



I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and the children are ready for lots of fun and learning in 2026. Staff have created some wonderful experiences for the children to explore and this term Sunshine and Garden rooms have a number of new children and parents/carers joining our Sandy Lane family. A very warm welcome to you all!

For those of you who may not know, thanks to the generous donations of our families, the Christmas Raffle raised an incredible £86 towards 'little extras' for all our children. We are so very grateful to everyone who took part in helping to raise this amount. Thank You

2026

As parents and carers of children attending Sandy Lane you know what a special place this is. If you have friends, family or neighbours who are looking for a nursery place in September 2026, please encourage them to contact our school office and register for a place with us.
Marcia, Head teacher

IMPORTANT REMINDER

School starters September 2026

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2026 and you have not yet applied for his/her school place, please speak to Janet or Louise in the office as soon as possible.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2026.

Nursery focus

Garden Room - This term's 'big question' is '**What do you know about winter?**' And the direction for learning for Sunshine and Rainbow Room this half term is also '**What do I know about Winter?**'

Our value for this half term is 'Manners'

*Mini Movers Dance every Thursday

*Debs the Potter will be coming on 16th January

*Author Sean Perkins will be visiting on 19th January to share a story with us

*Valentines Day 14th February

Who's been a 'Playful Penguin' or a 'Have a go Horse' today?

Staff in Sunshine and Garden rooms encourage children to think about their learning using our 'characters'. These characters help the children to recognise which 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' they have demonstrated in their play; things like engagement, motivation and thinking skills. You will see them displayed in the classrooms and it would be helpful if you could talk with children at home when you see them demonstrating these too. Further information on the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' can be found on our website under the 'Key Information', 'Curriculum' tabs.

Here are our Characteristics Characters!

Playful Penguin



Creative Cat

Have a go Horse



Keep on trying Kangaroo

Concentrating Crocodile



Connecting Caterpillar

Friends of Sandy Lane

Nursery and Forest School



As a Sandy Lane family there are lots of ways we can work together to benefit all our children. Our Friends of Sandy Lane group meet once a half term to talk about things like how to encourage families to complete home learning, fundraising ideas, volunteering and things that could make our school even better. It's an opportunity to meet with other parent/carers for a drink and a chat, **everyone is welcome** and you all have a valuable contribution to make. Further details will be shared on Tapestry. If you would like to join this friendly group please have a chat with me or your child's key worker at drop off/collection.

Good Attendance Is The Key To Good Progress

Please can we remind all parents of the importance of reporting a child's absence.

You can leave a message on School Spider, ring the office: 01925 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.



SchoolSpider

Forthcoming Events

Don't forget to check Tapestry and our website for event dates

January — Mini Movers Dance every Thursday, 16th — Debs the Potter visit, 19th — Sean Perkins Author visit

Nursery Website

www.sandylanenurseryandforestschool.co.uk



Our new website launched last half term. It contains lots of information about school events and 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', just choose the room your child attends for home learning ideas. If you have any suggestions about things you would like to see on our website please let us know and we will do our best to include them.

Clothing

As the colder weather descends upon us, we are asking that your child comes to nursery wearing appropriate footwear and possibly layered clothing. We would also ask that your child continues to wear a suitable coat, hat and gloves. Please could you also ensure that your child has a change of clothes as children's play and learning can be a messy business!

You may wish to consider purchasing a school sweatshirt and/or a school polo shirt.

These can be ordered and paid for, when stock is available, using the School Spider app.



A POLITE REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS THAT SMOKING AND VAPING IS NOT ALLOWED ON SITE



Rainbow Room Parent and Carers Group



Our parent and carers group for children attending Rainbow Room started last half term. If you are interested in joining us for a drink and a chat next time, please just pop along to the staffroom. You will be very welcome. Dates to be confirmed. Check Tapestry and/or posters on rainbow room notice board for times

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 2.00-2.00

School Holidays

School will close on Friday 13th February, and re-open on Monday 23rd February.

TERMLY PAYMENTS:

We would like to make families aware that this charge doesn't cover the schools costs but is a contribution towards your child's snack and little extras like their birthday and Christmas gift and last term the Christmas Elf Show. Without your donations we simply would not be able to offer such treats to your children. Payments are due by the end of the first week of each term, or half term. Some families choose to pay for the full school year, most pay termly but you also have the option to pay half termly. **We ask for £16 per term for children attending 15 hours and £32 for those who attend for 30 hours. Please make this payment via the School Spider App.**



Rhyme Time

Each half term staff will post the songs and rhymes children will be learning with links to where you can find them on line. This will enable you to practice them at home with your child. We would love to see photos and videos of your child practicing at home. Can you guess some of the rhymes for this half term? Check Tapestry to see if you're right



Something to Celebrate

Birthdays this half term:

Helin, Tommy, Willow, Ronnie, Ahmed, Winnie, Luke, Aydin, William, Reuben, Ibrahim

Staff: Terri, Emma, Holly, Jamie, Annie



 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

Early Maths—Did You Know?

The early years curriculum for maths is split into 2 aspects 'Number' and 'Numerical Patterns'. As well as exploring our maths home learning bags, parents and carers can help children's mathematical development in these aspects through a range of everyday activities.



YOUNGER CHILDREN Number—counting toys in the bath, how many spoons or plates needed when setting the table, counting steps taken on the stairs, singing number songs and rhymes, showing amounts on fingers e.g. 2 fingers to show you are 2. Numerical Patterns—make collections of things that are the same, grouping things by colour, size, shape, filling and emptying bottles in the bath, making themselves small/stretching tall, ordering toys by size, making groups of the same amount e.g. 3 for you and 3 for me, helping to put shopping away, what's heavy and what is light

3-4 YEAR OLDS Number—singing number rhymes counting forwards and backwards, practice recognising small amounts up to 3 without needing to count them, playing dice games and counting the spots, making marks to represent numbers e.g. number 3 or 3 lines to show we need 3 bananas on a shopping list, playing simple bingo games Numerical Patterns—making and comparing groups with 'more' or 'fewer', hiding toys and using words like 'on top of', 'behind', 'next to', looking for shapes on a walk to school, using scales when baking or a measuring tape to measure the height of a tower

You will find lots more information on how you can support your child's learning at home on our website www.sandylanenurseryandforestschool.co.uk, under the 'Parents' 'Helping at home' tabs. Just select the room your child is in. If you have any questions or would like further support please speak to your child's key worker who will be happy to help