

Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

We have a challenge for you this week! At the end of this newsletter, you will find some secret words for you to solve. Write the initial sound from each picture in the box underneath to reveal the secret word. Once you've revealed the word, see if you can read it.

Good luck!

Love Buzz and Lottie



Week beginning 12th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another fun and exciting week in the Ladybirds and Bumblebees classroom!

In Literacy, we have been exploring the story Superworm. The children have enjoyed using actions, role play, and story maps to help them learn and remember the text. They worked collaboratively in groups to sequence the story's events and used their phonics skills to label different parts of the story.

In Maths, we have focused on the numbers 1-5 and how they create a 'staircase pattern' when they are in order. We have focused on using the language of 'one more' when describing their arrangement. Why not ask your child to draw or make you a staircase pattern at home?! We have also taken some time to compare objects by length and height, particularly Superworm and his friends.

In our wider curriculum, we have been learning about what makes people special to us and exploring why Jesus is special to Christians in RE. In topic work, we've looked at different forms of air travel, both past and present, and in PE, the children have had great fun learning new dance moves to the beat of 8.

Thank you so much for your support with the new arrangements with reading books. Please continue to tick the checklist as you work through the activities for the week and do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Home school diary update

As we are now only changing books on a Tuesday (sharing books) and Friday (animaphonics books) we would like update the way we use the home school diaries.

Moving forward, these will only be checked by staff on **Tuesday** or a **Friday**, when we are changing the books. We would therefore ask that if you have any important messages that need to be passed on to us on the day, that these are shared with the staff on the gate in the morning or by phoning or emailing the school office. Please just use the home school diary for messages about reading, or for any general updates that don't require a same day response. You are also still very welcome to catch us at home time if there is anything you wish to discuss.

We hope this will give us additional time in the morning to interact with the children and give them more support with their early learning.

Thank you for sending in the t-shirts for our superhero activity next week. Of course, if you have any trouble sourcing one, please let us know, as we do have some spares. Just a reminder that the t-shirts can be any size. Please send these in by Monday 19th January.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Thursday 5th February** – Parent Writing Workshop with Mr. Evans at 5:30 pm in the main hall. This is an opportunity to find out more about how we teach writing in Foundation and Year 1 here at Sandgate.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind regards, The Foundation Team

SECRET WRITING MISSION

Write the initial sound of each word in the box underneath the picture (e.g. 'b' for bird, 'a' for apple) Say all three sounds and blend them together to read the secret word.

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Vocabulary we will be introducing next week-

Computing

Internet: A giant network that connects computers, phones, and tablets all over the world. It helps us find information, play games, watch videos, and talk to people.

Computers: A machine that can help us do work, play games, and learn things

Information: Things we tell or show to others, like pictures, words, or ideas.

'posting' and 'sharing': Putting pictures, words, or ideas on the computer or phone so other people can see them.

digital footprint: A trail or mark we leave on the computer or phone when we do things like share pictures or play games.

The Natural World

Environment: The world around us, like the air, water, plants, and animals.

Recycling: Taking old things, like paper or plastic, and turning them into something new to use again.

Symbols: Little pictures or signs that stand for something, like a heart for love or a stop sign for stopping.

Aerial Image: A picture of the ground taken from up high, like from a plane or a drone.