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Weekly Newsletter: wb 26th January 2026

Sheffield Young Artist Competition – message from Mrs Coulson

We are once again taking part in the amazing Sheffield Young Artist competition and exhibition. This is your chance to have your art work displayed for the general public to see as all entries that are selected to represent our school will be displayed. You may even win one of the categories! In the 2021 competition, our very own Orla Clay won a runner's up place in the mixed media category (KS2). In the 2022 competition, Florence Moody won the painting category for KS2 (there were over 700 entries!) and she was presented the winning silver salver by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield. Will this year be your turn? There is no theme for the entries this year so let your imagination run wild.

All entries to be handed to Mrs Coulson by **FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY**. Entries must be no larger than A4 and unmounted. I look forward to seeing your fabulous artwork.

Attendance, persistent absence and holiday fines

Our attendance for the year-to-date is currently 94.3%. Although this doesn't sound too bad, it is below the average for our Locality and some way short of our target for the year (95.7%). Meanwhile, we have more children than usual who are classed as 'persistent absentees' by the Local Authority (attendance < 90%). Whilst we appreciate that people get ill and some absences cannot be avoided, I will be monitoring this closely and would like to see this improve over the Spring term. There is very clear evidence about the link between attendance and academic achievement – children who miss school are less likely to achieve their potential. Linked to this, we lost a total of **102 days'** worth of learning due to holidays taken in the Autumn term. For your information, I have attached a copy of the most up-to-date guidance on holiday fines. Note: they are per parent, per child – so a family with 2 parents and 3 children would receive a total of 6 fines!

HAF (Holiday Activities with Food)

Following on from my note on last week's newsletter, the full 'Holiday Activities with Food' programme for children in receipt of free school meals is now available to book online at www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org. (see attachment for further details). Note: you will need a HAF code in order to confirm your booking. Lost / misplaced HAF codes can be retrieved [here](#). If you do not currently claim FSM but think you may be eligible, you can find out more / apply at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school-meals>

Volunteer role (with training)

Meanwhile, ZEST (who organise these events) are looking to recruit a new 'EPEC Parent Group Leader' (see attachment). This is a volunteer position but it does include a fully accredited training course (so it may lead to further opportunities). You may not be aware that one of our parents, Natalie Thomas (an active member of our PTA) actually works for Zest and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can email her on natalie.thomas@zestcommunity.co.uk



**HAF Holiday Activities
February Half Term**

Bookings GO LIVE
Friday 23rd January @ 3pm

FREE activities and food for children and young people
in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM)

*See timetable for local activities
or head to the website to see what else is happening across the city

Book NOW!
sheffieldhealthyholidays.org



Mr Gaughan

Nurturing confidence, nurturing potential, nurturing success.



Celebrating Achievement



Well done to the following children:

- ★ **Bronze:** Jude, Briar, Felicity (Willow)
- ★ **Silver:** Nayel, Oliver, Maddie P, Maisie S (Rowan); Billy, Elliana (Sycamore); Leo W (Oak)
- ★ **Gold:** Mila, Anastasiia (Ash); Kyle (Willow); Ruby, Skyla-Grey, Josh F (Sycamore); Sienna BR, Poppy, Oscar B, Kwontay (Oak)
- ★ **Nursery Stars of the Week:** Chance, Willow (Seedlings); Tabitha, Giovanni (Saplings)
- ★ **Attendance winners:** Attendance was 93.5% overall last week. The winning classes were Willow (KS1) with 96.3% and Sycamore (KS2) with 96.9%
- ★ **House Point winners:** Oceania won the house point trophy last week (their first win since the start of December).
- ★ Thank you to Theo R, Celeste, Iris & Holly who have been helping keep our school grounds looking nice by voluntarily litter picking at lunchtimes.



This week's birthdays: Sienna B (7), Roscoe (8), Hugo H (4), Dexter (3)

This week's 'School Standard' is:
Make a positive contribution

What's Happening?

Little Seedlings are doing finger rhymes and leap actions.

Saplings are doing hoop nature faces in Forest Schools.

Ash are using rhymes in poetry linked to Jack & the Beanstalk.

Willow are learning about Mary Seacole.

KS2 children in The Learning Zone are starting a new story: 'Lost & Found' by Oliver Jeffers.

Rowan have been doing some stone age cave art.

Sycamore are writing a conversation between Hiccup & Toothless (from 'How to Train Your Dragon')

Oak are starting a unit of drawing using depth, perspective and vanishing points.

