCHOOL ON TIME

Just 5 minutes late matters ...



Just 5 minutes late every day	Means	Makes	WOW
		100 minutes lost in a month	900 minutes in a school year
	25 minutes lost in a week	25 x 4 weeks in a month	100 x 9 months in a school year
5 minutes late every day	5 x 5 days in a week		

900 minutes in a school year
 = 10 games of football
 = 7½ two hour DVDS
 = 3 full school days lost

Don't miss any work, don't interrupt the class, show respect for your peers and teachers, develop a good habit for life, have more time with friends and succeed!

Reporting Absence:

If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, then please inform the office before 9am in the morning, and let us know why your child is going to be absent, and when you expect them to return.

You may either phone the office (Tel: 01726 75858) and leave a message or alternatively send an email to hello@sandyhill.org.uk

When reporting an absence, please leave a message on each day of your child's absence, telling us:

- Your child's name
- Class name/Year group
- Why they are absent (Type of illness e.g sickness, migraine)
- When you expect them to return



Learning Together

"Tapestry keeps you in touch with your child's day wherever you are"



The image shows the login interface for Tapestry, an online learning journal. At the top left is the Tapestry logo, which consists of a grid of colored squares (yellow, green, blue, purple) next to the word "TAPESTRY" in a large, grey, sans-serif font, with "ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL" in a smaller font below it. Below the logo are two input fields: "Email address" and "Password". Each field has a light grey border and a small "x" icon on the right side. Below the password field is a blue button with the text "Log in" in white.

Tapestry is an easy-to-use and secure online learning journal that helps staff and families across Aspire academies celebrate their children's learning and development in Nursery and Reception Class.

As parents, the first day of handing over your child to the care of another can be an emotional time. As your child adjusts to experiences without you at their childminder, nursery, or school, parents continue to want to share in these times.

Tapestry facilitates this by enabling a personal journal, or diary, to build over time. Photographs, videos and notes of special moments are not only recorded, but can be made available regularly and often immediately to you via your iPhone or Android App.



Learning Together

Google Classroom -
Enhancing connections with
learners from school, from
home, or on the go.



Think of Google Classroom as your child's digital link to learning. Teachers use Google Classroom to share resources, links and assignments with pupils during lessons at school across the curriculum.

KS2 teachers will use Google Classroom to share homework with students and parents. It is a great tool for keeping up to date with your child's learning.



If you are concerned about the physical or mental welfare of a child or young person and you wish to speak to someone about it, you can contact the MARU (Multi-agency Referral Unit) on the following numbers:

Monday to Friday, 9am - 6pm: 0300 123 1116
Evenings & weekends: 01208 251300

Police (Non-emergency): 101

Internet Safety

If you are searching for support and are worried about this being tracked by an abuser in the home, please use a **private or incognito tab** when browsing as this **will not save on your search history**.

Domestic Abuse advise - First Light: 0300 777 4777

Support in your area

You can walk into a local BOOTS pharmacy and ask for **'ANI'** (Say, "I'm asking for Annie") or ask to access their **'Safe Spaces'** where you will get support with domestic abuse. There will be a trained member of staff.

You can also download and access the Bright Sky app safely. This will give you access to a directory of support agencies and help lines.



Just like us, children and young people can behave differently at different times. Feeling upset, cross, frustrated and lots of other emotions is normal and a healthy part of their life.

Many children will be more likely to test the boundaries when they are feeling tired, ill or stressed. It is normal for younger children to have tantrums sometimes, while older children may shout, lash out or storm off. If children begin to demonstrate more persistent challenging behaviour, there can often be a range of other emotions behind that which are not as immediately obvious. It is important to remember that all behaviour is a form of communication and that with support, your child can find healthier ways to manage and express their feelings.

How to help your child?

- * Find a suitable time and place to talk with your child
- * Make it clear that the behaviour is the problem and not them
- * Explain why the behaviour is not ok
- * Be curious, empathetic and non-judgemental
- * Reassure them

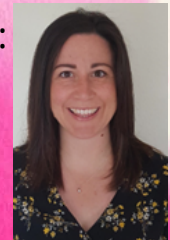
Useful websites for further support:

[Challenging Behaviour](#) | [Parents Guide To Support](#) | [YoungMinds WEBSITES](#) | [CAMHS Resources \(camhs-resources.co.uk\)](#)
[Parenting Programmes](#) | [Care and Support in Cornwall](#)



Where can I find out more information about SEND provision at Sandy Hill?

Please see our SEND policy and SEND Information Report & Local Offer on our school website or you can contact Mrs Carter via the school office: 01726 75858
hello@sandyhill.org.uk





It's been exciting to discuss career opportunities with all our children, starting in Nursery - ensuring we keep dreams alive and aspirations high, considering career opportunities both in Cornwall and further afield.

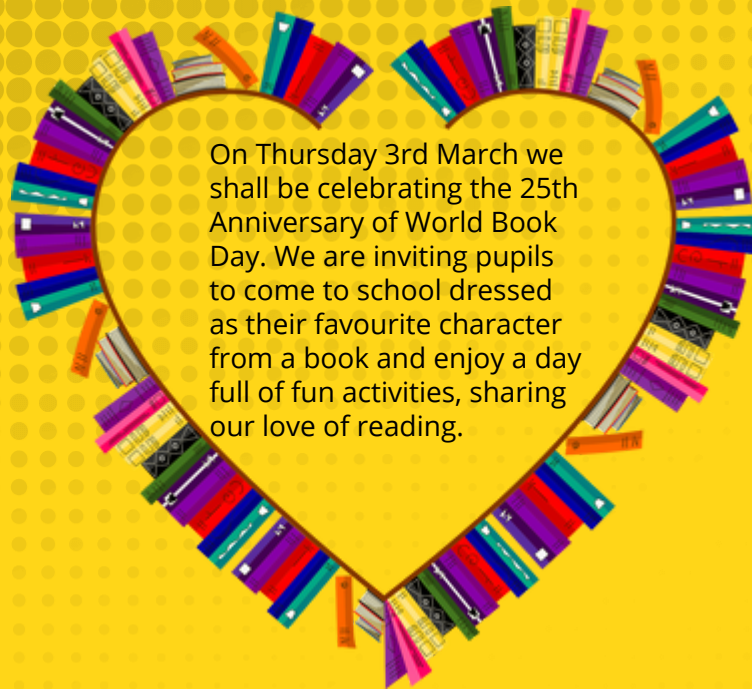
We look forward to building further on this next term with more visits and visitors sharing opportunities with children across the school, from Nursery to Year 6.

Actively listening to our pupils, we're keen to ensure we support children to find out more about their individual career interests, as well as how we can help make it happen!

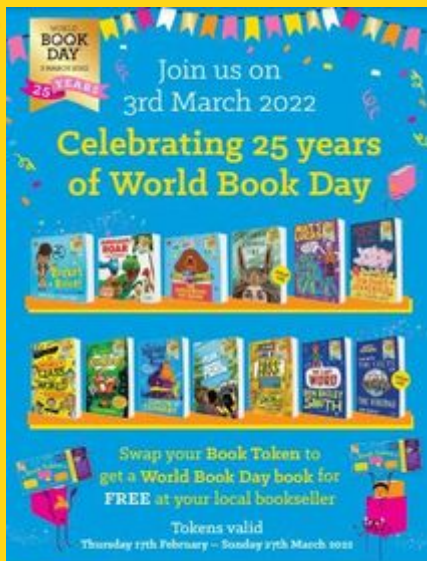
Please do let us know if there's any further career interests your child may want to discuss, or indeed if you can offer support with this. We'd love to work with and hear from you. Next half term, we look forward to sharing more of our 'pupil voices' with you - showing great aspirations and how our Sandy Hill STARS are key character attributes to support making it happen.

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

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



On Thursday 3rd March we shall be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of World Book Day. We are inviting pupils to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book and enjoy a day full of fun activities, sharing our love of reading.



Changing lives through a love of books and shared reading.
World Book Day® is always sponsored by National Book Tokens. | See below

Information & Support

Local Resources

St Austell Foodbank

Crisis Care Award (Cornwall County Council)

Housing (Cornwall County Council)

First Light (Domestic Violence Support)

Click [here](#) for additional helpful contacts.

February Half Term

A one-off payment Free School Meals voucher will be issued via Wonde for all children eligible for *benefits-related Free School Meals.

If you have any problems with Wonde vouchers, please contact support@wonde.com in the first instance.



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

Phone: 01726 75858

Website: www.sandyhill.org.uk



Arbor



CLICK ICONS
FOR MORE INFO