



Sandal Castle VA
Community Primary School

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Dates For Diary

17th July 2026	At 3:15pm we break up for the Summer Holidays (Sandal Stars will run till 6pm as normal)
20th July 2026	Inset Day
1st September 2026	Inset Day
2nd September 2026	Back To School!



Have a wonderful Summer Holiday!



As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, we would like to wish all of our Year 6 leavers the very best as they begin their next chapter at high school. They have been an amazing group of children, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. We know they will go on to do fantastic things, and we wish them every success for the future.

We would also like to wish all of our children and families a happy, safe and relaxing summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and are especially excited to meet our new Foundation children as they begin their journey with us.

Have a wonderful summer, and we will see you all in September!

Attendance

Well done everyone!
Keep up the amazing achievement.

The winning class of this is 3SJ and 2DJ with 99.0%

The whole school attendance 93.45%

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

Class	%
3SJ	99.0%
2DJ	99.0%
1JS	98.3%
5GS	97.5%
1CLW	97.3%
6LG	97.0%
4RQ	96.5%
2CW	96.2%
3RW	95.8%
FJP	95.1%
5JG	94.8%
4RH	94.2%
5SH	93.7%
FKW	93.4%
1JT	92.8%
FJW	92.5%
2TD	92.3%
6HY	90.0%
3BJ	89.6%
4AD	88.8%
6SW	87.4%

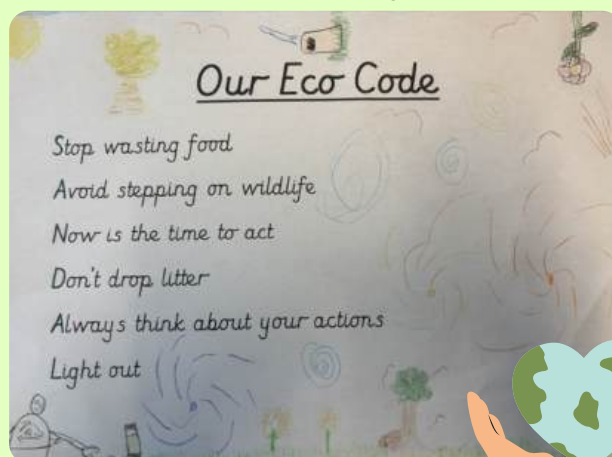
Earrings



As we have now began our summer holidays, please can we remind parents to book in ear piercing for the very first week of the holidays, to allow their child to have the six weeks for their ears to heal. Unfortunately, due to health and safety, Wakefield Council policy is that children cannot take part in PE lessons with earrings in- this includes the wearing of plasters to cover ears. It is a legal requirement that our children access two hours of PE every week whilst at school. Thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding with this.

Our Eco Code

Our Eco Warriors have met to create their new Eco Code that we will be aiming to follow within our school. We hope you agree and help us to take action and make a change!



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

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



Dinner Debate

This week we have been talking about how to embrace change. We recognise that change can be scary and exciting- all at the same time! It is important to be thankful for the past and hopeful for the future. Our Big Questions for this week have been:

What are you excited about when you move on?
What would you like to take with you from this year?

Summer Activity Pack

We're delighted to share our new Kids Summer Activity Pack, bursting with fun, family-friendly activities to help children stay active, creative and connected with nature during the summer holidays.

Featuring Mandy Mole, Hannah the Horse, Bob the Badger and their friends, the pack includes outdoor challenges, crafts, puzzles, colouring activities, a short adventure story and plenty of opportunities for children to explore the natural world while having fun. Suitable for Key Stage 1 and 2 children, the free pack can be downloaded to a mobile device or printed at home, making it perfect for families at home, in the garden, at the park or out on the Trans Pennine Trail. We would be grateful if you could share it with parents and carers through your newsletters, websites or social media channels.

The activity pack can be downloaded from our Children's Page, at:
<https://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/childrens-page/>



OPAL

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, the OPAL team would like to say a huge thank you to all of our children, families and staff for their support. The launch of OPAL has been an incredible success, and it has been wonderful to see the children embracing new opportunities to play, explore, create and build friendships outdoors. We have loved watching their confidence, imagination and teamwork grow, and we are so proud of how they have embodied our school values throughout the year.

As we look ahead to September, we're excited to continue developing our outdoor play provision. Once the weather begins to cool and the field becomes part of our daily play space, we encourage all children to bring a change of old footwear to school. Old trainers, football boots or wellies are ideal, as the field will be accessed throughout the year.

Thank you once again for helping to make our first year of OPAL such a memorable one. We hope you all have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer, and we look forward to another exciting year of play in September!

Please Read!



Please remember to contact the school office whenever your child is absent, has a medical or other appointment, or will be arriving late or leaving school early. We also ask that you provide proof of any appointments where possible.

You can notify us by visiting the office during the school day or by emailing
office@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk.

As you can appreciate, messages passed to teachers at the classroom door may not always reach the office in time. It is therefore essential that the office is informed directly whenever a child is leaving school during the day, so that we know when they are leaving and the reason for their absence.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us keep our attendance records accurate and ensure the safety of all pupils.

Well Done Jack!

We are delighted to share that Jack achieved his Red Belt Yellow Stripe in kickboxing on Saturday. Despite taking part during the current heatwave, he showed fantastic determination, confidently demonstrating his techniques and excellent listening skills throughout. We are incredibly proud of his hard work, resilience and positive attitude. Well done, Jack, on this wonderful achievement!



An End of Year Message from Our Governors

As we reach the end of the school year, we wanted to take the opportunity to recognise the continued efforts and progress the school is making, and say a huge thank you to parents, carers, and staff for your support. You all play an integral role as the school continues to strengthen academically and spiritually, underpinned by our values and centred around building strong futures together.

Celebrating Enrichment & Leadership

We have always been proud of the great enrichment opportunities for children at Sandal Castle. We recognise the integral role this plays in nurturing children's creativity, exploration, and confidence, widening their opportunities for development alongside the core curriculum. This has certainly continued across the year through languages, music, history, art, Forest School, residential, school trips, and a multitude of sports clubs.

Some key celebrations from this year include:

Football Success: Our Year 5/6 football team achieved plenty of match wins!

Language Champions: We have a Year 4 Lingotots Language Bee winner!

Musical Milestones: We enjoyed a very musical year filled with Rocksteady concerts, musical extravaganzas and young voices.

PTA & School Fund: The PTA hosted a series of fantastic events and fundraisers, bringing in a record profit at the Summer Fayre.

OPAL Introduction: We introduced OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) at lunchtime, which our children are absolutely loving!

Excellent Attendance: It has been great to see the children care so passionately about good attendance each week (even if it is ultimately just to see Mrs Butterworth & Mr McFarlane dance!).

Young Leaders: Children across all year groups actively engaged with opportunities to be young leaders, serving across various ambassador roles and the Junior Leadership Team.

Sandal Sharks Swim Squad: Our swim squad continues to enjoy fantastic accolades, recently beating all local teams in various swim competitions and galas, as well as making it to the National Championships in June—well done!

Celebrating Success

This has all been underpinned by a continued focus and progress in key curriculum areas, which has shown through in some great results. We have achieved our highest scores for several years in our EYFS and Year 1 cohorts:

Reception Progress: Our highest score yet for children reaching the expected level of development at 77%, surpassing the UK government's long-term target of 75% set for 2028.

Phonics Results: Our highest score for Year 1 phonics- reaching 85%, which is above the national baseline and sets them up well for the rest of their school journey.

Year 6 SATs: We saw a significant step forward in our Year 6 SATs results, demonstrating the incredible hard work put in by the children and staff this year. Well done!

Investing in Our School

I'm sure you've noticed the scheme of continued investment and improvements across the school premises. Notable upgrades include the outdoor learning and play area in EYFS, the new astro turf and trim trail, and ongoing redecoration and new flooring throughout the school.

Looking ahead, we will continue to invest in tech-enabled provision, with wider access to interactive whiteboards and laptops coming next academic year.

Fond Farewells & Looking Ahead

We send our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes to Mrs Smith, who is retiring today after 20 years of dedicated service working across Castle Grove and Sandal Castle. Many of you know she has been a very passionate advocate for reading, leaving behind a legacy of a true joy for reading in many children. You will be greatly missed!

Our final goodbye goes to our Year 6 leavers. We wish you much happiness and success in your next school phase. For those of you returning, we are looking forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year!

Shape Our School Community

The school will continue to try new ideas to deliver progress across the curriculum, behaviour, attendance, and extra-curricular enrichment, and we truly appreciate your support at home. As a governing body, we care very much about the progress and experience within the school, and we value your feedback. Please continue to share your thoughts with us, whether it is through our surveys or directly to the school.

If you would like to get involved and shape our school's future, we would love to welcome you into the PTA or as a Parent Governor. Please contact the school office to find out more!

Thanks again for your support. Please enjoy the summer!
Rowena & The Governing Body



Well done everyone who
completed our Summer
challenge!



To celebrate their fantastic commitment
and excellent attendance from the 27th
of April to the 14th of July, the children
had lots of fun on the bouncy castle and
enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat.



100%

**Treat for the children
that attended
everyday for a whole
year!**



WOW



WELL DONE!



COME ^{To} SCHOOL



EVERY DAY!



SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT!

School helps you learn, have fun, and make friends.



WHEN SHOULD I COME TO SCHOOL?

- Every day when I am well
- Even if I feel a little tired or a little unwell



BE ON TIME!

- Doors open at 8:45 AM
- Learning starts at 9:00 AM
- Being on time helps you feel ready and calm. 



WHEN CAN I STAY HOME?

- If I am poorly



HOLIDAYS

- Holidays are for school holidays
- We don't usually go on holiday during school time

WE LOVE GOOD ATTENDANCE!

You can earn:

- ★ Certificates
- ★ Class Prizes
- ★ Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards



NEED HELP?

If something is worrying you:
Talk to your teacher
Talk to a grown-up
We are here to help 

EVERY DAY MATTERS!

WE ARE HAPPY WHEN YOU ARE HERE 



A vibrant, cartoon-style poster for a 'Summer Attendance Challenge'. The background is a bright yellow rectangle with a subtle grid pattern, set against a light blue sky. At the top left is a large, 3D-style yellow sun with a smiling face. To its right are two fluffy white clouds. On the left side, there's an orange megaphone. On the right side, there's a pink and white ice cream bar. At the bottom left, a small blue car with a pink ice cream cone on its roof is driving. At the bottom right, there's a green and yellow slide. The bottom of the poster is decorated with green grass and several white daisies with orange centers. The title 'SUMMER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters, arched across the top half of the yellow rectangle. Below the title, the challenge details are written in smaller, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

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

**NATIONAL
COAL MINING
MUSEUM**

Wakefield, Yorkshire, WF4 4RH
Open Wednesday–Sunday

ncm.org.uk

Your six-week summer adventure starts here!

SUMMER TIME

at the *Coal Mine*

£10 per car (£7.50 early
bird until Sat 11 July)

Join us from **Saturday 18 July** until **Sunday 30 August**
for a holiday themed summer of family fun.

Get ready for weeks of amazing entertainment with interactive family shows, hands-on craft workshops, pop-up beach with music, and classic giant holiday games, special events, creative trails, pony feeding and pony keeper talks plus much, much more.

It doesn't matter if it's a traditional soggy British summer or the sun is shining all through the holidays, come and see us for a full day out like no other!

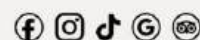


Scan here
to plan your
visit, or go to
ncm.org.uk

Our summer offer is great value for families; just £10 per car, including all of our amazing activities and unlimited Paddy Train rides for everyone (usually £2.50 per person) – weather permitting.

Some workshops and tours carry an additional charge and can be booked online in advance.

Share your
experience
#NCMME



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.

Makers' Shed – Wed–Sun, 11am–4pm, free as part of the summer offer, drop-in

Join us for free crafts inspired by the work of Jason Wilsher-Mills and miners welfare trips to the seaside from a bygone era.

Science Show – Wed–Sun, free as part of the summer offer, drop-in

Step from light into darkness in this explosive, interactive science show packed with fascinating facts, dazzling demonstrations, and encounters with historical characters.

Nature Crafts: Family Workshop – Wed 29–Fri 31 July & Wed 5–Fri 7 Aug: 11am–12.30pm, £10 per family

Head out onto the Museum's Nature Trail for a hands-on craft adventure, and get close to nature by making sun prints, hammer-printing organic materials onto textiles. Forage the forest floor to create beautiful clay tiles to hide in the trees.

Yorkshire Day – Sat 1 August, 10am–5pm, free as part of the summer offer

Join us for a grand gala family fun extravaganza in the proper Yorkshire way, inspired by the vibrant Miners' welfare galas of years past. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and experiences of real coalfield celebration.

Wind in the Willows: Outdoor Theatre Performance – Saturday 15 August, 12pm, free as part of the summer offer

Noisy Cow Theatre Co invites you to leave the modern world behind and join Mole, Ratty, and the formidable Badger on Kenneth Grahame's classic adventure that has captivated hearts for over a century.

The Caphouse Brick Show – Sunday 23 August, £4 early bird / £5 on the day, pre-bookable

Get ready to unleash your imagination and join the building fun – a fun day out for fans of all ages! See LEGO brick-built masterpieces across a wide variety of themes and enjoy hands-on fun in a building zone.

Shrinking Pin Badges: Family Workshop – Wed 19–Fri 21 & Wed 26–Fri 28 Aug: 11am and 12.30pm, £10 per family, pre-bookable

Join us for a crazy colourful workshop, inspired by the vibrant storytelling tapestries of Jason Wilsher-Mills. Create your own pin badge that tells a story using Jason's playful emblems, then watch it magically shrink before your eyes with heat.

Discover all of our incredible summer activities: ncm.org.uk/summer



Wakefield Future in Mind Mental Health Support Team - Family Newsletter

Welcome to our latest newsletter, the Summer holidays are just round the corner. We wanted to share with you some updates and helpful information.



Moodboosters Resilience School Sessions

Future in Mind Mental Health Support Team Practitioners Laura, Education Mental Health Practitioner (EHMP) and Charlotte, Associate Practitioner, have just finished doing the Year 3 Moodboosters programme on resilience at Altofts Junior School and they and the children really enjoyed these.

Laura told us "We did one session a week over three weeks. The children learnt about the importance of exercise, sleep, helpful foods/drinks and the importance of connectivity on their mental health. At the end of the sessions, they created their own resilience toolkit which included all sorts of things they were each going to try. The staff and children were amazing and made us feel so welcome."

The class teacher said "The lessons were clearly explained, and Laura and Charlotte were supportive and the topics engaging. The children looked forward to them every week and could record previous lessons." Watch out for Moodboosters sessions coming to a school near you!

Wakefield College Careers Fair



Practitioners Liana, Education Mental Health Practitioner (EHMP) and Beth, Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner (TEMHP), Future in Mind Mental Health Support Team attended Wakefield College's careers fair.

Here's what Liana and Beth told us
"It was a pleasure to attend Wakefield College's careers fair, specifically for their Health and Social Care students. It provided students with the opportunity to question myself and Beth about our role as Education Mental Health Practitioners. We also discussed the wider job opportunities throughout the NHS, from midwifery to art therapy".

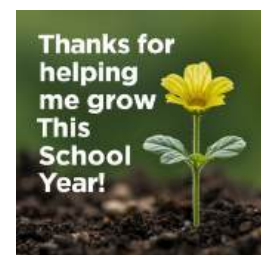
"The students approached us with drive, enthusiasm and a genuine interest for developing their understanding of future opportunities available to them. It was fantastic to share information and answer their well-considered questions". A huge thanks to Wakefield College staff for inviting us to share the vast array of NHS jobs, not only in the Mental Health Support Team, but also within the wider NHS.

Thank You to School Staff

We receive lots of lovely feedback from parents, carers, children and young people about the work that we do at Future in Mind MHST.

We also hear from staff members in schools about how well we support them. It's important to remember that when education staff are looked after too, they are better able to support their students.

How about at the end of this summer term, asking your child which adult in school they really appreciate and why? This might be their class teacher, learning mentor, lunchtime supervisor or the caretaker, and then let them know just how appreciated they are! We are sure it will put a big smile on their faces.



Future in Mind MHST

Supporting The Clothing Bank



Over the past few years as a team we have been been supporting The Clothing Bank.

We make regular donations of pre loved clothing through out the year to help support against clothing poverty.

Nic, our team Project Manager is currently collecting our teams generous donations and will be heading to The Clothing Bank HQ to drop it off in the coming weeks.

The mission of The Clothing Bank is to tackle the UK's clothing poverty by providing good quality clothing to those struggling to afford it. This mission is driven by the values of listening, caring, and behaving in down-to-earth yet professional manner.

Our contributions will go a long way!

When we contribute to The Clothing Bank, whether it be through donating, volunteering or just simply following on social media, you're guaranteed to have made a difference.

If you would like to know more you can visit their website ~~The Clothing Bank~~ or social media pages. You'll find out how to donate, sponsor, volunteer or access support. You can also find local donation stations.



Wakefield Happy Healthy Holidays

WF Happy Healthy Holidays (HHH) aims to keep children and young people active during the School Holidays by providing free activities and healthy food. WF Happy Healthy Holidays is for school age children (Reception to year 11) who receive income-related free school meals. For more information about the amazing activities going on throughout the summer with HHH and to book your place ~~Eegu After school. In place of school. Beyond school.~~



Lumi Nova: Helping young people manage their worries

WHAT IS LUMI NOVA?

Lumi Nova is an intergalactic adventure game to support young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, customising characters and earning treasure your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

Watch this short animated video to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmgrU4zXU3M>



To find out more visit ~~luminova.app~~ or join a ~~Parent Information Webinar.~~

Over the Summer there are lots of great opportunities for children, young people and families in the Wakefield district, take a look at a few of them here...

Creativity s'cool 2026



summer s'cool is back with an even bigger and more exciting programme for young people from parents and carers who may have concerns regarding living in Wakefield district (8-12yrs). This year's

programme is packed with opportunities to experiment, explore and let imaginations run wild with workshops in performance poetry, experimental printmaking and The Rap School. transition. We aim to listen to worries and suggest possible support and provide impartial advice.

Digital Explorers (12-25yrs), our dedicated SEND programme, allows young people to lead the creative process. Expect a mix of hands-on making with digital creativity, from clay, painting and drawing through to directing their own films.

Creativity s'cool for teenagers (13-17yrs) offers two specialist Skills Weeks focusing on Film and Fashion & Textiles, alongside a skills day I Can Be...A Designer! These experiences provide an exciting introduction into career pathways and a real taste of working in the creative industries.

These activities will be live in the next few weeks! To find out more visit: ~~summer s'cool~~ ~~What's Happening - Creative Wakefield~~

Things to Do

The summer holidays are a great opportunity to engage children in activities that promote mental health and wellbeing. Here are some free activities to consider:

- Mindful colouring - Helps with focus and to appreciate their surroundings
- Nature based activities - bushcraft days, wildlife gardening nature scavenger hunts, woodland walks to build physical confidence and time together
- Community events - meet new people and make new friends

We've included some great ideas for top 20 free and low cost days out

You can also find great things to see and do at <https://yorkshiretots.com/>



Educational Improvement Teacher (EIT)
Return to School Helpline

The EITs will be available over the summer to take calls from parents and carers who may have concerns regarding their child / young person's return to school in September.

The telephone helpline can support parent / carer worries in relation to attendance, behaviour, anxiety, SEND or

transition. We aim to listen to worries and suggest possible support and provide impartial advice.

"Return to school helpline"

Do you have worries about your child's return to school in September?

(e.g. Attendance, Behaviour, Anxiety, SEND, Transition)

Would you like strategies that you could try to help your child?

Would you like to speak to somebody and get advice on what could be done to help?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above, then the "Return to school helpline" service is available for parents and carers throughout August and September.

We have Educational Improvement Teachers (EITs) available to take your call to listen to your worries, suggest possible support and provide impartial advice.

The EITs are available to take your telephone call on the following dates:

Wednesday 5 th August 2026	10am – 4.00pm
Wednesday 12 th August 2026	
Wednesday 19 th August 2026	
Wednesday 26 th August 2026	
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	
Wednesday 9 th September 2026	
Wednesday 16 th September 2026	
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	



Please call the Educational Psychology Service on **01924 307403** and ask to speak to an EIT.



Hopefully through the summer you will have chance to slow down a little and enjoy some family time
Here's a few ideas our team enjoy doing to help them relax, de-stress and take a moment for self-care.
(with our playful heads on)

"A game of swing ball with the kids –
Can't beat hitting the ball, Winter –
Definitely walking in the crunchy
leaves, always a go to – pounding
the pavement to walk it off."
(Leanne)

"Making Daisy Chains, Blowing
dandelion clocks, Wild swimming"
(Tracey)

"My favourite way of de-stressing
involves nature especially relaxing
by the sea or in the garden listening
to nature - so peaceful and
beautiful" (Donna)

"I like to destress by being creative,
so drawing, painting, making things"
(Helena)

"Karaoke in the car, dancing in the
kitchen or wild swimming" (Laura)

"Spending time in nature with family
and our dog. Whether that's
listening to the birds sing and the
leaves blow in the woodlands, or the
sound of the waves crashing at the
beach" (Nic)

"Throughout the day, I enjoy
curating my A-Z Glimmer collection.
Glimmers are moments when I feel
touched by the world and its
positive people- those special
moments that make me pause and
appreciate the simple, wonderful
things that bring a smile to my face.
This might include taking a photo or
sharing one, hearing a new (or old)
song that will be added to the Joyful
July collaborative playlist on Spotify.
(Karen M)

What can I do in a mental health crisis?



If you already get mental health support from the NHS or another organisation, please contact the service that helps you



Book an emergency appointment with your GP practice. Outside of normal hours you can still phone your GP, but you will usually be sent to an out-of-hours service



Contact Night OWLS (West Yorkshire only). Call free on 0300 2003900, text on 07984 392700 or chat online:
www.wynightowls.org.uk from 8pm–8am every day



Call NHS 111, a 24-hour helpline for help and advice



If you don't currently use mental health services, you can contact Single Point of Access (SPA) teams:

Wakefield: **01924 316200** Barnsley: **01226 644829** Calderdale: **01422 300001** Kirklees: **0300 304 5555**

“Return to school helpline”

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