



I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and the children are ready for lots of fun and learning in 2024. Staff have created some wonderful experiences for the children to explore and this term Sunshine and Garden rooms have a number of new children and parents/carers joining our Sandy Lane family. A very warm welcome to you all!

For those of you who may not know, thanks to the work of our Friends of Sandy Lane Group the Christmas Bring and Buy and Raffle raised an incredible £320.20 towards resources for all our children. We are so very grateful to everyone who took part in helping to raise this amount. Thank You

As parents and carers of children attending Sandy Lane you know what a special place this is. If you have friends, family or neighbours who are looking for a nursery place in September 2024 please encourage them to contact our school office and register for a place with us.

Marcia Head teacher

2024

Reminder

School starters September 2024

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2024 and you have not yet applied for his/her school place, please speak to Janet or Louise in the office as soon as possible.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2024.

Nursery focus

Garden and Sunshine Room - This term's 'big question' is '**What do you know about winter?**' And the direction for learning for Rainbow Room this half term is also '**What do I know about Winter?**' Our value for this half term is '**Manners**'

Throughout January, in celebration of '**World Religion Day**' exploring the traditions of a variety of religions which shape the world around us. As part of this celebration, we will be welcoming a special visitor '**Wat Phra Singh**' a **Buddhism Monk from a temple in Runcorn**. We will also be hosting Dogs for Good this term, find out more on Tapestry.

Who's been a 'Playful Penguin' or a 'Have a go Horse' today?

Staff in Sunshine and Garden rooms encourage children to think about their learning using our 'characters'. These characters help the children to recognise which 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' they have demonstrated in their play; things like engagement, motivation and thinking skills. You will see them displayed in the classrooms and it would be helpful if you could talk with children at home when you see them demonstrating these too. Further information on the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' can be found on our website under the 'Key Information', 'Curriculum' tabs.

Here are our Characteristics Characters!

Playful Penguin



Creative Cat

Have a go Horse



Keep on trying Kangaroo

Concentrating Crocodile



Connecting Caterpillar

Friends of Sandy Lane

Nursery and Forest School



I am pleased to share that last month we successfully achieved Leading Parent Partnership accreditation. As a Sandy Lane family there are lots of ways we can work together to benefit all our children. This group meet once a half term to talk about things like how to encourage families to complete home learning, fundraising ideas, volunteering and things that could make our school even better. It's an opportunity to meet with other parent/carers for a drink and a chat, **everyone is welcome** and you all have a valuable contribution to make. The dates for the **next meeting is Thursday, 25th Jan am and pm**. Further details will be shared on Tapestry. If you would like to join this friendly group please have a chat with me or your child's key worker at drop off/collection.

Nursery Website

www.sandylanenurseryandforestschool.co.uk



The 'Parents' tab will give you ideas on how you can support your child's learning and development at home. You'll find the 'Top Tips' pages under 'Helping your child at home', just choose the room your child attends for home learning ideas. Our website is also useful for reminders of diary dates, to see what the children are learning and lots more. If you have any suggestions about things you would like to see on our website please let us know and we will do our best to include them.

Clothing

As the colder weather descends upon us, we are asking that your child comes to nursery wearing appropriate footwear and possibly layered clothing. We would also ask that your child continues to wear a suitable coat, hat and gloves. Please could you also ensure that your child has a change of clothes as children's play and learning can be a messy business!

You may wish to consider purchasing a school sweatshirt and/or a school polo shirt.

These can be ordered and paid for, when stock is available, using the School Spider app.



Good Attendance Is The Key To Good Progress

Please ring the office: 623640 or text: 07415 869045 if your child will not be attending nursery. Make sure your contact details are up to date. **We discourage you taking holidays during term time as it is very disruptive to your child's progress.** We aim for 97% attendance which equates to just 6 days absence over the year. Obviously this might be taken up with illness so holiday absence on top of this may hinder your child's progress. If time out of school is unavoidable then please ask for and complete an ABSENCE REQUEST form from the office.

Forthcoming Events

Don't forget to check Tapestry and our website for event dates

21st January—World Religion Day

30th January—Sunshine Forest Stay and Play

25th January—Friends of Sandy Lane Group

- Visit from 'Dogs for Good'

Rainbow Room Parent and Carers Group

Our new parent and carers group for children attending Rainbow Room starts this half term. If you are interested in joining us for a drink and a chat please just pop along to the staffroom. You will be very welcome. Dates to be confirmed. Check Tapestry and/or posters on rainbow room notice board for times



2 Tanning Court, WA1 2HF

07583 080521



Mon 4.30-6.00 Tues 12.00-2.00

Wed 10.30-12.30 Thurs and Fri 2.00-2.00

School Holidays

School will close on Friday 9th February, and re-open on Monday 19th February.

TERMLY PAYMENTS: The charge for termly payments can be found on the school website under the 'Parents' then 'New Starters' tabs. From January we will be moving over to using the School Spider Nursery Management system which you will access via an app on your phone. **TERMLY PAYMENTS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST WEEK OF EACH TERM.** You will receive a message as a reminder when payment is due with the cost to be paid. Your payment is a contribution towards snack and little extras like a birthday and Christmas gift. Any Wrap Around Care will also be booked through this system and is payable upon booking if places are available. Please note bookings will close 48 hrs before sessions are taken.



Rhyme Time

Each half term staff will post the songs and rhymes children will be learning with links to where you can find them online. This will enable you to practice them at home with your child. We would love to see photos and video's of your child practicing at home.

Can you guess some of the rhymes for this half term? Check Tapestry to see if you're right



Something to Celebrate

Birthdays this half term:

George O, Storm, Arham, Leon, Dotty, Fatimah

Staff: Maxine, Karen Row, Emma, Holly,



We hope you are all enjoying viewing the photos and observations of learning staff share on Tapestry each week. We love to read parent/carers comments on these posts and the images you share of your child's home learning. The information you provide helps staff to learn more about your child's interests and engagement in learning at home.

Home Learning—Staff also post a range of **weekly home learning activities** on Tapestry. As partners in your child's learning and development it is important that you support your child to complete these activities, many of which will enable them to gain extra practice and link experiences they have had in nursery. Please log in to Tapestry regularly throughout each week to ensure you keep up to date with these home learning challenges. If you have any questions about home learning or are having difficulty accessing Tapestry please speak to your child's key worker

Early Maths—Did You Know?

The early years curriculum for maths is split into 2 aspects 'Number' and 'Numerical Patterns'. As well as exploring our maths home learning bags, parents and carers can help children's mathematical development in these aspects through a range of everyday activities.



YOUNGER CHILDREN Number—counting toys in the bath, how many spoons or plates needed when setting the table, counting steps taken on the stairs, singing number songs and rhymes, showing amounts on fingers e.g. 2 fingers to show you are 2. Numerical Patterns—make collections of things that are the same, grouping things by colour, size, shape, filling and emptying bottles in the bath, making themselves small/stretching tall, ordering toys by size, making groups of the same amount e.g. 3 for you and 3 for me, helping to put shopping away, what's heavy and what is light

3-4 YEAR OLDS Number—singing number rhymes counting forwards and backwards, practice recognising small amounts up to 3 without needing to count them, playing dice games and counting the spots, making marks to represent numbers e.g. number 3 or 3 lines to show we need 3 bananas on a shopping list, playing simple bingo games Numerical Patterns—making and comparing groups with 'more' or 'fewer', hiding toys and using words like 'on top of', 'behind', 'next to', looking for shapes on a walk to school, using scales when baking or a measuring tape to measure the height of a tower

You will find lots more information on how you can support your child's learning at home on our website www.sandylanenurseryandforestschool.co.uk, under the 'Parents' 'Helping at home' tabs. Just select the room your child is in. If you have any questions or would like further support please speak to your child's key worker who will be happy to help