



# Sandal Castle VA Community Primary School

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## Spring term 14th February

Date	Event	Time
3rd-5th March	Year 6 Residential	Monday to Wednesday
6th March	World Book Day	All day
20th March	Future in Mind Workshop	1st workshop is 9-10 am 2nd workshop is 2-3pm
24th March	4BJ Ukulele Concert	9am

## Attendance

Well done everyone!  
 Keep up the amazing achievement.

The winning class of this week's attendance challenge is 2JP with 100%

The whole school attendance is 91.8%

Thank you for your effort! Lets keep aiming for our whole school target of 96%

Class	%
2JP	100.0%
4RW	98.3%
1JT	98.0%
6SW	97.1%
6LG	97.0%
6RS	96.7%
3HF	95.7%
5HS	95.0%
FJW	93.8%
3EJ	93.3%
2AD	92.5%
5SH	92.5%
4BJ	91.7%
5JS	91.7%
2CW	89.2%
FDJ	89.1%
3RQ	88.3%
4JG	86.7%
1CS	83.9%
FKW	83.8%
1JS	79.3%

## Easter Egg Competition

We are holding our easter egg decorating competition. Your child is invited to work at home, to decorate a hard-boiled egg however they wish and bring it into school on 3rd April for an Egg-shibition! Winning entries will receive prizes. More information to follow.

## World Book Day

We invite you to attend school dressed as a character from a book! We would also appreciate you bringing your favourite book to school to share with your class.  
 6/3/25

## Easter Service

Our Easter Services at St. Helen's Church will be occurring on Tuesday 1st April. 9:30am Years 1/2, 11am- Years 3/4, 1:30pm- Years 5/6. We hope that you can join us to celebrate Easter!

## Inset Days

Remaining inset days 21st & 22nd July 2025  
 We can now confirm two of our INSET days for the next academic year: 1st September 2025 and 20th July 2026. We have two more INSET to place. Once we can confirm this, we will be back in touch!

## Traffic

Polite reminder, please do not move the cones that are put outside the gates in the morning and at the end of school. These are placed there to keep everyone safe.

In addition, when in a car children must be wearing a seat belt at all times.

## Activity Book

We're delighted to let you know that the latest Trans Pennine Trail Children's activity pack is now available to download free, from the Trans Pennine Trail website in time for the half term break. Download the activity book by clicking this link below.

<https://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/welcome-to-our-childrens-page/>

## Attendance

When reporting your child's absence, please select the absence option and leave a message. State your child's name, class and the reason for absence.

Thank you!

Safeguarding contact  
 For any safeguarding concerns please contact  
[legley@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:legley@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk)



## Arbor

We are aware of the issues we are having with the transfer over to Arbor and we appreciate your patience, while we consult with Arobor. Some parents have managed to access Arbor by entering their email and resetting the password. However, if this does not work please email [Office@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:Office@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk)

## Volunteers

We are requesting volunteers to help with our afterschool sports teams. Ideally we would need you to have a Coaching Qualification. Please email [Office@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:Office@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk) to express interest and for more information. Thank you in advance.



## Sandal Sunrise

Please can all parents using our wrap around care provision service, ensure that your children are booked on to guarantee their place. Unfortunately, if children are not booked on we may go over our staffing limit and be unable to accommodate your child. Sandal Sunrise can be booked on ParentPay up to 7am.

## Sandal Stars

Polite reminder to book your child into Sandal Stars before 2:00pm via ParentPay on the day required. If your child is collected after 3:20pm, there will be a £7.50 charge due to late collection. Please call school if you will be late collecting as teacher will need to be made aware.

A reminder of the wrap around care number for emergencies 0794 2276463.

## Ramadan

As our Muslim parents and children are aware, Ramadan starts at the beginning of March. Whilst we appreciate that it is a very exciting time for our children and their families, Wakefield Council guidance states that only children who have reached puberty should undertake fasting. Because of this, only children in Years 5 and 6 who have given written permission to Mrs Butterworth will be able to undertake the fasting. During the Holy month, our fasting children will be able to sit quietly during dinnertimes and pray if they require.

# Wall of fame!



James 5HS has done it again! Over the weekend, James won the BUII title at the English Junior Championships. We are very proud of James.

Sienna (3RQ) and Dana (3EJ) achieved gymnastics certificates this week. Sienna got her first certificate, Level 8, after only 5 weeks with the club & Dana got her Level 3 after working hard on her skills for 3 months. WELL DONE!!!

WELL DONE!

# OFSTED

As you are aware, the school was recently visited by HM Inspectors for Ofsted, in line with the expected inspection schedule, and the report has been published today. On behalf of the Governors I would like to share our reflections on that report and the schools development planning with you. ( <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/108270> )

Ofsted's process has recently changed and they no longer provide an overall rating for schools. Instead, they assess schools across five key areas with each being given a rating (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate) helping schools and parents understand their strengths and areas for improvement. As part of the process, the school also provides a self evaluation across these areas.

The inspection by Ofsted was a transparent and positive experience, and our school is recognised as being welcoming and friendly, where pupils feel happy and safe.

There is acknowledgement of the significant disruption and challenges that the school has faced in recent years and Ofsted commended the 'rapid and sustained changes' made by the new leadership team to identify and address areas for improvement.

Ofsted note that the recent improvements to the curriculum are having a positive impact and that, combined with the stability of the leadership team in place, pupils are already benefitting from the quality of education that they are now receiving.

The School's leadership and Ofsted both agree the improvements are recent / in early stages and as such, continuing the focus and embedding of these is needed, to ensure outcomes are secure and solid across the school.

We are reassured that the schools development plan is aligned to the findings and encouraged by the comments made by Ofsted, the recognition of the strength and effectiveness of the leadership team, and that the steps required to make improvements across the key areas have already begun, with progress noted.

Whilst many of you are already aware of the challenges/ context of the school and acknowledge the recent improvements, we appreciate you may have further questions, and we are keen to answer these as quickly and openly as we can. If you would like to email the Governing Body regarding any questions relating to the OfSTED report, please contact us here: [Email address here](#)

Finally, our Thanks to HM Inspectors for their considered and respectful visit, to the Staff, Children and You for the honest feedback and proudly showing the progress being made across school.

Building Strong Futures Together

Rowena White (Chair of Governors)

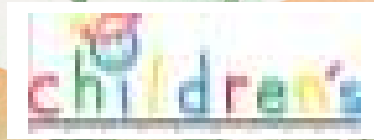
**NATIONAL  
COAL MINING  
MUSEUM**



**Sat 15 Feb -  
Sun 23 Feb**  
(closed Mon & Tue)

# February Half Term

Explore the power of nature this February Half Term with hands-on activities, spectacular science and so much more.



## What's On:

**Makers' Shed - Sat 15-Sun 16 February + Wed 19-Sun 23 February (11.30am-3.30pm) 4-12 yrs**

Get creative with free crafts - make a beautiful dragonfly or a flying canary! FREE, Drop-in

**Canary Capers Puppet Show**

**Sat 15-Sun 16 February & Thu 20-Sun 23 February, (11.30am-3pm)**

What has Sparky the Canary been up too? Find out about his capers in our shadow puppet show, a magical adventure for all ages. FREE, Drop-in

**Horsekeeper Talks - Sat 15-Sun 16 February + Wed 19-Sun 23 February, all ages**

Visit Eric, Ernie, Finn and Bud. Join us for our Horsekeeper talks at 12pm and see what they have to eat at 2.30pm. FREE

**Pithead Baths Explore - Sat 15-Sun 16 February + Wed 19-Sun 23 February (12pm) all ages**

Discover the daily routines of miners, from the start to the end of their day, in this fun family tour! FREE



## **Paddy Train (weather dependent)**

**£2.50 per person**

Travel to Hope Pit and to Caphouse Colliery on our Paddy Train.

**Guided Nature Tour - Wed 19 February (11.30am & 2pm) and Fri 21 February (11.30am & 2pm), £2.50 per family. Pre-bookable.**

Join us on a guided investigation of the Nature Trail, using scientific equipment from our new Nature Explorer Bags.

**Roots, Shoots, Buzzes and Hoots - Wed 19 & Fri 21 February, 11am to 3pm, FREE, Drop-in, suited to under 5s**

What's growing here in our outdoor spaces? Come and join in with stories of the plants and creatures that live in and around the Museum.

**Meet the Trees (Guided Walk) - Wed 19 February, 11am-12.30pm, FREE, Drop-in, suited for 5 years and over**

Join us for a relaxed guided walk through our Nature Trail. Discover different trees and get hands-on with nature.

**Spectacular Science - Thu 20 February, 11.30am, 1.30pm & 2.30pm, £10 per family, aimed at 7-12 years (younger siblings welcome). Pre-bookable.**

Join Amazelab for a fun and interactive science workshop to discover how mine water is cleaned naturally by our reed beds - and create a fabulous filter to take home.

**The Dirt in My Fingernails - Thu 20 February, 10.30am, 1pm & 2pm, £2.50 per child, aimed at 7-12 years (younger siblings welcome). Pre-bookable.**

Join Storytrails for an interactive storytelling performance exploring the strong bonds between mining communities, the natural world, and the old, deep stories within it.

**Little Wildlings Scavenger Hunt - Fri 21 February (10.30am-11.30am) Free, suited to under 5s**

Join us for a woodland adventure hunting for nature's treasures, and use your finds to create beautiful nature prints!

**Time Tunnel - Wed-Sun**

**£5.50 per child, £6.50 per adult**

Be transported through the centuries as you are taken through almost 200 years of mining history thanks to state-of-the-art technology. Book in advance via our website.



# WAKEFIELD CU LEARNING DESTINATIONS

This is a list of all of the current Learning Destinations validated by Wakefield CU. You can find a full list of National Learning Destinations on the Children's University Website [Childrensuniversity.co.uk](http://Childrensuniversity.co.uk). If a club or activity you attend is not validated, please direct the activity leader to [childrensuniversity.co.uk](http://childrensuniversity.co.uk) to sign up to be a Learning Destination. Visit our Facebook page for regular updates /WakefieldCU or email us if you have any questions [childrensuniveristy@heartofyorkshire.ac.uk](mailto:childrensuniveristy@heartofyorkshire.ac.uk)

## Arts, Culture & Music

- Jasmine Pottery Studios
- Rachel Byass Ceramics
- Riverside Paint a Pot
- Studio 64
- The Art House

## Galleries & Museums

- Castleford Museum
- National Coal Mining Museum
- Pontefract Museum
- The Hepworth Wakefield
- Wakefield Museum

## Family Learning

- LaserZone Castleford
- Open Hearts
- Supporting Wakefield Hospice
- Theatre Royal Wakefield
- Wakefield Libraries
- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

## Dance & Performing Arts

- Moorgate Dance Academy
- Razzamataz
- Rural Youth Theatre
- Samantha's School of dance
- Stagecoach Performing Arts - Pontefract, Garforth, Selby, Wetherby
- Sugar Kane's School of Dance
- The Melissa Radway
- School of Dance
- Victoria School of Dance
- Wakefield City
- Cheerleaders
- Yew Tree Youth Theatre
- 412 School of Performing Arts and Gymnastics
- Excel Theatre Arts
- Featherstone Rovers All Star Dance Academy
- Fibre Dance
- Hailey Black School of Dance
- JP Baker School of Dance @ Dance House
- LiquiDance School of Performing Arts
- Liz Youngs Dance Addix Love 2 Act
- Pauline Quirke Academy

## History & Heritage

- Wakefield Cathedral
- Pontefract Castle
- West Yorkshire History Centre
- Castleford Heritage Trust

## Uniformed Groups

- 15th Wakefield Scout Group
- 1st Ossett Rainbows
- 23rd Sandal Methodist scout group
- 37th Wakefield Rainbows
- Girlguiding Whitwood Division

# Wakefield & Selby CU February Challenge 2025

Recommend a new Learning Destination. Tell us why you would recommend them.

Research 2 cold weather animals and create a fact file telling us all about them.

Make a card or gift to give to someone special to you.

Take a look at 'Action to Happiness' Friendly February and do 5 days of happiness.

Do an 'all about me' poster telling us all about you, your likes and dislikes, interesting facts etc.

**EXERCISE**  
Get active and create a 5 minute workout or dance routine.

All activities completed will be awarded **1 Learning hour**.

Please send evidence of the completed activity to [childrensuniversity@heartofyorkshire.ac.uk](mailto:childrensuniversity@heartofyorkshire.ac.uk)  
A code for your online account will be sent to you **after** the deadline date of **28th February 2025**

Don't forget to let us know if we can post your pictures on our Facebook pages..

***/CUatWakefieldCollege & /CUatSelbyCollege***





The winners are:



1<sup>st</sup> place: Year 4

2<sup>nd</sup> place: 2AD

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Year 6



Let the battles  
commence!



New battles begin today at 3:15pm

Who will you be battling?





**Battle 1: 1CS, 1JS, 1JT**

**Battle 2: All classes from  
Years 2 to 6!**

The winning classes will be announced after half term.