



Sandal Castle VA
Community Primary School

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15th May 2026
Summer Term



Please Read!

A polite reminder that it is illegal to park in resident's driveways. Please park respectfully by using the free parking at West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club on Sandal Hall Close.

Attendance

Well done everyone!
Keep up the amazing achievement.




The winning class of this week's attendance challenge is 2DJ and 6SW with 100%

The whole school attendance is 95.48%

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

Class	%
2DJ	100.0%
6SW	100.0%
1CLW	99.1%
6HY	98.8%
1JS	98.7%
4RQ	98.3%
FJP	97.2%
5SH	97.1%
5JG	96.7%
6LG	96.6%
2CW	96.1%
3SJ	95.8%
4AD	95.5%
2TD	95.2%
5GS	94.2%
FKW	93.3%
3BJ	92.9%
3RW	92.2%
1JT	91.1%
4RH	91.1%
FJW	91.0%

Dates For Diary

20 th May 2026	FJP Class assembly 9am
22 nd May 2026	Last day of half term
1 st June 2026	Back to School!
2 nd June 2026	FIM Workshop
2 nd or 3 rd June 2026	Year 5 visit Nell Bank
9 th & 10 th June 2026	Book fair- details below 
23 rd & 24 th June 2026	EYFS Swithens Farm
24 th June 2026	 PTA event- Summer Fayre
6 th July 2026	4AD Ukulele concert
8 th July 2026	Year 3 Magna Visit
15 th July 2026	Bridlington Year 6 
20 th July 2026	Inset Day
1 st September 2026	Inset Day

Yellow

99%/ 100% this is outstanding

Green

97%/ 98% is good

Amber

95% to 96% this is expected

Purple

93%/ 94% requires improvement- attendance officer involvement

Red

91%/ 92% level 1 cause for concern- EWO involvement

EYFS Outdoor Classroom

Please can we remind all families that the EYFS outdoor classroom is not to be used at the end of the day.

We have had equipment damaged, areas set up for the next day disturbed, and some children have been hurt.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe and our environment ready for learning.

well★done

Well done to Year 6 for completing their SATs – we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them!

Safeguarding contact
For any safeguarding concerns
please contact
legley@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk



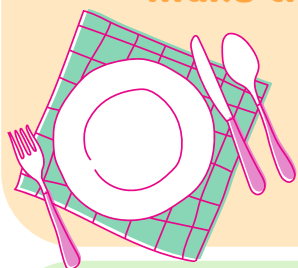
Dinner Debate

This week in Collective Worship we have been thinking about the beauty of poems, songs and music. We have been thinking about the way in which music creates different emotions in us. Sometimes these songs make us question ourselves and the world around us.

Our Big Questions for this week have been:

Why do you think humans are made to be curious?

How can asking questions help make the world fairer?



'Legging it For the Library Fun Run'

Adarsh took part in a race to help raise funds for Walton Community Library. We are so proud!



Future in Mind Parent Workshop:

Future in Mind Parent Workshop: Next Steps- transitions and emotional wellbeing Tuesday 2nd June at 9am

Year 6 parents are welcome to join us in school on Tuesday 2nd June at 9am for a workshop where you can learn about the impact of change on your child and common worries around moving from primary to secondary school. You can also gain tips on how you can support your child through this transition. We looking forward to seeing you.

Stay & Play for children aged between 0-3 years.

Looking for a warm, welcoming space to connect, play and support your child's early development? Our Stay & Play sessions are designed especially for children aged 0-3 and their grown-ups

Rooted in the Early Years Foundation Stage each session gently supports your child's wellbeing through:

👤 Personal, Social & Emotional Development – building confidence, forming secure relationships, and feeling safe to explore

🗣️ Communication & Language – songs, stories, and meaningful interactions that encourage early speech and listening skills

👣 Physical Development – opportunities to move, explore, and strengthen bodies through play

We create a calm, nurturing environment where children can explore at their own pace, and caregivers can connect and share experiences with others in the community.

Whether it's sensory play, singing together, or simply enjoying time side by side, our sessions are all about supporting happy, healthy beginnings 🌈

Come along, make memories, and be part of something special ✨

We can't wait to welcome you!

STAY & PLAY
Stay, Play, Explore, Make Friends!

We are starting our own Stay & Play sessions at both schools aimed at children from 0-3 years, in the hope of meeting new children & families & supporting those families who need it.

THE CASTLE NURSERY SCHOOL
Barnsley Road,
Wakefield, WF1 5NU
EVERY WEDNESDAY
am 9.15-10.15
in the Annexe

CRIGGLESTONE NURSERY SCHOOL
High Street,
Crigglistone, WF4 3EB
EVERY FRIDAY
am 9.15-10.15
in the Sunshine Room

If you know of any families who would benefit from these sessions please let them know.

SESSIONS ARE **FREE** AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED



SANDAL BOOK FAIR

TUESDAY 9th & WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE
3:15pm - 4:00pm

Join us for our Sandal Book Fair and discover a world of stories waiting to be explored! The fair will be held just outside the main entrance area. There will be a fantastic selection of books for all ages and interests, so don't miss the chance to find your next great read.

Best of all, the funds raised will go towards improving and updating our school Dyslexia Library provision with new, engaging books. We look forward to seeing you there!

ANY UNWANTED BOOK DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE MAIN RECEPTION - THANK YOU!

A vibrant, 3D-style poster for a 'Summer Attendance Challenge'. The background is a bright yellow banner on a light blue sky. At the top left is a large, smiling sun with a yellow face and rays. To its right are several fluffy white clouds. In the center, the words 'SUMMER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE' are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, curving across the banner. Below the title, the challenge details are written in smaller, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters: 'ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY FROM MONDAY 27 APRIL TO FRIDAY 10 JULY TO EARN YOURSELF A PLACE IN OUR SUMMER ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION MORNING'. To the left of the text is a yellow megaphone. To the right is a pink and white ice cream bar. Below the text is a blue toy car with a pink ice cream cone on its roof. To the right of the text is a green and yellow slide. At the bottom of the poster is a row of green leaves and several white daisies with orange centers.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY
FROM MONDAY 27 APRIL TO
FRIDAY 10 JULY TO EARN
YOURSELF A PLACE IN OUR
SUMMER ATTENDANCE
CELEBRATION MORNING

SEND COFFEE & CHAT SESSIONS

Sandal Castle Community Primary School

Supporting SEND Parent Carers & School

♥ Support – A safe space for parent carers to share experiences and get advice.

♥ Connect – Build relationships with other parent carers, school staff and WPCF.

♥ Empower – Gain access to resources, guest speakers, and SEND guidance.

♥ Co-production – Strengthen home-school partnerships = better outcomes for children.



Join our SEND Coffee & Chat Sessions 9am - 10am

Thursday 29 January 2026

Thursday 19 March 2026

Friday 8 May 2026

Thursday 2 July 2026

Stanley Family Hub
Thursday 26th February
&
Wednesday 13th May
9AM to 11AM



SEND Parents and Carers Drop-in Stanley Family Hub

Are you a parent or carer of a child with SEND?
Drop in at your local family hub

We offer a supportive environment for parents or carers of SEND children to relax and talk with others. There will be information regarding local services and advice on how to support your child. Sessions can be tailored to people's needs in the group and are run monthly at hubs across our district.

Free tea, coffee, and biscuits provided. Free parking.

Please contact Stanley Family Hub 01924 303181 for more information.





★🌈 Everyone Welcome!!! 🍷 Please join us for Family Aspirations and Warm Space!!!! 🥰🎉🌟

Every Monday at Castle Family Hub 3:30pm to 4:30pm (Term time only). This is free of charge and everyone is welcome, where you and your children can gather for free in a warm, safe, and welcoming place. Our address is: Castle Family Hub, 255 Barnsley Road, Wakefield WF1 5NU. For more information, please call us on 01924 303376.



You'll be invited to enjoy a snack and soft drinks, and take part in planned activities. If you are not registered with

us already, please register with us when you arrive. It's free of charge!!! 🥰 We hope to see you then!!! 🥰🎉

#castlefamilyhub #WakefieldFamiliesTogether 🥰



Wakefield Parent Education Hub

What is it?

A new, easy-to-use website has launched in Wakefield, giving families clear information, practical tools and helpful resources to support their child's health, development and learning.

Who is it for?

The website is for all Wakefield families, including families who home educate and those with children who have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). The website can help support children and young people from birth up to 19 years old (or up to 25 years old for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan).

Why is it useful?

Created with local parents and partners, it brings trusted local and national guidance together in one place to help every child thrive.

What you'll find on the website:

Clear, easy-to-follow information on **health, safety and wellbeing** topics



Activities and resources to help build **resilience and confidence**



Easy-to-understand information and tips for talking about different topics at home



Practical advice and ideas to support with **feelings and emotions**



Speech, language and communication advice and support for under 5yrs.



Links to trusted local and national support



Scan the **QR code** to go to the **website!**
<https://www.riskandresilience.org.uk/>

May Half Term

23 May - 31 May (closed Mon & Tue)
Free Entry

Experience an action-packed May Half Term, perfect for a family adventure!

Discover incredible hands-on activities, brass band performances, pit village pastimes and so much more.

Craft your own beautiful kite, paint a colourful character, pick up a nature trail backpack, take an immersive Time Tunnel tour, and celebrate the spring season with a woodland scavenger hunt.

Find out more at: ncm.org.uk/MayHalfTerm

The Beach is open this May Half Term!
(if the sun is shining)



Bold as Brass

Saturday 23 May, 10am-3.30pm, free entry

Join us for Bold as Brass, our annual brass bands event with a wonderful day of music and entertainment, in partnership with Brass Bands England.

Makers' Shed - Wed-Sun (11.30am-3.30pm) 4-12 yrs

Step into the streets of Tom McGuinness paintings and make games inspired by pit village pastimes. FREE, Drop-in

Life in the Pit Village: Wartime Stories - Daily, (11.30am-3pm)

Travel back to the 1940s and uncover what life was really like in the Pit Village through family-friendly storytelling. FREE, Drop-in

Pithead Baths Explore - Wed-Sun (12pm) all ages

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

Spring Scavenger Hunts - Wed 27-Fri 29 May (10.30am-11.30am)

Join us for a woodland adventure hunting for nature's treasures. Perfect for Under 5s!

Kite Making Family Workshop - Wed 27, Thu 28 and Fri 29 May, 11am-12.30pm

Celebrate the joy of spring and craft your own beautiful kite using wood, fabric, and ribbon. Build it, decorate it, and watch your creation soar against the spring sky.

Horsekeeper Talks - Wed-Sun, all ages

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

Paint, Patterns and People Family Workshop - Wed 27 & Sat 30

May, 1.30pm-2.30pm & 2.30pm-3.30pm, £2.50 per family
Join artists Lenny and Whale for this fun painting workshop. Create your own colourful character to add to our sculptural village that will be exhibited at the Museum in October 2026.

Minecraft-inspired Escape Room in a Box, Thu 28 May, 10.30am and 1pm, £15 per family

Test your skills to crack the code! Work as a team, solve clues, and see if you can problem-solve your way to victory before time runs out!

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.



Building Strong Futures Together

Our OPAL launch! (Outdoor Play and Learning)



We are delighted to share our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) program, which will be launched shortly after the holidays! Please click onto this link for more information: <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

Why change our current lunchtime provision?

We have spoken to our School Council representatives and lots of our parents who feel that our current lunchtime model isn't the best that it can be. In the wet months we struggle with 630 children on our small tarmacked area which causes accidents and poor behaviour choices through boredom and lack of space.

Introducing OPAL:

OPAL is a nationally recognized program of improving outdoor play- particularly over the most unstructured parts of the school playtimes and lunchtimes. Our children are encouraged to use all of the outdoor spaces (including the field in the winter), to be active, have fun and explore!

What kinds of things will our children be doing?

- ✓ Sandpit
- ✓ Stage for dancing/acting/performing
- ✓ Digging area
- ✓ Tree swings and rope slides
- ✓ Football pitch
- ✓ Scooter area
- ✓ Gymnastic bars
- ✓ Plus more coming (TBC)

Every week, our children will be nominated to receive certificates and the very prestigious award; The Golden Welly! 😊



Scooters

We will be creating a rota for scooters, to encourage our children to bring them in to play on, on certain days. Watch this space...



How will our children learn about OPAL?

We will be holding regular OPAL assemblies to share information such as safe play, and to share child friendly risk assessments as necessary.

Is there any element of risk?

Our staff have all received training in the OPAL philosophy. During this training we have been trained in the risk/benefit model. Our children will receive regular assemblies to train them in how to enjoy safe risk.

As our children become more practiced at play, they will be carefully taught to undertake more riskier play (such as tree climbing). Risk assessments will be completed, and you will be informed, as we get to this point! 😊



How will I be kept informed?

After the holidays, we will be including an OPAL box as a standing item on our weekly newsletter. This will inform you of our weekly certificate winners, plus any OPAL updates or requests. We will often be needing some donations or support from local companies, so please keep an eye out for this! 😊

What about clothing?

Our children will be encouraged to use our field- all year round. This does mean that during the winter months we will be encouraging or children to bring wellies to school and waterproof clothing. Our children will be encouraged to change their footwear and put on their waterproof clothing during the cold and wet months.



What about Children with Additional Needs?

Our staff will support children who have additional needs to be able to access our OPAL program. Reasonable adjustments will be made to support these children, including 1:1 adult support where appropriate.