

April Newsletter 2017

Fundraising Update

With the joint efforts of Astone's colossal Sponsored Silence and our cake sale, combined with takings from our raffle our total raised now stands at £ 1,000 of the remaining £3,000 that we need for the childrens brand new play area!! We have details below of other fundraising events that are coming up over the next few months ☺



Beauty Evening

We are so so excited to announce a fabulous beauty evening we are holding in collaboration with Georgie & Co Beauty. This is open to anyone and will be raising funds for our outdoor area whilst celebrating Georgie & Co's 1st Birthday!

This will be held @ Sandy Bears on Thursday 11th May from 7pm-9.30pm. The evening will include beauty demonstrations from Georgie including threading and information and advice on products in your make up bags! A curly blow dry demo from the Scissor Psychologist and Reflexology from Debbie Sherburn. We will have products including Arbonne anti-ageing and Honesty vegan soap being sold on the night.

Any bookings made for treatments with Georgie & Co on the evening will include a 10% discount with an additional 10% going towards our outdoor area - amazing!

Tickets for this evening will be available from Georgie & Co or from ourselves and cost £5 which includes a welcome glass of fizz and entry into the £50 prize draw!☺ Tea & Coffee will also be available to purchase on the night.

We are holding a fantastic raffle which includes prizes from all companies on the night ☺ Tickets are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Staff News

We are delighted to announce we have hired Beth as a practitioner in our Big Bears Room. Beth is trained to Level 3 and has experience in a local school and pre-school meaning she is already familiar



to lots of our little ones 😊 Beth will be key worker to a small group of children and she has written some information at the end of the newsletter for you to read 😊

We also welcome Olivia to our team, Olivia will be volunteering with us to gain experience for her Midwifery course which she hopes to undertake. We think supporting local people in their career is so important and we know Olivia will gain lots of experience and knowledge whilst she is with us. If you have any questions regarding her course please do not hesitate to ask!

Wellies

As the weather is getting warmer we will be outside more and more, this means lots of messy play as we are planting and tending to our garden! If you could provide labelled wellies or crocs for your little ones to ensure we are not ruining any lovely shoes that would be very helpful. In addition if you would like your child to wear an all in one suit then please let staff know you have provided one.

In addition to wellies we ask that during the summer months parents provide sun cream for their children for when it is hot outside. Sun cream is to be provided in a labelled bottle which will be stored in our sun cream box! If your child does not have sun cream we will add £1 per session to your bill to use SBs cream. Sun cream is applied when we go outside and regularly throughout the day. We also keep a close eye on the UV levels and ensure children are not out when it is too hot. If you could ensure you have provided some sun cream by the beginning of May for your child we will begin the system then 😊

Bare Feet

At Sandy Bears we feel it is important for children to explore all their senses whilst they are here. As the weather is getting warmer we will be allowing children to take their shoes and socks off outside to explore this area through their hands and their feet. This is optional and if the children would prefer to wear their shoes then they will be able to. If you would prefer your child to wear shoes outside then please speak to your key worker who will ensure this happens. Below is an extract from an article detailing the benefits of no shoes outdoors. The full article link can be found on our facebook page.

"One major benefit of allowing a child to go barefoot is that it strengthens the feet and lower legs, making the body more agile and less prone to injury. It also enhances proprioception, the sense of the relative position of neighboring parts of the body and strength of effort being employed in movement. In other words, going barefoot helps a child develop body awareness. Geary explains that the nerves in our feet are sensitive (the sole of your foot has over 200,000 nerve endings- one of the highest concentrations in the entire body) for this very reason; they make us safer, more careful, and better able to adapt to the ground beneath us. When barefoot, we are better able to climb, cut, pivot, balance, and adjust rapidly when the ground shifts beneath us, as it does when we walk on uneven terrain, or anything besides concrete and pavement."

New Starters



As we have lots of new children
remind parents old and new of our important policies! Firstly you must not use your mobile phone
whilst in the building to ensure all of the children are being safeguarded. In addition we ask when
you are leaving the building you

starting this month we would like to

ask a member of staff to open the door and let you out so we can secure the door behind you!

Thank You 😊

Messy Play Day

Our messy play day was once again a huge success and we all went home very mucky and very
happy! All the activities we provided for the children on the day had full planning on how they link
with the Early Years Foundation Stage and what the children would learn. Please speak to any
member of staff if you would like more information on our planning systems!

Dates for the Diary

Term Dates

Tuesday 18th April – Term Time children return.

Bank Holiday – *1st May* – CLOSED

Bank Holiday – *29th May* – CLOSED

30th May – *2nd June* – Half Term

Monday 5th June – Term Time Children Return.

Theme Days

Each month we will be holding a themed dress up day to raise funds for our outdoor area! Please
send your child dressed up and with a small donation! Thank you 😊

Wed 19th April – Cartoon Characters

Tues 16th May – Animals

Mon 12th June – Kings & Queens

Pre – School Open Evening – Wednesday 24th May 6.15pm

This open evening is for parents of children who will start reception class in September 2018. It will
be an evening of information about the forthcoming year for your little ones and the changes that
will be taking place. If you will be attending please let Astone know so she can plan for this 😊 Thank
You

Policy of the Month

Food and Drink Policy. Mealtimes are very important to us and we aim to deliver children healthy
and nutritious meals in a happy and relaxed environment. Alongside any dietary requirements we aim



to provide nutritious food for all meals and snacks, avoiding large quantities of saturated fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.

We include a variety of foods from the four main food groups:

- meat, fish and protein alternatives;
- dairy foods;
- grains, cereals and starch vegetables; and
- fruit and vegetables.

We include foods from the diet of each of the children's cultural backgrounds, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones. We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products and we are especially vigilant where we have a child who has a known allergy to nuts.

At mealtimes we also promote independence from the earliest stages, introducing a self-service system even in Bear Cubs to allow the children to choose elements of their meals and to practice their pouring and serving skills ready for school!

If you have any questions about our meal time routine or the food that we provide please do not hesitate to speak to any member of staff.

Toys from Home

As we have lots of children bringing things from home our toy box is getting very full! We do request that if your child does not need a toy for a comforter you encourage them to leave it at home. We are very limited on storage space so we will now be clearing this weekly on a Friday afternoon, if you have toys left in here then they will be lost. We would advise that any special or expensive toys are left at home so as they are not damaged or lost, it is really difficult for staff to keep track of 30 toys every day so this does inevitably happen 😊

Wild Child Photography

We will once again be using Mark and Wild Child Photography to take some natural pictures of the children at Sandy Bears. These will be individual shots and sibling ones if required. This will take place either on Wednesday 17th May or if the weather is not good enough it will be Thursday 18th May from 8.30am. All children who are in on that day will have pictures taken, if you are not in on this day then please speak to Astone to book your slot for the photos. If you would like to look at some of their work please search : wild_child_photos on Instagram or go to www.wildchildphotos.co.uk!

Facebook

A reminder to all our parents to 'like' our Facebook page 'Sandy Bears Nursery & Pre-School' where we post regular pictures; videos; updates and all important reminders! There is also parents' reviews on here for you to read and links to other articles.





Sandy Bears
nursery and preschool ltd



Staff Blog

This month's staff blog is from Sophie who is talking all about her new role as Bear Cubs Room Leader...

I started work here at Sandy Bears in May 2016, where I spent my time working in both Big Bears and Bear Cubs. Sandy Bears have given me so many opportunities to enhance my learning and development. I have been on many training courses, in the setting and also online, which have helped me to expand my knowledge and I am looking forward to more courses to come which include a Makaton course! I have recently been given the amazing opportunity of becoming Bear Cubs Room Leader and I am super excited for my new role within Sandy Bears. As room leader I have made a few changes to the routine which include teeth brushing at 11:00 for all children and more messy play and exploration times, as well as focus tasks and quiet times. All staff in Bear Cubs are working together to purchase new resources for the room and for the children. We are all really excited for the things to come within Bear Cubs in following weeks. I thoroughly enjoy working with babies and observing and recording their new mile stones and new skills that they learn while they are here. I enjoy coming to work and find it very rewarding!