

Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School
Newsletter Autumn Two 2025



Welcome back. We hope you all enjoyed the holidays!

It's been a pleasure to spend time in the classrooms over the last few days to see how well all the children have settled back into nursery and engaged in the exciting learning opportunities staff have created. This half term is a busy one as we prepare for Christmas and this newsletter contains lots of important dates and information about activities. Happy reading!

Marcia Head teacher

Nursery Focus

Garden and Sunshine Room—This half term's big question is 'Why are there so many leaves on the ground?'

The direction for learning in **Rainbow Room** this half term is

'How do we celebrate Autumn?'

Throughout this half term we will also be exploring the traditions of a variety of cultures/religions which shape the world around us including Diwali and Christmas

Log on to Tapestry to see what we have been learning and share the related home learning activities with your child too

If you have any questions about your child's learning and development please speak to their key worker who will be happy to help.

Important dates for your diary

Further details of all these events will be posted on Tapestry nearer the time.

4th November — GR & SR Visit from the Oral Health Team

w.c. 10th November— World Nursery Rhyme Week. Sponsored rhyme time on Friday 14th Nov

14th November— Pottery making—Clay faces with Debs

w.c. 1st December— Donate unwanted children's Xmas jumpers, available to families on 5th Dec

1st December: Clumsiest Elf Show

11th December: Christmas jumper day

19th December: Christmas party! A very special guest will be visiting with a sack full of presents!!!!



Friends of Sandy Lane—Our Parent/Carer Group: Our next coffee morning/afternoon will take place on the dates below. Everyone is welcome to join us for a drink and a chat to meet other parents and find out more about the work of the group. If you have younger children you can bring them along with some toys to keep them happy.



The morning session starts at **8.45 am** in the staffroom on **Friday 14th November**

The afternoon session starts at **2.15pm** in the staffroom on **Friday 14th November**

Our Friends of Sandy Lane are an important part of our school. During our meetings we talk together to share ideas on things we can improve and how we can work in closer partnership with parents, there are opportunities to volunteer in school with a range of jobs too.

I'm hoping that we can talk more at the meeting about our arrangements for planned fundraising events. If you have any questions, please have a chat with your child's keyworker at drop off or collection.

Clothing "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing" Alfred Wainwright

We have fabulous outdoor provision and all children have continuous access to outdoors for the whole session. As a result of their play and exploration, children may need to change their clothing. Please could you ensure that your child has a change of clothes.

As we move closer to colder weather please ensure you layer your child up with appropriate clothing. If you haven't done so already you may want to consider buying a school sweatshirt to wear over the top of a long-sleeved top. Please provide a suitable coat and label with your child's name.



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
12.00-2.00

Parent/Carer Termly Payment

This is payable every term:

Autumn Term payable September 2025, Spring Term payable January 2026, Summer Term payable April 2026

We ask for a donation towards the school's costs for snack foods and the little extras every child enjoys like birthday and Christmas gifts, party food and our end of year celebration. The amount is based on all families contributing. **Charges for the term are £16 for children attending 15 hours and £32 for those who attend for 30 hours.** These payments can be made via our School Spider App, under Bookings and Payments.



Something to Celebrate

Birthdays this half term: Audrey, Ivy, Laura, Julia, Paris, Asna, Theo, Lilly, Damon, Aodhán

Staff: Kirsten, Helen, Katy S, Maxine



School Uniform

Children's play can be a messy business. Please could you ensure your child has a change of clothes in nursery and that they come to school dressed for the changing weather.



You may wish to consider purchasing a school t-shirt and/or sweatshirt. These can be ordered using our School Spider App.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We understand that there may be rare occasions where you may be late to collect your child from nursery. Unfortunately, **a very small number of parents are late on a regular basis.** Doors close at 11.30 for am sessions and 3.30 for pm. Between sessions all staff supervise lunch club and have a limited amount of time for their own lunch before cleaning and setting up for the next session. After school staff also have a number of school commitments which is why it is important for parents to arrive on time.

Sponsored Rhyme Time

Each half term, staff will post on Tapestry the songs and rhymes children will be learning with links to where you can find them on line. This will enable you to practise them at home with your child. We would love to see photos and videos of your child practicing at home too.



This half term, to raise funds for additional resources for all our children we are holding a sponsored rhyme time. On Friday 14th November children will come together to sing the rhymes they have been learning this half term and we would love you to sponsor them for each rhyme they sing. There are six rhymes to learn - sponsor forms can be collected from your child's key worker and further information will be available on Tapestry.

Nursery Website

www.sandylanenurseryandforestschoo.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'. There are also idea on healthy packed lunches in the 'keeping healthy' tab. Find out how you can help us to be even better by reading our school improvement page in the 'Parents' tab too. School policies are under 'Key Information' If you have any comments or suggestions about things you would like to see on our website please let us know.



Can you help?

All schools are busy places and Sandy Lane is no exception. We already have a number of volunteers but are always keen to welcome more. You may want to help in a classroom, with admin tasks, preparing resources and home learning bags or spending time in the garden or forest school. Do you have a special interest/talent to share with us or are you just happy to help where needed and can spare a couple of hours as a one off or on a regular basis. **All help is greatly appreciated.** If you are interested in volunteering please speak to your child's room leader or have a chat with me on the door at drop off/collection.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

At Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest school we strive to be as sustainable as we can be and we want to support children to learn about the natural world and sustainable living. As well as involving the children in a range of activities in school, we also use Tapestry to share things you can do at home to support environmental sustainability on you are interested in learning more about how our whole school community is promoting eco-friendly practice you will find the Environmental Sustainability policy on the school website.



School Holidays School will close on Friday 19th December. We re-open on Monday 5th January 2025.



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 who will be happy to help

Attendance

Please ring the office: **623640**, text: **07415 869045** or report the absence on **School Spider** 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. Good progress is linked to good attendance. The final page of the newsletter shows how we monitor attendance what we do if we have any concerns.

If you would like to talk to someone about any issues you or your family may be facing please speak to Kirsten or Marcia who will be happy to help.



How do I know my child is making progress in nursery?

Staff use Tapestry to share children's learning with parents and carers. The notes (observations) they write are linked to the areas of learning as well as providing information about how they learn and their levels of wellbeing and involvement. Throughout each half term staff post a range of observations and at the end of the half term will send you a short post which shows whether your child is 'on track' as well as some next steps. These are things you can do at home to support your child's progress and learning. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please speak to their key worker who will be happy to help.



Something to think about...

Children don't need more things. The best toys a child can have is a parent who gets down on the floor and plays with them."

— Bruce Perry

BrassyApple.com

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 need an occasional extra session to do some Christmas shopping, or just to take a break or are interested in purchasing more regular additional sessions**, enabling your child to stay in garden room all day, please speak to a member of staff in the office (623640).



Reminder — The closing date for applications for **Primary School admission is Midnight, 15th January 2026**. If you need any help accessing or completing the forms online or have any queries, please see Janet or Louise in the office.

Guidance to parents and carers on the schools attendance monitoring

Marcia and Kirsten monitor all children's attendance fortnightly to find out more about who hasn't been to nursery and the reasons why. The office tell us if parents/carers have contacted nursery to let us know your child is sick or any other reason they aren't in

We understand that children's can be off because they are ill or have appointments so when we review how often a child doesn't come to nursery we look at things like:

Whether they are off regularly on particular days, for example is a child regularly off on a Monday

Whether they are often off with the same illness – you don't need to keep your child off if they are well but have a cold

If we have rung you about your child's absence, have you given us a reason they are off

Improving attendance

If we are concerned about your child's attendance at nursery we will continue to check on this regularly and:

Ask your child's key worker or room leader to have a chat with you to see how we can help you to bring your child to nursery everyday



If things don't improve we will send a letter out to you as a reminder of all the learning and opportunities to make friends your child is missing.



If your child is still regularly missing school Marcia or Kirsten will telephone you or may visit your home to make sure you and your family are safe and talk about how we can work together to help your child to attend



We will send out a second letter inviting you to a meeting with your child's room leader to talk about making a plan to help your child to come to school regularly



If your child is still missing lots of nursery sessions and the things we have tried already haven't helped, we will send you letter for a meeting with Marcia or Kirsten. If your family get support from people like a family support worker, social worker or health visitor, we will invite them too. At this meeting we will talk together about what extra support you need to help you to get your child to nursery each day. This may include an Early Help Assessment



We hope that we are able to work in partnership with you to improve your child's attendance. Good attendance at nursery will help your child to be happy and settled here and make good progress in their learning and development.

Unfortunately, if things don't improve following this process the school would need to consider whether to withdraw your child's place at nursery. In the unlikely event that this needed to be done we would help you to find a different nursery and would need to let the Local Authority know that your child no longer attended Sandy Lane.