



Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School

"Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination"

2025/26

Dear Parent/Carer

Each term, families who are new to Sandy Lane are invited to complete a short survey about nursery and how their child has settled in. Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the terms 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 too 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?

Very useful to meet the teachers before hand and get to know them. Also helped as I am autistic so it lessened the anxiety for me also.

Allowed my child to see someone he would be seeing on a regular basis which I believe has helped him transition smoothly. It was lovely to be able to meet his teachers first hand before he started and they were able to answer any questions I had.

Yes, we both got to know the teachers and R was comfortable going in a new school and seeing someone she has seen before

This helped give I familiar faces before attending also gave us lots of useful information

It was really useful to meet and chat about what we can expect, W seemed already comfortable and happy which was nice to see

It helped my child recognise a face when he first came into nursery

Yes our family found the home visit very useful they explained what the children do on a daily basis at the nursery and they took the time to try and get to know my son by asking questions about him eg likes/ dislikes they made us feel at ease even my son who doesn't normally like strangers managed to stay in the same room as them with out having a meltdown.

Yes, child gets to meet in a more familiar place first

It's useful so that my child feels she knew someone before going to the nursery

This helped give I familiar faces before attending also gave us lots of useful information

Yes we found it very useful. It gave us the opportunity to discuss E's needs and preferences and also the opportunity to get to know some of the nursery staff. The home visit was extremely helpful in getting to know a couple of the teachers and finding out what to expect to happen in my son's specific nursery room. I found it useful because they were able to go through with me what will be going on in nursery and I had a chance to get some of my questions answered and Z got to meet the staff before he started making his transition easier.

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

Over the last few weeks we've been able to filter some info down, would be nice to be able to sit down with staff and have longer to talk to them about W

Room staff are always available for you to ask any questions at drop off or collection. Any parent who feels a longer chat would be helpful is welcome to make an appointment to speak with room staff.

Yes, we had an hour, which was perfect

Yes, we wasn't rushed into sharing information, Nikki & Kirsten we're amazing with listening and asking relevant questions in response to any questions that I had

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, I feel you've gone above and beyond

Very well looked after

I think so there has always been someone to talk to as we've gone along

Yes, reassurance was given that I would be called if my child became too upset

Yes, There are different ways to communicate with teachers so as to facilitate the transition process

Yes. The settling in sessions allowed E to familiarise herself with the nursery and allowed us to learn more about the nursery

I think so there has always been someone to talk to as we've gone along

Staff in the room are amazing and eased all doubts and anxiety that had built up about sending A to nursery

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?

Maybe more a printed out itinerary about what's happening and a printed version of the time table I struggle with remembering to look at apps. The school is trying hard to reduce the amount of paper and printing we do, as part of our Environmental Sustainability policy and also because of the cost. A few paper copies of our newsletter are available in the entrance. A timetable for each room is

available on the school website and events are posted on Tapestry and on room notice boards. We do ask that parents try to use these methods where possible but paper copies can be made available on request.

More photos on tapestry showing our children settling in or not

If a child has been unsettled when a parent leaves, we will add a post to Tapestry to show you how they are or will call you if they remain unsettled. We understand that you enjoy seeing photos of the children having fun at nursery. Staff do need to limit the number of photographs and records of children's learning they post on Tapestry. This is simply because posting images takes their time away from engaging with the children and supporting their learning.

- 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 7%

MAYBE 86%

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 am extremely happy with the overall experience of my son attending here. The staff are amazing and it's always a lovely experience to see how happy he is to go to nursery to see his teachers and play with his friends. Just shows how caring and passionate the staff are here and I'm sure many other parents/children will feel the same

I feel you have gone above and beyond in such little time you have made myself dad and I very content and happy. Due to being an anxious mum this is the first time I have felt leaving I in your care that I am not suffering with panic attacks or on edge waiting on a phone call. Thank you for being so understanding caring gentle and kind we are so grateful for I to be part of the sandy lane family

The overwhelming experience has been made so much easier by staff so I can't thank you enough
Lovely nursery and staff

E seems to be really enjoying being at the nursery. Family are noticing her developing more already. She's always so happy whenever she's collected, so must have had a great day

I have no suggestions, every member of staff that we have come into contact with have been friendly and welcoming

K always enjoys coming in and playing with the toys