



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 took 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.

Yes, I found the home visit extremely useful. It helped create a closer relationship between the school and our family, which is very important for a child's development. The visit helped build an initial sense of trust and security for my child and also for us as parents, making the transition to nursery smoother and more positive.

The home visit was very helpful before my child started nursery. It gave us the opportunity to share important information about her routine, interest, and needs before her start date. It also helped my child become familiar with the staff, which made the transition into nursery smoother and more comfortable for both of us.

Yes, we found the home visit very helpful. It helped our child feel more comfortable and familiar with the nursery staff before starting. It also gave us confidence and reassurance, as we had the opportunity to ask questions and share information about our child's routine, interests, and needs

It was lovely for H to meet her before he started. I think it helped when he started cause he knew at least someone there

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

Yes, I felt I was given enough time to discuss my child's needs and routine with the nursery staff. They listened carefully, and answered my questions, and made me feel reassured that my child would be well supported.

Yes, we felt we were given enough time to discuss our child's needs with the nursery staff. The team listened carefully, answered our questions, and made us feel supported throughout the process.

Absolutely

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 of 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

Yes I think the transition was great there was no rush and no meltdowns

Yes S finds it hard being away from me we managed to get her crying down to a minimum due to the staffs help

I felt that the school showed a great deal of care throughout the entire transition period. The initial separation is naturally difficult, as everything is new for the child and also for us as parents, especially as a first-time mother. The way the school supported this process made G's transition gentle and quick. Now, when I collect her, I can see how happy she is, which gives me great reassurance and confidence.

Yes, both my child and I felt well supported during the transition to nursery. The staff were welcoming, patient, and communicated well throughout the process. They helped my child settle in gradually, which made the experience much easier and reassuring.

Yes, both our child and our family felt well supported during the transition to nursery. The staff were kind, patient, and welcoming, which helped our child settle in more easily. Communication was very good, and we appreciated the care and understanding shown by the team.

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?

I think the school is great so I have no suggestions

I've seen an improvement with S's speech and how she's doing things a lot more than she was down to the time spent at nursery

We are very happy with the care and support provided by the nursery. Thank you for all the work you do. 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

The induction and transition process was very helpful overall. Perhaps in the future, a short welcome session or stay and play activity before starting nursery could help children become even more familiar with the environment and staff. *This is certainly something we can consider for future induction, thank you for your feedback*

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