



January Newsletter 2017

We would like to wish all of our families a very Happy New Year and we look forward to 2017 with you all. Christmas at Sandy Bears was wonderful, from carolling at the nursing home to our Nativity we were overwhelmed at how fantastic all of the little ones were! We are now back to normal service. We would like to welcome all the new families to Sandy Bears who have started with us this January.

Staff News

As you have most probably noticed Eboni has returned to work after her maternity leave and is once again working in both rooms as a key worker. We are so delighted to have her back and also welcome little Ernie James 😊

We also would like to welcome Molly who has started working with us whilst completing her Level 3 in Childcare. Molly will be working in both rooms to allow her to gain experience of all ages, feel free to ask her about any aspect of her course and her time at Sandy Bears 😊

We are also accommodating a student from the University of Chester who will be completing her 5 week placement with us. Abigail is studying a BA Early Childhood Studies and is in her second year, she will be spending time in both rooms four days a week 😊

Dates for the Diary

Term Dates

Monday 20th February – Half Term

Monday 27th February – Term Time children return

Monday 3rd April – Half Term

14th & 17th April – BANK HOLIDAYS –CLOSED

Tuesday 18th April – 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 😊

Friday 27th Jan – Chinese New Year

Thurs 9th Feb – Bad Hair Day

Thurs 2nd March - World Book Day

Wed 19th April – Cartoon Characters

Tues 16th May – Animals

Mon 12th June – Kings & Queens



Stay & Play

At Sandy Bears we actively encourage stay & play sessions with parents, grandparents and any other carers a child may be close too. In addition to our usual stay & play session we are starting 'Active Walks'. These are walks around Tattenhall to encourage children to be active so we are inviting parents and children on our sponsored walk. To attend this stay & play we just ask for each child to collect some sponsorship money and bring it with them on the day! This will go towards our outdoor area 😊

Friday 10th February – 1.30-3.30pm – **ACTIVE WALK**

Thursday 30th March 1.00AM-12.00PM – **MESSY PLAY DAY**

Monday 24th April – 10.30am-12.00pm – **ACTIVE WALK**

Wednesday 14th June – 10.00am-12.00pm & Friday 4th August 1.30pm-3.00pm – **WATER PLAY DAY**

Thursday 24th August – 1.30pm-3.00pm – **ACTIVE WALK**

School Places

All of our pre-school children should now have applied for their school place to start September 2017! (If you have not applied please speak to a member of staff ASAP). Once you have received details of which school your child will be attending please keep your key worker informed. This is to ensure we can liaise with each school to provide all children with a detailed and effective transition process. If you have any questions about this transition please speak to your key worker.

Key Workers

As lots of children have been moving and amending their sessions we also have amended our staff rotas to ensure we are meeting legal ratios at all times. Due to this, some children have been given a new key worker. All key worker handovers are documented and discussed to make sure it is as easy for the children as possible. If you are unsure of who your key worker is please speak to your room leader! These are also displayed on our parent notice board.

Clothing

Please provide your children with lots of spare changes and appropriate outdoor clothing as our weather gets wetter! We are happy to store wellies and wet suits here we just ask that they are labelled, Thank You.

Parents Committee Meeting

Our next parents committee meeting will be on Thursday 16th February at 6.10pm. All parents and carers are welcome, please let us know if you will be attending 😊

Free Hours

All parents of children who have turned 3 years old since September will now be eligible for 15 free hours a week term time from the local authority. This is automatically deducted from your bill you will just be required to sign a funding form. If you have any questions regarding your new bill please email sandybearnursery@live.co.uk or call 01829770889 to speak to Astone 😊



Parents Evening

Parents' evenings will be held for 2 weeks commencing Monday 6th February. There will be sign-up sheets for each key worker on the back of the front door so please book a time ASAP. If you cannot make the times available for you key worker please liaise with them to find a time that is suitable for both of you, phone appointments are also available for parents who are unable to come to setting but would still like to talk to their key worker. If you feel you would like a longer slot or have anything in particular you would like to discuss again please liaise with your key worker.

Change of Details

If you have changed address, numbers, emergency contacts or any other details please either send an email or Facebook us so we have current information should we need to contact you!

A* Sports & Frenchtastic

As most parents will know on Wednesday mornings term time we benefit from a Frenchtastic session with Claudia. This is an outdoor agency who provide a focussed French session for the children in Big Bears, they benefit greatly from this and also have so much fun! The sessions are opt out for all Big Bears children. If you do not opt out a charge of £3.50 will be added to your bill for each session. Similarly on a Thursday morning A* Sports will be coming in to provide us with an action packed sports and fitness session with Kyle! This is again opt out and will be charged at £3.50 for each session. We look forward to welcoming both Claudia and Kyle back this year.

Staff Blog

This month's staff blog comes from Laura Silverwood, our Deputy Manager <3

"In January 2014 I was asked if I would like to become a Sandy Bear... and I can honestly say it was the best decision of my life. I've always had a vision of working in a setting that has a great support network to help me be able to deliver outstanding care and education to young children, and for this to be recognised is a huge achievement. I work with such an amazing team, and we are so lucky to have such great children and families to join the Sandy Bears experience! I could go on and on and on! but to sum it up.. SANDY BEARS I LOVE YOU"

Blog- January 2017

I recently wrote the above review on the Sandy Bears Facebook page. Although it's only a short paragraph it means so much to me. Since working at Sandy Bears, I feel like I have progressed so much with my confidence, abilities, and knowledge. After only being on placement for a couple of weeks I was offered the position of supervisor for when my course had ended. As I had been in university for 4 years and prior to that college, I was very nervous as I was unsure whether I would be able to carry out the role expected of me. However I must have succeeded as shortly after that I was promoted to Deputy Manager- which was a huge shock! This meant more responsibilities and therefore more job roles. Laura and Astone have been such great role models. I know that a lot of my confidence and how I deliver my practice has been mostly because of them.

I am lucky enough to be mostly based in the Big Bears room with the children, I have my own group of Key Children, and I work along with the staff to carry out the normal day to day running of the room- planning fun and educational activities, and providing our outstanding care to ensure you and your children are going home happy. I recently had to take a small step down and allow for new room leaders in Big Bears. I know we all work so



well together and we all try our best to make positive changes to the indoor and outdoor environment so the transition has been an easy one. We try our best to support each other to make Sandy Bears great.

However, taking a small step down in the room meant I also had to step up in my Deputy role and take on the rest of my responsibilities. I do whatever I can to help Laura and Astone- such as updating policies, update my own knowledge and do research in the Early Years, I carry out supervisions, I manage and support staff, new staff and am a mentor to students. I also try my best to help our families and do whatever I can to cater for their needs.

The past couple of months have been pretty busy for me, as I have recently taken a huge step in my personal life and bought my first home. I suddenly feel like a 'proper adult'. My December consisted in making sure I was all packed and ready to move in for Christmas. It all happened fairly quick, and for now I have hidden most boxes in the spare room :/. I have since then enjoyed a lovely Christmas, opening presents in the morning with my partner

Lee, and cat Dudley, and then I have had a long week surrounded by family, friends, food and chocolate- that all you Sandy Bears parents kindly gave to us :).

As well as that, at Sandy Bears we have all been working hard along with the children to enjoy a lovely last few months of 2016, making more Sandy Bear memories such as becoming an OUTSTANDING setting, and our lovely trip to Prospect House carolling which I have to mention as I genuinely could not have been any prouder of the group of children who showed so much confidence and sang so beautifully to them all. Last of all as we always manage to do it, we delivered another amazing Christmas nativity!! Well done to Beckie and the rest of the staff for making it so fun, and also a big clap to the children who were brilliant at remembering their lines and singing all the songs- which they practiced very hard!

So here's to another great year, 2017!

Laura x