



## December Newsletter

Laura has some VERY exciting news to tell Sandy Bear parents... she has been keeping a secret from you all for 16 weeks now (which has been very difficult at times!) Laura is having a baby!!!! Everyone here can't wait for the first official Sandy Bears baby ☺ This will mean very little changes to the setting so please don't worry about any turmoil or upset for children, Laura won't be taking her full maternity time off and will be working in the office from time to time after the baby is born. You can always contact her via Sandy Bears facebook (Astone also picks these up) or email as she will be 'online' at home, though some emails will be forwarded to Astone if Laura has not been in the setting or if it clashes with her maternity time. There will be no other noticeable changes to Sandy Bears on Laura's absence. Astone will be taking on the role of Acting Manager but will still be mainly based in Big Bears with a couple of half day office sessions per week. We are so pleased we can now inform all parents and we will keep you all updated with baby news! I'm sure your little bears will come up with some great suggestions for names :)

## Staff News

Well done to Tara who has completed her Level 2 in Food Catering.

Well done Beckie for completing her first module on her Nutrition and Health Level 2. We felt it important (particularly for the baby room) to have a member of staff trained in this to help staff and parents give children the very best start with their nutrition. If you have any questions feel free to speak to Beckie.

Astone has also been working hard passing all of her module exams on her Management course, she is now busy getting her portfolio ready to submit.

If you have a nomination for Staff of the Term please put these in the box in the cloakroom with your reasons why before *January 9<sup>th</sup>*. These can be anonymous however you can email/facebook yours too!

## Parents Evening

Our parent's evenings this year will be running from *Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January* with different evenings for different key workers. Please look to our sign up time sheets on the notice board by the front door, (ask if you can't find them!) If these times are not convenient then alternative times are to be arranged with key workers.

## Open Day

We are all soooooo looking forward to our Winter Wonderland Open Day on *Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December*. It will start at 10.30am finishing around 12.30pm. Included in the day will be fun and games with the real Ana and Elsa from Frozen, face painting, hot dogs, mulled wine, mince pies and lots of winter games! We hope you can all make it ☺

## Mo & Jo Photography

We hope you were all pleased with the photograph proofs you received after our photo session. The orders placed before 1<sup>st</sup> December will be here in plenty of time for Christmas, we will let you all know when they have arrived!

### New Year Sessions

If you are thinking of increasing sessions after Christmas please speak to Astone or Laura ASAP to ensure a place is secured. If your child turned 3 between September and Christmas they will be entitled to 15 hours free funded by the government so make sure you let us know and take advantage of this time. Additionally our baby room is bustling and we have VERY limited spaces between now and July, being full on lots of days. If you would like to book your baby in/increase their hours let us know as soon as you can. Thank you.

### School Places

The deadline for school applications is looming closer for all of our pre-school children. If you have any questions about how this process takes place or want information of how you can apply please speak to one of our Big Bears team!

### Children in Need

An absolutely huuuumongous thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale....we raised a massive £276.00! (and got a load of yummy cakes to boot)! Well Done Tattenhall ☺

### Childcare Vouchers

Just a note to parents who use childcare vouchers to have a quick check of their accounts, we have had a problem with one company stopping direct debits to our account. Please keep a check on this and let us know if you have any problems to avoid a late payment charge.

### New Starters

A big Sandy Bears welcome to Isabelle Denrico and Hatty Williams who have both joined our baby room this month!

### Recommendations

Just a reminder that parents can view other parent's recommendations online at [www.daynurseries.co.uk](http://www.daynurseries.co.uk) by simply searching for Sandy Bears. If you would like to leave a review for others to see then all the instructions are online. We are so so grateful to all the parents that have already reviewed, it means so much that our hard work is appreciated.

### Xmas Party

This year our Christmas party will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> December from 11am-1pm. We have a magician coming to entertain us all and will be doing party food for everyone. This is for all Sandy Bears children to attend! If your child does not come on this day you can either book them in for an extra session or attend the party with them!

### Nativity

This year our Christmas nativity will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> December (thurs) at 9.30am. We would love for all children and families to attend this occasion as last year it was one of our highlights! The nativity 'parts' are as follows...

- Mary-Tia
- Joseph – Lucas
- Angel – Isabelle A
- Angel – Emily H
- Angel – Georgia W
- Donkey – Lois E
- Wise Man – Tom S

- Wise Man – Riley N
- Wise Man – Will M
- Inn Keeper – Connor C
- Inn Keepers Wife – Holly W
- Shepard – Thomas D
- Shepard – Riley E
- Choir – Star or Sheep

If parents need any information regarding costumes ect please speak to any member of staff. If your child is NOT able to make the play please let someone know asap. Merry Christmas!!

#### Xmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who returned their xmas cards template and money so promptly. They should be with us very soon and we will send them home as soon as we can.

#### Staff Volunteers

Recently we have had a couple of parents coming in to help us out with odd jobs round Sandy Bears. If any other parents would like to volunteer an hour or two we would be very grateful. Please let Laura or Astone know if you can help!

#### Flu jab

As the weather is getting colder and winter is definitely on its way we would advise parents taking children to get the free flu jab from your doctors. This is a nasal spray that protects against the worst of the winters cold. Please speak to your GP Surgery for more information.

#### Spare Clothes

With the weather worsening the ground outside can become quite muddy and damp. Please provide spare clothes so we can change your child if necessary. We recommend 3 pairs of trousers tops and underwear, along with wellies when its wet. If you have any spares that you have borrowed from Sandy Bears please could you return these when you are done so we can keep our emergency box topped up 😊 Thanks.

#### Lost property

The lost property box located in our cloakroom is emptied for recycling every term. Over the Christmas break we will be emptying this box so please check to see none of your children's clothes are left in here.

Merry Christmas Everyone, lots of love and hugs, Sandy Bear xxx