



Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School

"Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination"

Spring Term (2025-26)

Dear Parent/Carer

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, with a sample of your responses and my replies to the comments made.

Marcia Atherton
Head teacher

Parental Questionnaire Analysis, March 2026

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	My child is happy at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	80	20		
2	I think that my child feels safe at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	84	16		
3	My child is well looked after at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	88	12		
4	My child enjoys the activities at Sandy lane Nursery and Forest School	92	8		
5	I am aware of what my child is learning in nursery e.g. through Tapestry posts, classroom displays, conversations with staff	72	28		
6	I feel informed about my child's progress e.g. through Tapestry posts, newsletter, classroom displays, conversations with staff	76	24		
7	My child is making good progress at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	68	32		
8	My child has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or is known to other professionals e.g. physic, social care, speech and language therapists	Yes 48	No 52		
	If you have answered yes to the question above, how strongly to you agree with this statement. <i>'The school gives my child the support they need to succeed'</i>	66	34		
9	I understand that supporting my child to engage in with the home learning set will support their learning and progress	76	24		
10	My child enjoys the home learning activities shared by nursery (home learning bags, lending library, Tapestry, weekly home learning)	64	36		

11	I am aware and supportive of the schools improvement plan (shared in the Autumn term newsletter, displayed in the entrance and available on the schools website)	72	28		
12	I think that the children at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School are well behaved	60	40		
13	I think staff work effectively with the children to resolve conflicts	Not aware of any conflicts % 74		Agree % 26	Disagree
14	I receive regular communications from the nursery about events e.g. the newsletter, Tapestry posts, School Spider messages, posters around school	80	20		
15	The school is welcoming, staff are approachable and school responds well to any concerns I raise	72	28		
16	The school is led and managed well	80	20		
17	I would recommend this school to another parent	80	20		
18	How did you hear about Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School? (Please tick your answer)	I have had a previous child here 32%	From a friend/relative 25 %	From the website or Facebook 7 %	Other 36%
For any 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' please expand upon these answers There were no disagree responses					
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>Sense of community Toilet training Referred my child to speech and language. Have helped her come along with her speech and language. They take time to listen to my daughter and to help her. She's building good friendships and talks a bit more at home about what happens at nursery The staff at sandy lane are amazing with my son, his communication skills are improving, his writing skills are improving. They have helped me with getting support with my sons additional needs and have supported his additional needs amazingly within the nursery. My son used to become unsettled when dropping him off, he is now settling much better in the mornings. Sandy lane has brought my shy little A out of her shell completely. She started in January 2025 and cried all the time going to nursery as she wasn't very confident. Fast forward to now, A cannot wait to go to nursery to see her friends and teachers. When A was in the sunshine room, they helped massively with toilet training along side me at home...it made a huge difference. Her learning via speech and knowledge is down to Sandy Lane, thank you. Being friendly towards parents and children Toilet training speech and language My daughter started talking in English. Staff listen to concerns and work with the parent and the child to work things out/put plans in place its child led and nothing is forced on them. Not much The nursery has had a very positive impact on my child's development. I especially appreciate the support with building independence, speech development and social skills. Thanks to the warm and patient approach of the staff, my child has become more confident, communicates more willingly with other children and manages emotions better. As a family, we feel supported and listened to, and the atmosphere helps build a strong sense of community. Toilet training, speech and language Speech and language They are helping support my daughter, they are amazing with her so thankyou Supportive environment to help children build relationships with others Fully supporting W when she is having challenges like pica, they listened and supported her so she feels safe not to do her harmful pica behaviours. Also very friendly and supportive of our emotional wellbeing as a family Helped with the amount of communication my child has, taught him how to share and take turns. Supported with toilet training All staff have made my child feel safe and secure and he loves going. His team in the room have been understanding about his medical needs that we have come across and tell me each day if he's struggled with his tummy.</p>				

	<p>My son would never eat/drink or even sit around the table at snack time but over the past couple of weeks the fantastic staff in rainbow room have managed to get him to sit around the table whilst the other children are having their snack and with a lot of encouragement my son now feels comfortable to have a drink as well. Since C started school, he has learned to say "please" and "thank you" — those little magic words that open big doors. When we go out and he interacts with other children, he has become very polite and knows how to behave appropriately. At home, he plays with his toys more gently and no longer throws tantrums for no reason. His English vocabulary is growing day by day. After all, English is not his first language, but his ability to express himself is improving steadily. We are truly delighted and deeply grateful to the teachers for all their dedication and hard work.</p> <p>S had come on with her speech a bit more since starting Sandy Lane she has come out her comfort zone and made new friends no</p> <p>As my daughter does not speak English, we were initially concerned about how she would settle in. However, the staff have been extremely welcoming and attentive, using different forms of communication and encouragement to help her feel safe and included. We can clearly see the progress in her understanding and confidence, which makes us feel very reassured and grateful.</p> <p>Not sure</p> <p>Help manage behaviour regarding P doesn't like demands</p>
20	<p>How has Tapestry helped with sharing information about your child's learning and ideas home learning?</p> <p>Really helped</p> <p>I get to see what my daughter is doing and what she is learning about. Use provide photos and very detailed descriptions of what is happening</p> <p>My son struggles to tell me what activities he has been doing whilst at nursery, tapestry updates allow me to see what he has been learning.</p> <p>Tapestry is amazing. I love seeing updates about A's day and updating me on what tasks/information she has learnt. It is also great for updating nursery on what Ava has done at home.. ie, learning bags and reading</p> <p>By putting pictures and videos up.</p> <p>Everything is described on the app, every progress, what needs to be worked on, great.</p> <p>Haven't seen a lot on tapestry but I know they get up to a lot whilst in nursery</p> <p>It's ok</p> <p>Tapestry is very helpful for me. Through regular photos and observations, I can follow my child's progress and better understand what they are currently learning. The ideas for home activities help us continue the learning naturally at home and reinforce what is being taught at nursery.</p> <p>Kept up to date</p> <p>Not sure</p> <p>Brilliant idea doing this as my daughter loves her nursery rhymes and we learn sign language which is amazing</p> <p>A good way of communicating with children in talking about what they have done in nursery</p> <p>Simple and easy to access</p> <p>Ideas of what things to do once home that my son will possibly enjoy or even participate with.</p> <p>It's very helpful as it keeps me up to date with what they are doing in nursery and the progress being made</p> <p>Good to see what he has been up to and also to know what's going on in his room what new learning they are focusing on</p> <p>It's lovely to see on tapestry what my child has been learning during his sessions, and the home learning has helped by giving us fun and interesting activities that we can do together at home.</p> <p>I think the Tapestry app is excellent. It's great to receive real time updates about my child's activities and progress. I also really appreciate being able to communicate with the teachers easily through the comments feature.</p> <p>This has given a few ideas to do at home with S to keep her learning up</p> <p>Tapestry allows me to follow my child's development through photos, comments and explanations of activities.</p> <p>This helps me talk with them about what they have done at school and reinforce that learning at home with similar activities.</p> <p>Amazing</p> <p>Can see what she's doing and what she enjoys</p>
21	<p>As a parent/carer, what do you like best at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School?</p> <p>Everything</p> <p>All the activities</p> <p>I like how we let them experience different things. Like forest school, writing, reading books, imaginary play.</p> <p>There's so much more I could say</p> <p>The staff and the support they give to not only the children but to the parents as well. I also love the fact that the children have constant access to being outdoors.</p>

	<p>Sandy Lane treats all the kids like their own and it's beautiful to see. All the staff are brilliant. Staff It nice and friendly my son has learned a lot from them The caregivers are so nice, my little one loves them. They're always helpful and willing to help. Staff are very caring & understanding. forest school is great for young children who like being outdoors. There's not a lot of nurseries especially in Warrington who provide this. It's friendly What I like most is the warm, friendly atmosphere and the dedication and professionalism of the staff. Children are treated with respect and their individual needs are recognized and supported. I also really value the outdoor learning and the Forest School approach, which encourages development through play and connection with nature. Cleanliness and staff Everything I like the little gatherings they have in the mornings and be able to go outside in the forest school Fruitful activities at nursery, music/ dancing/ forest school/ pottery...etc That my child is so happy here that she runs in everyday How friendly and approachable the staff are. Everything. The staff is welcoming and friendly and the environment is very friendly How friendly all staff are with children and parents nothing is ever too much and everyone helps if they can with concerns I like that all the staff are welcoming and are approachable every day to have a chat about any concerns I may have about my child. It's wonderful to see how proactive the teachers are with every single child. They come in each day full of energy and so much love. For us as parents, that truly is the very best we could ask for. I like that S is comfortable and chilled and developing with the support of her teachers she has come on so much since she first started I like the welcoming environment and the dedicated care provided by the staff. I feel that my child is valued and well supported. Staff are very polite and my son comes out with. Smile on his face Able to speak to all the staff and can tell my daughters happy</p>
22	<p>What could we change or make better? We had lots of 'nothing' responses to this question in addition to the comments below</p> <p>I am very happy with how the nursery operates and I do not have any major suggestions at this time. I believe the setting provides a high standard of care and education. Thank you for your dedication and care for the children. Updating tapestry maybe a little quicker but I understand everyone is busy - Thank you for your understanding, staff are always incredibly busy and do try to publish Tapestry posts as soon as they can I can't think of anything At the moment, we are very happy with everything. We truly appreciate all the effort and care from the team. At the moment, I am very satisfied with the school and do not have any specific suggestions for improvement. Could I have pictures of what P eats and how much has been eaten please - This request has been passed on to Rainbow Room staff</p>