

Staff News

Congratulations to Melissa in completing her Level 5 in Early Childhood Studies which she will officially gain in the summer. On a sad note she will be leaving Sandy Bears on 28th March to study her Level 6 in a sure start centre to gain more experience with other professionals ☺ she will be missed at Sandy Bears but we wish her luck in continuing her professional development at her new setting.

Laura Silverwood who lots of you will recognise from studying her Early Years Teacher Status with us will start in June when she has completed her course. We have also hired Charlie Armitage as a member of supply staff. Charlie lives in Tattenhall with his wife and young baby, is Level 3 trained with experience of working in other nurseries. We look forward to welcoming him into Big Bears near the end of March.

Eco Day

A big reminder to everyone that our eco day is on Sunday 16th March at 10am. We have already had so many donations so please keep signing up on the sheet situated on the back of the front door. Please ask staff for more details.

Welcome

Welcome to our new starters, new Bear Cub Sam whose big brother Ollie will be starting our after school club too! Also welcome to Big Bears Georgia, Riley, Jack, Freya and Lucie!

Thank you

To everyone who has given us recycling food boxes and cartons, the children have been using them in role play and using them for building and crafts in our arts area.

Thank you for our recommendations on Day Nurseries! Parents are still adding their comments and it is massively appreciated and lovely to read your thoughts.

Thank you to all parents for your 50p donations to our PJ Day, this has gone in our 'pot' for a new outdoor climbing frame.

A huge thank you to the Venables family who were so welcoming when we came to visit their farm. All the children had such an amazing time and are still talking about it now! Sending lots of love to the beautiful little calves ☺



Fire Station Trip

Our next adventure for our Big Bears will be to Malpas Fire Station on the 26th March. This trip is fully funded by Sandy Bears at no extra charge if your child attends on this day and you pay for a hot dinner! Due to number

restrictions this first trip will be only available to children who attend until 3pm or 6pm on Wednesdays. Another trip for a different day will be arranged very soon ☺. Thank you to Gillian on our parent's committee team for helping us to arrange this trip. If anyone has any other suggestions and would like to help us to arrange other trips please speak to Laura or Astone

Sky Dive Update

The staff sky dive on the 3rd May 2014 and will be raising money for Claire House Hospice, this charity provides respite and end of life care for children and young adults in our area. We are also raising for a new Sandy Bears outdoor climbing frame with soft floor/ bark underneath for safety. We are hoping we can count on the support of all our families, keep an eye out for money tins and sponsor forms, any amount would really really help get us in that plane! Thank You!!

Holiday Club

Holiday club this year was so much fun with activities from squid threading, making draft excluders, octopus footprints, water play, jar decorating and lots of baking! We hope all your little ones enjoyed it too!



Graduation Day

Our pre-school graduation day (when did they get so big!?! ☺) will not be held on the last day of term but will be held on Friday 18th July at 1pm. All families and pre-schoolers are invited to come and celebrate their time with Sandy Bear and they receive their graduation scroll from Sandy himself! More information closer to the time.

Mums Night Out

Following discussion at our last parents committee meeting we have decided to organise a mums night out. This would be a nice evening to get together to have a gossip without the little ones around as you are often far too busy at drop offs and pickups! This will be on Saturday 29th March 6.30pm @ La Tasca in Chester. Please speak to Laura by 12th March so we can book a place if you wish to attend. We are also thinking of arranging a Dads Night Out too so inform your partners!

2 year checks

If your health visitor has arranged a 2 year check could you please inform your child's key worker so that they can exchange reports. This is to ensure we are keeping up to date with your child's progress of development

and we are working together with other professionals involved with your children.

Parents Committee

Our next parents committee meeting is on the 12th March. We hope all members can attend at 6pm, if anyone else would like to join our group please let Laura or Astone know ☺

Bounce Photography

Following the success of our last shoot Bounce Photography will be coming in for some spring pictures of the little ones in the week of 21st April, keep your eyes peeled for posters and leaflets with more information.

Easter Holidays

This year the easter holidays run from 7th-20th April. Please book your children in for holiday care and school holiday club as early as possible to avoid disappointment (this half term we had to turn some last minute requests down).

Makaton Week

During the week 17th- 21st March we will be having a 'Makaton Week' to help promote Makaton signing within our setting. Makaton is a simple signing system used with babies, young children and children with special educational needs to help communication. This week will help staff to use Makaton naturally throughout our day and will continue to be used after this week is finished. If you would like more information on this please speak to a member of staff!

Messy play day

Our annual messy play day will be held on the 7th May this year. We will have a morning session from 10am and an afternoon session from 1.30pm. More details to come next month ☺

2 year funding

You may be entitled to a free 10/ 15 hours free childcare a week which is funded by the government. If your child has turned 2 and you think you may be eligible (or are not sure if you are) please speak to Laura or Astone for information on how to apply.

Text Messaging Service

We will shortly be starting a text message service for



all parents to keep up to date on events or important news. Please make sure we have your current mobile number on our records, thank you.

