



Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School

"Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination"

Spring Term (2021/22)

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm delighted to say that we had 43 responses to this terms parent/carer survey, 2% = 1 response. 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.

Here is my analysis of your responses as well as replies to the comments made.

Marcia Atherton
Head teacher

Parental Questionnaire Analysis, February 2022

	SPRING TERM 2 2021-22	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	86%	14%			
2	I think that my child feels safe at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	79%	21%			
3	My child is well looked after at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	81%	19%			
4	My child enjoys the activities at Sandy lane Nursery and Forest School	84%	16%			
5	I am treated like a partner in my child's education	77%	23%			
6	I feel informed about my child's progress	77%	21%			2%
7	My child is making good progress at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	81%	19%			
8	I understand that supporting my child to engage in with the home learning set will support their learning and progress	72%	28%			
9	My child enjoys the home learning activities shared by nursery	61%	33%			6%
10	I am supportive of the schools promotion of health and wellbeing with children and families	81%	19%			
11	I think that the children at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School are well behaved	65%	28%			7%

12	Staff work effectively with the children to resolve conflicts	63%	26%			12%
13	I receive regular communications from the nursery about events e.g. the newsletter, Tapestry messages	69%	31%			
14	Staff are approachable and school responds well to any concerns I raise	81%	17%			2%
15	The school is led and managed well	88%	12%			
16	I would recommend this school to another parent	86%	14%			
17	How did you hear about Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School? (Please tick your answer)	I have had a previous child here 42%	From a friend/relative 23%	From the website 5%	Facebook 0%	Other (please specify): 30%
18	<p>For any 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' please expand upon these answers We had no 'disagree' responses but parents did leave the comments below:</p> <p>1)I don't disagree with any I think that Sandy lane is a fantastically run nursery and they have played a massive part in my sons development I will be really sad when he has to leave 2) Nursery is fab and R is very happy there. Lovely staff, excellent nursery 3) Very good nursery child feel safe and like attending 4) At handover I often don't get informed about T's day, I understand that it is a busy time for the teachers, but I would just like to know even a little bit about T's day, what he's been doing etc. (please see what could we change or better for a response)</p>					
19	<p>Can you give an example of something Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School has done which has made a positive difference to your child AND/OR you as a family</p> <p>1) Helped engaging with H 2) K wouldn't speak or interact with other children and now he does and tells me who his best friends are. 3) Helped increase my sons tolerance of new textures 4) Shown understanding and empathy for C's attachment difficulties 4) Helped and supported towards future education 5) So welcoming and caring! 6) Specifically positive food experiences at snack time meant B chose to lick a cracker for the first time. Big step for her as she has a significant oral aversion and is fully peg fed." 7) They have been amazing with my two children L & L 8) Engaging in forest school activities. This continues to develop G's enjoyment of the outdoors. 9) Helped with a toilet chart when L first started to stop re frequent accidents. M also recognised L's speech needed some work in the first few sessions and has been helping myself and L improve this further. 10) Learning bags give us a lot of fun at home 11) They have supplied a high level of care and have shown an awareness of his needs that reflects positively on our family life. 12) M absolutely loves it at Sandy lane. M has come on so much since been at Sandy Lane I can't thank them enough! 13) Given J a chance. 14) Gave us a box of food. My child enjoyed cooking at home. Then eating the delicious food! But everything they do benefits my child. 15) Staff have always supported H with any difficulties that may have arisen whilst being at the nursery. Staff never judge they just go above and beyond to try to help. The staffs approach to helping H and myself has had a massive impact on H in nursery and also at home. The staff are truly amazing. " 16) Helping my daughter to learning</p>					

	<p>17) Each individual member of staff have played a big part in my sons development, they all really do care about the children it's not just a job to them</p> <p>18) My child is more disciplined</p> <p>19) Each 1 of my children that have been have overcome different things with the help of all the staff.</p> <p>20) Supported her when moving into Garden Room, especially when she's been upset at drop off.</p> <p>21) H's feeding skills have improved noticeably. Helped by all the new food and tastes he tries as part of snack time.</p> <p>22) Everything- A's progressing so well with her learning and development</p> <p>23) A has shown so much improvement in understanding tasks he is asked to do.</p> <p>24) Learning bag. Working and learning as a family</p> <p>25) A started to communicate with us much better, with some signs mostly</p> <p>26) He has learned to concentrate more on a daily activities</p> <p>27) Gets to know nature</p> <p>28) Is more confident</p> <p>29) D is full of information and little dances that she has learnt from nursery. She loves to share what she knows and gets us all talking as a family.</p> <p>30) My child's improved communication skills</p> <p>31) They keep his routine to reduce meltdowns and adapt to his best abilities rather than things that aren't appropriate for his level of learning</p> <p>32) M was very shy and quite clingy to me before starting nursery and I was more concerned about her settling in than the other two but less than a week of crying when I left her and she is more than happy to be left and gets excited to go into nursery now! I love the different types of activities sunshine and garden room get up to with L and M!</p> <p>33) Speech is coming on more</p> <p>34) He's started to sing to himself he's trying to say words</p> <p>35) D has made lots of friends at nursery and has become very confident since starting. D's speech has massively improved since starting nursery.</p> <p>36) The staff at nursery have been extremely supportive to me since the children have started nursery which helps me as I feel I have a safe place to turn. M's confidence has grown and she is coming out of her shell. M is very clever and is learning a lot.</p> <p>37) Provided me advice of how go support my daughter with her learning</p> <p>38) My child learnt English</p> <p>39) Helping with potty training and R's confidence</p> <p>40) She is more independent and kind</p> <p>41) The sheer involvement parents can have is fantastic. The regular updates on tapestry that help keep communication and involvement is fantastic. The positive attitudes of staff. The resources children have. The homework is brilliant at engaging C and involving us</p> <p>42) You have supported T amazingly, and taken time out of your busy days to help with things such as his speech, and anything else we are struggling with. Both me and T's dad really appreciate all of the help you have given us</p> <p>43) The confidence A has gained since being at Sandy Lane is amazing, I love to hear about how confident he is in nursery</p>
18	<p>How has Tapestry helped with sharing information about your child's learning and ideas home learning?</p> <p>1)It's nice to see him having a nice time at nursery</p> <p>2) I love seeing all what K does in the day while at sandy lane it makes me happy knowing he is taking part and having fun throughout the day and learning new things.</p> <p>3) Helped give us ideas of things we can do at home with our son</p> <p>4) Very easy to use</p> <p>5) Lovely to see what D gets up to in nursery as it's something I can't share with him being there. Fun weekend activities to do.</p> <p>6) It's wonderful to have an insight into activities B is doing but also special moments or moments of achievement. Eg. Walking with a walking frame with physio.</p> <p>7) Brilliant</p> <p>8) Seeing activities G has been involved with allows us to be involved in his learning and continue with areas of interest at home.</p> <p>9) Great resource although when uploaded it can take a couple of days to show from the parents side.</p> <p>10) I'm always up to date what he doing in nursery, and we can practice this at J's</p> <p>11) I am able to see what he is doing as well as having easy access to home learning tasks.</p> <p>12) Tapestry has been great, seeing how happy M is as sometimes she cry's at drop off. It helps to with videos of the sign language as M enjoys watching and learning them.</p> <p>13) Easy to view and interact.</p>

	<p>14) Tapestry is really good to keep updated.. it's also nice to see photos of my child. Also to see what activities she had been taking part in.</p> <p>15) We love as a family seeing everything H gets up too at nursery and the home learning is super fun too H really enjoys looking through his tapestry and telling me all about what he's been up too. Sometimes H doesn't really tell me what he gets up too so having the account there for him to see also prompts him to tell me about his learning experiences</p> <p>16) Good</p> <p>17) I get to see what songs they are singing and what topics they are learning about so I can try and do those at home with F through the ideas that the child brings from the nursery</p> <p>18) It has given me other ideas to do things at home</p> <p>19) It's nice to see what my child has been up to in the day and for nursery to see any activities we do at home.</p> <p>20) Some of the suggested play activities are really good fun. Sometimes though they aren't catered for his visual impairment (which we wouldn't expect them all to be) so we try different things instead. We do our own thing but still have fun.</p> <p>21) I love the updates from tapestry and think it's a lovely way to share what we do at home too</p> <p>22) I love knowing exactly what A has done in his day at nursery, as he can't tell me himself.</p> <p>23) I can track my child's learning in nursery and I can share her learning at home.</p> <p>24) I like it, however with A speech delay it's sometimes hard to do home learning</p> <p>25) Tapestry helped us to see our child in different activities and give us ideas how to play at home.</p> <p>26) Getting more information</p> <p>27) Is helping that we continue the learning from nursery, adding some new information, activities. Also it helps us to make new activities when we run out of ideas.</p> <p>28) We love trying new activities</p> <p>29) It keeps me well informed and abreast of my child's progress</p> <p>30) My family live in Spain and to be able to show them A's progress is amazing and I just love seeing what he is doing especially the videos</p> <p>31) I love seeing what she and L get up to in nursery and I love that I can share what they have been doing at home so they can share with their friends and teachers.</p> <p>32) Really well love logging in and seeing pictures or reports</p> <p>33) Really good finding out what my child is learning and what his activities are</p> <p>34) D learns a lot at home and loves to take the time to sit and do her homework. She is very proud.</p> <p>35) M likes to take the time to do her activities once I have explained the task to her</p> <p>36) Provided me advice of how go support my daughter with her learning</p> <p>37) Easy to use</p> <p>38) It's a phenomenal thing</p> <p>39) It's a lovely way of being able to see what R gets up to</p> <p>40) Yes</p> <p>41) Amazingly well, fantastic tool!</p> <p>42) We absolutely love seeing the activities that T has taken part in on tapestry, seeing how engrossed he is in what he is doing, and how much he is enjoying himself</p> <p>43) It gives me lots of ideas for ideas to do with A and his sister at home and also give me lots of pointers on things to talk about with the children which aids what they are also doing in nursery</p>
19	<p>As a parent, what do you like best at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School?</p> <p>1)Caring staff and sensory equipment for the children</p> <p>2) I love everything Sandy Lane does for all the children</p> <p>3) How involved the teaching assistants are</p> <p>4) Nurturing environment</p> <p>5) The staff. They care for D amazingly and help and support him with everything he needs. Nothing is too much for the staff. They listen, advice and care. They make D feel safe and happy.</p> <p>6) The amazing staff - they genuinely care about the children and want the best opportunities for them.</p> <p>7) Everyone is approachable, friendly, overall it's a brilliant nursery</p> <p>8) The consistent approach to learning and development. The way staff in Rainbow room celebrate progress in such a positive way!</p> <p>9) The welcoming nature and how much my child feels safe and like a family member here.</p> <p>10) How much my child enjoys to go to nursery, I really like forest school days. I think this give A lot of different experience</p> <p>10) The staff.</p> <p>11) The whole environment I know that my daughter is in safe hands!</p> <p>12) Perfect setting for our child.</p> <p>13) Everything! Amazing nursery!</p>

	<p>14) How caring, compassionate, welcoming, knowledgeable all staff members are. I was lucky enough to be part of this wonderful family for a short time and have learnt so much from the wonderful staff.</p> <p>15) Everything</p> <p>16) Everyone is friendly and approachable and genuinely cares about your child</p> <p>17) That these are healthy and forest activities</p> <p>18) Everything</p> <p>19) If I ever have any problems, there is always someone there with a listening ear to help me out.</p> <p>20) Welcoming, approachable staff. Amazing opportunities that the children can participate in.</p> <p>21) How safe the school makes him feel and how he clearly shows how much fun he has. We love seeing the photos and videos on Tapestry.</p> <p>22) Everything</p> <p>23) The staff, they make it very clear that this is their passion and that made me feel very safe and confident.</p> <p>24) Outdoor space</p> <p>25) That kids can go outside whenever they want</p> <p>26) I like best creative activities and baking.</p> <p>27) I like when my child comes dirty from kindergarten then I know she had a good time there</p> <p>28) Forest school because is good for wellbeing of the children.</p> <p>29) How happy it makes D, she loves going in each morning to see her teachers and friends</p> <p>30) Forest school</p> <p>31) The lovely staff</p> <p>32) How happy and settled they are, how friendly and approachable all staff members are, I can genuinely tell how much the girls are liked and how excited staff and children get when they see the girls and how easy it is to approach staff with any concerns.</p> <p>33) How the children get to explore different things and learn new things</p> <p>34) Everything L enjoys being there</p> <p>35) The nursery is great and the staff are very supportive</p> <p>36) My children are happy at the nursery and enjoy coming</p> <p>37) Lovely staff</p> <p>38) Employee behavior</p> <p>39) All the fun activities they get up to</p> <p>40) Everything</p> <p>41) Have a list as long as my arm. Would recommend Sandy Lane to everyone</p> <p>42) Whenever we feel as though we are struggling with encouraging T with certain aspects of his learning. For example: his speech They had given us a lot of advice and even sent home some learning which helped T overcome his struggles</p> <p>43) The range of activities the children are involved in whilst at nursery and the access to the outdoors with forest school.</p>
20	<p>What could we change or make better?</p> <p>Lots of parents said 'Nothing' in addition to the other comments below:</p> <p>Nothing needs changing everything you do is 100%</p> <p>I can't think of anything!</p> <p>To be honest I think everything is perfect and no changes need to be done!</p> <p>Nothing I always say this but.. why mess with something that's perfect.</p> <p>You are brilliant</p> <p>This is a great school</p> <p>We think you all do great job, nothing has to be change.</p> <p>Honestly nothing in my opinion.</p> <p>We also had the following suggestions:</p> <p>Expand provision at Sandy Lane to offer 30 hours to Rainbow room children. It's an amazing provision!</p> <p>We would certainly love to be able to offer extended hours in Rainbow Room but simply don't have the pupil places available at present. Rainbow Room is full each year meaning that we can support lots of children with SEND and their families, however this means that we don't have the space to offer any additional paid for hours for children attending. We do have a limited number of breakfast club, after nursery and 30 hours places available for all 3 and 4 year olds which are taken in our mainstream Garden Room.</p>

Parking

Possibly monitor the use of disabled parking bays. Although it may be difficult. As a parent of a SEN child with a blue badge it is difficult to use the disabled bays in the car park due to them being used by cars without a blue badge displayed

We are aware that during busy periods it can be difficult to find a parking space, especially a blue badge space, due to this being a busy multi-use site. Unfortunately we aren't able to extend the car park so the staggered times for drop off and collection with the onsite PVI was established to try to reduce the number of families using the car park at any one time. Users from the different buildings on site are required to display a pass if they are staying longer than drop off or collection with the aim of ensuring only campus users are parking here and that they are parked appropriately. We also regularly patrol the car park to try to ensure people are parked correctly. To help further I have sent out reminders to our parents/carers and other campus users to try to alleviate this issue.

What the next focus is on L education on a more frequent basis.

Formal assessments shared that say where children need more support in but this isn't something necessarily in such need

At the end of each term staff post on Tapestry children's 'next steps for learning' which provide parents/carers with ideas with activities to support children's progress and development. We ask parents/carers to add Tapestry posts of their child working on these 'next steps' at home. That way staff can celebrate children's achievements and provide further guidance on how to continue to support learning once these have been met. Staff are always available at the beginning and end of each session if parents/carers want any further advice so please don't feel the need to wait until the end of the term. For those preferring a more detailed discussion, staff are always happy to arrange an appointment to meet with you. Our website, <https://www.sandylanenurseryandforestschoo.co.uk/>, also provides information on how you can continue to support children's learning at home under the 'Parent', 'Helping your child at home' tabs, please just select the room your child attends for lots more ideas.

Better variety with the weekly books that come home. Sensory, textured or noisy books would be better. We've had 'pop up' books and sign language books sent home in his red bag which aren't able to keep him engaged.

One of our school improvement priorities this year is early reading and developing children's love of books. We have recently reviewed the books offered in our Rainbow Room lending library and invested in a range of sensory books. These have just been delivered and we hope children will enjoy sharing them with parents/carers at home. Happy Reading ☺

I would suggest maybe adding something to entertain the children for when they get there before the doors open. We have to time everything down to the last minute because A doesn't want to wait to go in. Maybe some playground equipment.

Our staggered opening times enable parents/carers to arrive in nursery within a 10 minute window. The school operates on a tight budget and funds aren't available to provide and maintain playground equipment at the front of the site. Installing such would also have implications for health and safety monitoring as we are part of a busy campus site. There are extensive grounds which would provide the opportunity for children to play and be physically active, under parent/carer supervision, before the school opens. Staff are always available to discuss any specific difficulties with individual parents/carers to help resolve any issues

The only thing that bothers me is that it is very cold in kindergarten and my child gets sick because of it, and that if there is a cold wind outside, small children move out there and then there are big health problems. I wish this was changed

One of the doors in garden room is open throughout the session to enable children to have free access to the outdoors. At times when it is cold and children choose to learn outdoors, staff ensure they are suitably dressed and limit outdoor time to 30 minutes before children return indoors to 'warm up' before having the option to return outside. During winter children are also offered a warm drink at snack time. We encourage parents to dress children in layers during the colder months, rather than one thicker jumper for example, with warm coats, a hat and gloves as this helps to keep them warm. When children start any nursery and are mixing with other children they often get viruses and research suggests good ventilation and playing in fresh air can help to boost children's immune systems helping them to fight off infections and build up their resilience. Staff are always available to discuss specific issues regarding children's health either informally at drop off/collection or by making an appointment for a more formal meeting.

It will be an idea to make a meeting between older people (like people from homecare) and the children. I saw a community cafe in front of St. Stephen Church. But I think because of Covid is not possible at the moment.

I don't know if you have in the curriculum but also adding a little bit of information about traffic rules for pedestrians to tell the kids. We do this when we are in the streets. Knowing what red, amber and green lights mean. Also bringing a police officer, a firefighter at the nursery will be a nice experience.

Our school has links with the elderly through Westvale Care Home where we make regular visits to share songs, stories and activities. Unfortunately we haven't been able to visit due to COVID but look forward to taking the children as soon as we are able. In addition to teaching children about road safety through their play and on our community walks we have a special 'safety week' each year which supports this along with a range of visitors including those mentioned.

Maybe have the home learning bags for a little bit longer, D loves playing the games and likes to share them with the family but sometimes finds it hard to be able to play with everybody before it's time to take them back

We're really pleased to hear that D likes to get all the family involved in her home learning. We have a limited number of bags which are rotated to all the groups of children in garden room but if you speak to a staff member they would be happy for you to keep your bag a little longer. We can also look to increase the number of bags we have to enable more families to do this in the future.

The amount paid for the 30 hours for the child. It seems dear.

We found this comment a little confusing as families eligible for 30 hours free childcare are not asked to pay any additional fees. Our only charges are for breakfast and after school sessions for these parents if they want to take up this offer. Breakfast club, for example, is charged at £3 and includes a light breakfast. When available, parents not eligible for 30 hours can choose to purchase additional hours at a charge of £5 per hour. These fees are actually very competitive especially considering the qualifications of our staff. Unlike most private and voluntary providers all our rooms are overseen by a qualified teacher and many of our staff are qualified to degree level. The fees charged to parents/carers don't fully cover our costs but are a contribution towards this.

I personally don't think that there is much to improve, I'd appreciate if staff would tell me at handover a little more but it isn't majorly important because I see most things on tapestry

The end of the session is always busy but staff always make time for a brief chat with parents and carers. As suggested, Tapestry posts are a good way to find out a little more about the fun and learning children have engaged in as well as an opportunity to talk with your child about their day. If there are any specific things you want to know please just ask.

I would love to be able to sit in on one of his sessions and observe exactly what he does etc in his standing frame, watching how he interacts in activities

Please have a chat with staff in your child's classroom and they will be happy to share more videos and photographs of your son engaging in nursery activities with you via Tapestry. These will just be 'snapshots' as we will not, unfortunately, have the time to add a written update to them all as well. You are also more than welcome to stay for a little longer when you drop him off and we can let you see him in his standing frame. We don't usually have stay and play sessions in Rainbow Room as we have found, in the past when we have tried this, that children have not coped well with their parent staying as they are used to them saying goodbye and leaving them. The change in routine has then caused them to be quite unsettled.