

Festive greetings to all our Sandy Bears families! We get very excited for the festive season so get ready for lots of crafts, bells, glitter and singing! Firstly we would like to give a massive welcome to Leanne who will be working in Big Bears as a key worker and in the baby room on a Tuesday. We are seeing some new staff faces due to a brilliant increase in number and hours with our children!! So, to help you all get to know our new staff a little better we have all answered a short questionnaire...

Name: Laura Rigby

Role: Manager & Owner of Sandy Bears

Star sign: Libra

Pets: Lola (cat) Barney (dog) and of course Bramble and Jasper (SB rabbits!)

Lives with: partner Joe

Favourite colour: purple

Favourite food: most food! I do love mushrooms, goats cheese and pizza though!

Favourite drink: apple juice

Favourite animal: dog or a monkey... or a panda.... Or an elephant

Favourite TV program: corrie or im a celeb at the mo!

Favourite movie: the notebook, dirty dancing... or The Little Mermaid!

First pets name: 3 fish- sully sweep and sue

Favourite nursery song: 5 cheeky monkeys

Favourite actor: Leonardo Dicaprio or Jack Nicholson

What was the name of the last book you read? A Jackie Collins Novel

Whats your favourite childhood memory? Going camping with my mum, dad and brother Jack and then crabbing with my dad!

Sunshine or snow? sunshine

Worst habit: playing with my hair!

Hobbies: organising things for SBs!

If you could choose 1 super power what would it be? Invisibility

What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? A clone of me to keep at Sandy Bears and a ticket around the world

What are you doing this weekend? Meeting up with a few friends and going out for tea with the future mother in law and sister in law!

Why do you work at Sandy Bears? From when I first began working at Sandy Bears I could see the potential and with ALOT of tlc what it could become! I am always trying to find new ways of improving Sandy Bears to make it the best and safest place for the children.

What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears?

We definitely see ourselves as a large family! This includes the staff, children and parents! I have never worked anywhere where the staff have such a brilliant relationship and they/we care so much for the children to develop and achieve to their full potential.

Name: Astone

Role: Deputy Manager, Big Bears room leader and key worker

Star sign: Gemini

Pets: Doug the Dog, Bramble & Jasper ☺  
Lives with: Partner Callum  
Favourite colour: Orange  
Favourite food: Mash potatoes, anything spicy!  
Favourite drink: tea  
Favourite animal: any baby animal!  
Favourite TV program: Reality competitions, ie four in a bed, masterchef etc.  
Favourite movie: The Shawshank Redemption  
First pets name: Sooty  
Favourite nursery song: Down in the Jungle  
Favourite actor: Tom Hanks  
What was the name of the last book you read? Life of Pi  
Whats your favourite childhood memory? Going to Scotland to visit my grandparents every summer and having so much fun up in the highlands with my sisters!  
Sunshine or snow? Sunshine  
Worst habit: being too nose y!  
Hobbies: Yoga, eating out!  
If you could choose 1 super power what would it be? Read minds  
What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? Alton Towers  
What are you doing this weekend? Going to the Christmas Markets in Errdig and going out with my friend who is visiting from London!  
Why do you work at Sandy Bears? I enjoy coming to work every single day and to me it isn't a 'job', I am very lucky to be able to make a change in people's lives and I love supporting families and spending such enriched time with all the wonderful children we have at Sandy Bears. I learn something new every single day and being able to attend courses and develop ideas with my colleagues allows me to develop as a professional too.  
What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears? Going on a journey with families from when they first visit, everyone at Sandy Bears has a genuine involvement in the lives of our children and this level of dedication from all the wonderful staff is truly heart-warming.

Name: Claire Davenport  
Role: Big bears key worker  
Star sign: Taurus  
Pets: 2 Dogs Molly + Daisy  
Lives with: Husband Adrian, Daughter Amy and Son Tom  
Favourite colour: Green  
Favourite food: Curry  
Favourite drink: Tea  
Favourite animal: Dog  
Favourite TV program: Soaps-Eastenders and Coronation Street  
Favourite movie: Lion King and other Walt Disneys

First pets name: Sally  
Favourite nursery song: Hey Diddle Diddle  
Favourite actor: David Tenant  
What was the name of the last book you read? War Horse  
Whats your favourite childhood memory? My dog Sally having 8 puppies  
Sunshine or snow? sunshine  
Worst habit: OGD cleaning!  
Hobbies: Walking the dogs  
If you could choose 1 super power what would it be? To not age after 30!!  
What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? A barn conversion in the country with a bit of land ☺  
What are you doing this weekend? Watch Tom play rugby, take Amy to her friends then pick up a takeaway and watch x factor  
Why do you work at Sandy Bears? I enjoy being with children  
What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears? Being with the children and them calling me Claire Bear  
Name: Melissa  
Role: Baby Bears Room leader & Key worker  
Star sign: Aries  
Pets: Dog called Blue  
Lives with: Mum and 3 brothers  
Favourite colour: Pink  
Favourite food: Indian  
Favourite drink: Vimto  
Favourite animal: Dog  
Favourite TV program: The Only Way is Essex  
Favourite movie: Taken or The Notebook  
First pets name: Jasper  
Favourite nursery song: if you're happy and you know it  
Favourite actor: Channing Tatum  
What was the name of the last book you read? Katie Price - autobiography  
Whats your favourite childhood memory? Playing outside on my pogo stick!  
Sunshine or snow? Sunshine  
Worst habit: Biting my nails  
Hobbies: Shopping and walking Blue  
If you could choose 1 super power what would it be?  
What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? A cream mini cooper  
What are you doing this weekend? Going to Liverpool xmas shopping  
Why do you work at Sandy Bears? I Just love it ☺ Also because I love watching the babies grow and develop, everyone is lovely!  
What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears? The lovely warm feeling you get when entering the nursery! The good friendship between all staff members.

Name: Lindsay  
Role: Big bears key worker  
Star sign: Gemini  
Pets: none  
Lives with: Tony and Scarlett  
Favourite colour: Purple  
Favourite food: Sausage and mash  
Favourite drink: Coffee  
Favourite animal: Zebra  
Favourite TV program: At the minute...I'm a celebrity  
Favourite movie: How to lose a guy in 10 days  
First pets name: Gyp my dog  
Favourite nursery song: The bee hive song  
Favourite actor: Leonardo DiCaprio  
What was the name of the last book you read? Lost Symbol  
Whats your favourite childhood memory? Getting wet feet when driving through a flood in my granddads skoda.  
Sunshine or snow? Sunshine  
Worst habit: Stubborn  
Hobbies: Girl Guiding Brownies and Rainbow leader  
If you could choose 1 super power what would it be? Read peoples minds  
What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? A new house  
What are you doing this weekend? Spending time with my family – xmas shopping  
Why do you work at Sandy Bears? Small, friendly setting with lovely children and staff!  
What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears? Love all the new resources and equipment, it's great seeing the children having so much fun!

Name: Sophie Jones  
Role: Baby bears key worker  
Star sign: Sagittarius  
Pets: 1 cat Oliver  
Lives with: Boyfriend  
Favourite colour: Yellow  
Favourite food: Pasta Bake  
Favourite drink: Coke  
Favourite animal: Dogs  
Favourite TV program: X factor  
Favourite movie: Billy Elliot  
First pets name: Tiddles  
Favourite nursery song: If you're happy and you know it  
Favourite actor: Paul Rudd  
What was the name of the last book you read? The Book Thief  
Whats your favourite childhood memory? Going to Blackpool Pleasure Beach  
Sunshine or snow? Snow  
Worst habit:

Hobbies: Volunteering at the RSPCA, Shopping!

If you could choose 1 super power what would it be? Invisibility

What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? A theme park in my garden

What are you doing this weekend? It's my birthday so going for a meal with my family + friends

Why do you work at Sandy Bears? After graduating from university in July in Early Childhood Studies it was important for me to begin my career working with young children and babies in an outstanding nursery. A nursery that not only offers the best care and education to the children, but a nursery that is able to further develop my skills as an early years practitioner. Although I have not been here for long I can see that Sandy Bears is already doing this and will continue to 😊

What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears?

Besides the children (obviously!) my favourite thing is the key worker system we have in place and how it is implemented into everyday work; the observations, the learning journeys + tracking. This helps us get to know our key children and learn what they like, dislike and track their development- this is beneficial to us, parents and most importantly the children. I also love all the staff here and how much they care for the children!

Name: Leanne Harrison

Role: Big Bears key worker

Star sign: Capricorn

Pets: none

Lives with: mum and sister

Favourite colour: Yellow + Pink

Favourite food: Carbonara pasta

Favourite drink: Fanta lemon

Favourite animal: penguin

Favourite TV program: I'm a celebrity, Friends, Hollyoaks

Favourite movie: Drop Dead Fred

First pets name: Rambo (bird)

Favourite nursery song: 2 Cheeky Monkeys

Favourite actor: Jim Carey

What was the name of the last book you read? Harry Potter books

Whats your favourite childhood memory? Family holiday to Florida

Sunshine or snow? Sunshine

Worst habit: Biting my nails when nervous or anxious

Hobbies: Dancing, swimming, tennis

If you could choose 1 super power what would it be? Wings to fly

What would you buy if you could have anything in the world? Money tree

What are you doing this weekend? Visiting my nan, quiet and relaxing weekend

Why do you work at Sandy Bears? Because I love to make a difference to each individual child- through building relationships and a variety of experiences to thrive and achieve.

What's your favourite thing about Sandy Bears? The staff are so friendly and focussed on their job. They go above and beyond to support children and parents and also staff members, sharing ideas and strategies. It is a home from home environment and the children are so well cared for and enjoy being at Sandy Bears. We are always looking to improve following staff and parents comments and also wishes and requests from children.

### Nativity

This year we are putting on a nativity for all parents on our last day of term! It will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm. Below is a list of parts for your little ones, please let us know if your child can or cannot attend ASAP. We ask that you provide a costume for your child to wear on the day too. For any parents that cannot attend we are going to try and video the performance providing we have consent from all other parents so we will keep you posted on this.

Mary – Sophia Powell  
Joseph – Harry Walker  
Donkey – Charlie Richards  
Wise Man 1 – Harry Mohun  
Wise Man 2 – Ollie Rowlands  
Wise Man 3 – Jack Morris  
Angel Gabriel – Sophia Brotherhood  
Angel 1 – Gracie Roderiques  
Angel 2 – Sophie Doyle  
Inn Keeper – Liam Davies  
Inn Keepers Wife – Maisie Venables  
King Herod – Annabel Houghton

All younger children we ask to be dressed as Shepards, Sheep or Stars!

### Term Dates

Our Christmas dates are as follows-

Term Time Children – Last day is 19<sup>th</sup> Dec return on the 6<sup>th</sup> Jan

All Year Round Dates – Last day is the 20<sup>th</sup> return on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Closed New Years Day 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Children in Need Charity Event

We would just like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who was involved, attended and especially those who donated it was an amazing day and we couldn't be more ecstatic with how well it went. Our total is unfortunately slightly reduced due to our price match with M&S bank only reaching £500 due to a HSBC company policy change. However our total still currently stands at a MASSIVE £3,194!!!! We broke last year's total and this year's target so we should all be very proud of ourselves. WELL DONE SANDY BEARS ☺

### Early Drop Offs

If parents have been arriving early (without booking an 'early start') they may have noticed on this months invoice they have been charged for an 'early start' or an early session. To prevent this from happening please make sure you arrive on time!- We have staff rotated to arrive for the correct ratio of children , if you forget to book your early start or extra session in advanced this may affect staff hours of work.

### Bramble and Jasper

Our gorgeous little pets are really flourishing and regularly come out for a wander and cuddle with all the children. We are so impressed by the responsibility of our older ones feeding and cleaning them out with enthusiasm! If anyone thinks they could give our rabbits a loving home for the week we are closed over Christmas please speak to Astone or Laura ASAP

### Reports

All parents will be receiving a report wc 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 from your childs key worker so keep your eyes out for these!

### Xmas Cards

We are making Christmas cards with all children this year which are sent off and make into real printed cards. Packs are available in set of 12 priced at £7. If you would like to order some please speak to your childs key worker to view their personal design and order.