



Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School—Autumn 1 Newsletter

Welcome to the new school year, and a special welcome to our new families who are beginning their journey with Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School. This term we also welcome two new staff members. Nikki Carney is our new teacher in Rainbow Room and Ellie Dixon joins us for one day a week providing support in Garden Room. We welcome these new staff, children and parent/carers to our Sandy Lane family and look forward to the exciting half term ahead.



Parents/carers with children who have returned to us following the summer break will notice a few changes to our drop off and collection routine as start times have returned to 8.30 and 12.30 for all children, we no longer need to maintain a 2m distance or wear face masks on site. We are however continuing to use separate entrances with children in garden and rainbow rooms using the main entrance and children in sunshine room using the side entrance nearest to their classrooms. This system worked so well during the COVID restrictions, easing congestion in the main corridor, that we have decided to keep it in place. Although many restrictions have now lifted there are a number of safe practices which we are continuing as we start this term. Our safe practices are as follows:



Children will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and our resources continue to be cleaned daily. You can help with this at home too, see our hand washing song at the end of this newsletter



We continue to ensure that all rooms are well ventilated allowing fresh air to circulate



As our main corridor is not well ventilated we ask any parent using this area to wear a face mask

We are also delighted that we will be able to reinstate our many parent events this year. We will be offering a range of Stay and Play events, parent/carers workshops and much more. Look out for dates on our website and Tapestry posts

Some of you will know Holly McCreedy, one of our sunshine room TA's is currently on maternity leave. I'm delighted to announce the birth of baby Frankie over the summer holidays. I know you will join me in sending our congratulations to the family.



Outdoors.



We have an amazing outdoor area which children love to spend time in, whatever the weather. This means that you need to make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the changeable weather. Layers are good to keep children warm or, by removing a layer, cooler and each child will need a coat. For children who enjoy water play and mud we will provide waterproofs and, if they don't have their own in nursery, we have wellies which can be borrowed.

Can you help?

All schools are busy places and Sandy Lane is no exception. We are always keen to welcome volunteers. If you have a special interest/talent or are just happy to help where needed and can spare a couple of hours as a one off or on a regular basis please speak to your child's room leader.



Healthy Eating

As a school we promote healthy eating and children are provided with a range of fruit and vegetables at snack time. If your child attends for 30 hours and so brings in a lunchbox please could you ensure it contains a range of healthy food. Our website gives some suggestions you may like to try. Can we also remind parents that we are a 'nut free' school and so please do not include any nut products in your child's lunchbox. If you would like any help with healthy lunchbox ideas please speak to Sarah or Jamie in garden room who will be happy to help.



Uniform.



Although not compulsory uniform is often an easy option for busy parents/carers. Our uniform is very popular with children and their parents/carers and it means best clothes can be saved for home. Nursery can be a messy business but it really doesn't matter if it gets onto your child's uniform. Our uniform comprises of a red sweatshirt and a red polo shirt, both with our school logo. These items are reasonably priced and information about how to order can be found on our school website www.sandylanenurseryschool.co.uk under the Parents, then New Starters tabs or ask a member of our office staff for an order form.

Please can you make sure all other clothing is easy for your child to get on and off by themselves. Avoid laces and buckles—too tricky for a 2, 3 and 4 year old!! It really helps staff identify the owners of any clothes if they are labelled. As you can imagine, children very often have the same clothes so please put your child's name in their uniform and coat. If your child attends for 30 hours please remember to label their lunchbox and water bottle too



Snack.

We provide milk or water and a healthy snack each day for your child. We ask parents to make a contribution to the cost of snack and any money over goes towards special little extras like birthday gifts for the children and party food for celebrations throughout the year. Payment can be made for the year, termly or if necessary half termly. The charge for snack can be found on the school website under the Parents then New Starters tabs. You will also receive a text message as a reminder when payment is due with the cost to be paid in to the nursery's Nat West account:

Name: **Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School Community Account**

Account number: **66037638** Sort code: **01-09-17**

Something to celebrate!

Birthdays this half term include:

George, Lola, Osariemen, Nell, Ellie,
Lottie, Riko, David, Oliver, Hunter, Archie, .

And staff: Erin, Karen, Saadet, Deryck and Nic.

We wish you all a very 'Happy Birthday'



Attendance.

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.



We've updated our website !

Take a look at www.sandylanenurseryschool.co.uk The **Parents** tab will give you advice on how to help your child settle in to nursery as well as ideas on how you can support their learning and development at home. We will be adding lots of other content over the coming weeks so keep checking in. If you have any ideas on what you would find helpful please let us know and we will do our best to include it



Tapestry

We will be busy taking photos of your child's early days to give you an idea of the sorts of activities your child has been doing. These will be available to you electronically via TAPESTRY. Most new parents/carers have provided us with their details via the consent form completed and have received an email asking them to set a password and log on. If you haven't already completed the Tapestry registration form you won't be able to access your child's electronic portfolio so please speak to your child's key worker. The system allows you to post comments and photos to share with us so that we can see what your child has been up to 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 who will be happy to help

Primary school.

I know—your child has only just started nursery and we're already talking about primary school! If your child is due to start primary school in September 2022 you will have now receive notification to apply for a school place. The application is completed on-line. It is important that you meet the school criteria for the schools you are applying for and you must apply for 3 schools. If you only apply for one and you don't meet the criteria of that school then the local authority will allocate a school with space nearest to your home address. Contact Jacqui in the school office (623640) if you need any further information or support

Are you entitled to 30 hours?

If you think you may be eligible for 30 hours free childcare and have not yet applied please let Jacqui in the office know (623630). Please note that 30 hour places are always limited.



Additional sessions and wrap around care

Due to the reduced number of children at the start of the year we are able to offer parents of **children in Garden Room** the opportunity to purchase additional am or pm sessions as well as places for breakfast and after school club. If you have an appointment, want to go shopping or just fancy a few extra hours to yourself and are interested in purchasing the odd additional session, to enable your child to stay in garden room all day, please speak to Erin in the office (623640).



Jeans for Genes day, Friday 17th September

Wear jeans to nursery and donate £1 to this great cause!"



Nursery focus

Garden Room - This half term's 'big question is **'What do I know about me ?**

The direction for learning for **Sunshine Room** and **Rainbow Room** this half term is **'All about me and my family.**

Throughout this term we will also be exploring the traditions of a variety of cultures/religions which shape the world around us. Log onto Tapestry to find out what we have been doing.

If you have any questions about your child's learning please speak to their key worker.



Friends of Sandy Lane Nursery & Forest School

I hope you have all seen my recent Head teacher's letter asking for your help to set up an **exciting new parent/carers group**. If this is something you want to be involved in, please let us know by the end of September. If you would like more information about the group, please come and see me in the main entrance at drop off/collection for a chat.

Hand washing song

If you're happy and you know it!

Sing twice through and change the words to:

"If you're happy and you know it wash your hands,

If you're happy and you know it wash your hands,

If you're happy and you know it

And you really want to show it

If you're happy and you know it wash your hands"



Our garden



We will be hoping to harvest pumpkins in the coming months and we will start to think about what to plant now and in the spring. We will start by looking at a variety of vegetables and talking about which we like to eat. The children will help to maintain the garden over the year and harvest and cook the vegetables when ready. **We are always looking for volunteers to help us maintain our garden, if this is something you or a family member would be interested in, please speak to your child's key worker**

School holiday

We finish on Friday 22nd October and return Monday 1st November.

