



Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School

"Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination"

2024/25

Dear Parent/Carer

All parents/carers of children new to Sandy Lane this year were invited to complete a short survey about nursery and how their child has settled in. Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the questionnaire, your views are important to help us continue to improve as well as celebrate the things we do well. If you do have any questions or comments please speak with staff in your child's room or to me on the door at drop off and collection most days. We are happy to help at any time so please don't feel you need to wait until you receive a questionnaire to share your views

Here are a sample of your responses as well as replies to the comments made.

Marcia Atherton
Head teacher

1. If a home visit took place prior to your child attending for their first visit at nursery, did you find this useful?

In what ways do you think it helped both you and your child?

- I found the home visit very useful as this enabled me and T to meet some of the staff members and made the transition feel much more relaxed.
- Yes a home visit had taken place and it made my children more comfortable around their new teachers that would be taking care of them within nursery
- It helped very much for me and my child
- It was very informative and we had everything we needed to know before him starting nursery
- Very useful as K got to meet his teacher and keyworker and took to Emma straight away and it was really nice to meet his teachers and get to ask the questions we wanted to ask.
- Yes was useful. So my child felt comfortable on his first day.
- Yes I had received useful information from the visitor prior school start, they told us how daily routine looks like
- It helped me to know what happens in the rainbow room and I got to meet Nikki & Katy who were just lovely and who were going to be looking after J. It eased my fears also as I worry a lot about J.
- Yes, lovely to meet the staff he was going to be with and for them to see how he is in his home setting. Useful to ask questions regarding his first day/transition period.
- Yes very helpful and lovely to meet some staff before starting
- Informative, was able to ask questions and receive plenty of info, helped prepare

- A home visit was completed and the children were comfortable around their new teachers and got to know them so when going into nursery they knew familiar faces
- Yes. They can see where child lives
- Yes, I was explained what to expect in the first week of nursery and more information about the nursery!
- There was a home visit which I find quite useful as this made me feel the school really cares about my boy. During the home visit, our fear of letting M out of our sight was eliminated. Now, the teachers understand M to a good extent which makes him feel at ease any time he goes to school.
- Very useful, the visit really helped my daughter feel a bit more relaxed and confident about first days at nursery. Same for me as mum, it was really good to see staff and speak to them.
- Was very useful and helped reassure me for January and what to buy/ expect
- Yes familiarise both L and us with the teachers who will be looking after L
- It helped getting to know A's teacher and getting talked through the steps on what will happen
- It has helped both me and my child get introduced to the teachers M got to know the teacher before he started so he was familiar with her face
- I find it very useful that this nursery provides a home visit. It allows the parent and key worker to connect and parent to ask questions on a personal and reassuring level. I really also like this because the child and key worker are also able to meet and the key worker can see the child in their true surroundings

2. Did you feel that you were given enough time to share information about your child's needs with nursery staff?

We had lots of 'yes' responses plus those shared below

- Yes definitely.
- I was given enough time to give information about my child's needs
- Yes definitely
- They will offer help when I have questions
- I think the time we were given to share information about M was adequate. We really can't share all the information at once anyways.
- Yes, I received updates and photos how my daughter is feeling and how the process is going. We received lots of support during first days.
- Yes, the settling in day helped us answer any questions prior to L joining the nursery. L has been upset most days when being dropped off, and the staff have been very helpful with comforting him.
- No. We would like more information

Room staff are always available for you to ask any questions. Since we became aware of this parents comment we have offered then an additional meeting with the room leader

3. Do you feel that both you and your child were effectively supported during their transition to nursery? Please give details if you can

Lot's of families said 'yes' in addition to the comments below

- Yes 100% I found all members of staff very supportive and helpful, T has had a couple of tantrums in nursery which resulted in them giving me a call to explain how things have been during the day so it wasn't a shock when I went to pick him up. I believe they do everything they can to help and support T in all aspects of his time in nursery
- I was definitely supported effectively with my child starting Nursery
- Yes K's keyworkers and teacher have been really understanding & helpful
- Yes 100%
- Yes all the staffs are nice and helpful, they notice what my child needs

- Yes, J goes into the lighthouse first thing every morning as he was getting very upset and it has helped a lot. He actually waits near that door now and just goes in! Bev & Karen are amazing with him
- It was quite late on when he got the place but it could have been good for staff to visit him at his old nursery.

For children who have attended a different nursery previously staff are invited to share information to support children's transitions to Sandy Lane. Staff do not routinely make visits to other providers, however, on this occasion a brief visit to observe the child in his nursery, before with us, was made by a member of room staff

- Yes such lovely support given Fantastic team
- Yes certainly much so.
- I believe so
- Yes they explained everything went through the apps for the children and upload my children's progress
- Yes, I was reassured that my daughter will gonna be alright. The teachers helped my daughter very much making the environment feel good and cared about her, so the transition was very easy!

4. Do you find the school has a welcoming and friendly atmosphere?

100% of responses agreed YES

5. Did you find the information shared by school via our website www.sandylanenurseryschool.co.uk, induction events and Tapestry posts helpful and easy to understand?

100% of responses agreed YES

6. Is there any other information or activity you would like to see as part of our induction/transition process in the future?

We only received the comments below, all other responses were 'no'

Spider app was a little confusing at first as no one really knew how to pay using the child tax free account so I paid through my normal bank to ensure he got his wrap around care. This was sorted after a week but it would be useful to get this information before he started (but I think this may be a new system being used so unavoidable?) [This parent is correct in thinking this is a new payment system for the school. We thank them for their patience whilst we resolved the issue](#)

No it's a great transition process

I am pleased with everything. If I will have any ideas I will happily inform you!

So far; so good.

7. Our Friends of Sandy Lane and Rainbow Room parent and carer groups are an opportunity for you to share your views on the schools policies, what happens in nursery and how we can continue to work together to make our school the best it can be. Would you be interested in being part of one or both of these groups?

YES 33% MAYBE 60% NO 7%

[Please look out for the dates for our next Friends of Sandy Lane group meetings on Tapestry and displayed on posters around school. We would love to see you there](#)

8. We would be very grateful for any other comments or suggestions you would like to make?

I would just like to thank all staff for the help and support they given so far

Can't think of anything at the moment

Great setting for children and the teachers are all really approachable & helpful

Excellent staff.

The most friendly & caring staff, and best nursery environment. Wouldn't have sent A or his 3 older siblings anywhere else than here.

I'm happy with everything. If I will have anything to say in the future I will happily tell you!

Keep up the good work. You're all doing a great job.

I feel good with his transition to school, I can see G is happy before and after school, he told me he like his peers and teachers, he enjoys forest day so much. Thank you for your effort

The staff in rainbow room are all amazing, every time I go to pick J up I get an update on what he's been up to that day and with the little adaption that staff have made for him he's doing brilliantly. I'm so glad he's enjoying it, it really is an amazing place and the staff really care for him.

It would have been useful to discuss his draft EHCP before this was finalised to see if the nursery would have liked any input. This parent is aware that the plan was not written by our school. The relevant Authority team did shared the final plan with our SENDCo on the day of submission, the school included no additional content. It would help if his sausage roll could be warmed up at lunch to avoid him only eating crackers crisps and biscuits. We have tried a flask at home to keep it warm and also tried him with it cold, but he refuses to eat from it. It may not always work but it would support his limited diet. I am not sure if toast could be offered at lunch instead of breakfast time before his snacks as he would always go to these first if given the choice?? We do appreciate the difficulties for families of children with a limited diet but, for Food Hygiene/Health and Safety reasons, school staff are not able to heat up any items sent in from home over the lunchtime period. Over the 1 hour lunch period for children, staff have $\frac{1}{2}$ hour supervising lunchtime and setting up their classrooms for the afternoon plus $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to have their own lunch. Unfortunately, we are unable to prepare additional food during this time as staff's priority is to supervise the children.

We are happy with the support and interaction with his class teachers/TAs. I hope his headbanging settles down in the coming weeks. I am at hospital today to discuss his helmet and if this is something he still needs.

C love's coming everyday can't wait to get through the doors shows what a happy welcoming environment it is so thank you

Sandy Lane is an amazing nursery and I feel my boys are lucky to be there!

Love that there is now going to be meetings for parents of children with additional needs, we do a "send forum" at my other kids school and it really is good for parents who are new to having a child with additional needs 😊

Thank you for your support and very welcoming atmosphere in the transition process.

The nursery is absolutely fantastic. A did not want to attend, at all as she was so shy but now she's starting to get excited and the teachers are FANTASTIC. Thank you so much

More updates on L's day and what snacks he's eaten and any nappy changes.

Sunshine and Garden Rooms have a notice of what is for snack that week and photos of children engaging in activities are shared on their individual Tapestry journals. For parents who arrive on time to collect their child staff are always happy to share more detailed information about a child's day. If parents have any specific questions please just ask

Very friendly staff