



July Newsletter

We have once again reached the end of our academic year. We cannot believe it is time to say goodbye to our lovely little pre-schoolers, our Class of 2016! Each one of them has touched our hearts in a different way and has made Sandy Bears 'Sandy Bears'. We will be giving them a gorgeous send off and would love it if the parents and families of any pre-schoolers could make it. This will be held at 9.15am on Thursday the 21st July. Please let us know if you can make it, we would love to see you all there.

We will then be promoting all our younger threes to pre-schooler status from September, for all the parents of our next pre-school group we have attached a leaflet detailing all the subtle changes that will start their 'school-readiness'. There is lots more information on this leaflet but if you have any other questions please speak to your keyworker or a member of management ☺

Summer Holidays

We are currently full on lots of our holiday dates so if you would like to book your child in for any additional sessions please let us know ASAP.

Trips

All sign-up sheets are on the back of the main front door for all of our trips. If you have any questions about any of our trips please ask Laura Y or Astone. All of our trips are fully risk assessed and transport will be in staff vehicles that are fully insured for business use.

16th August - Chester Zoo

We have limited space available for our Chester Zoo Trip. This will start at 9am and we will be due to return at 4pm (any delays will be informed by text). The price of this trip is £10 with a zoo pass and £30 for children without a zoo pass for children that are already booked in on this day (this is for 8am-6pm care). For children booking this as an extra the prices are £20 with a zoo pass and £38 without a zoo pass (9am-4pm). This includes a packed lunch for all children and their transport. We may also require you to provide a car seat for your child.

17th August – Sandy Lane Water Park

We will be having a water play fun day at Sandy Lane Park! We will be leaving at 10am and returning at approx. 1pm. The price for this for children already attending this day is £4 and for children booking this as an extra it will be £15 including a packed lunch and transport.

26th August – Pets @ Home

We will be doing two trips to Pets at Home in Chester to visit the animals and have a talk about different species. The first trip will be at 9.30am returning at approx. 11.30am. The second trip will leave at 1.30pm and return at approx. 3.30pm. The price for this trip is £3 if your child (ren) are already attending on this date and £12 if they are booking in as an extra.



Upcoming Dates

Saturday 23rd July Sports Day 10-12pm

Thursday 21st July Graduation 9.30am

Friday 22nd July Water Stay & Play 1.30-3pm

Please could you let a member of staff know if you will be attending any of these sessions! Thank You 😊

Our Christmas Shutdown Dates will be as follows...

26th – 30th December Shut Down Week.

2nd January – Bank Holiday

3rd January – Full Time Children Return

9th January – Term Time Children Return

If you have any questions about this then please speak to Laura Y or Astone.

Spare Clothes

We are running VERY low on spare clothes at the moment, please could you provide changes of clothes for your child and if you have any Sandy Bears spares please return them thank you!

Learning Journeys

As we use electronic Learning Journeys to track each child's individual development we are able to give parents log ins from home. We hope you have your log in details and are enjoying accessing their child's records from home. If you are unsure what our Learning Journeys are or do not have any log in details then please speak to your key worker.

2s Song

In our Big Bears room we are using a new song to encourage our little ones to tidy away their toys! We have put it below so that you can practice at home to 😊

We are the tidy twos

We like to tidy up

We put our toys away

So we are free to play

We work together



To get the job done

And if it's good enough

We get a sticker

Cook

We are still looking to hire a cook for Sandy Bears. The hours are 10-2 term time and flexible throughout the school holidays with previous experience not necessary. If you know anyone who may be interested please ask them to call Laura or Astone on 01829770889.

Big Bears Pegs

In Big Bears we are now going to be using a self-registration system for our pegs. Each child will choose their name from our basket (next to the diary book box) and will hoop this over the peg they choose for that day. In doing this we hope to increase name recognition for all the children and also reduce congestion in our cloakroom as only the children attending on this day will need a peg! This will be taking effect from the first week of the summer!

Blog

This month our staff blog is from Beckie and is all about Makaton! Happy Reading!

My name is Beckie and I am the room leader in Bear Cubs. Whilst working in the baby room I see all stages of communication as the children's language develop. One type of communication I have always been interested in is Makaton. This enables all children to communicate with staff and with each other whatever their stage is, through signing. Following my interest I attended a Makaton course which enabled me to learn more about this.

I learnt how important it was for all ages and stages of development to learn signing. It opened my mind to how restricted and frustrated children may get if they cannot get their message across, this may lead to tantrums as they are not being understood.

One of my concerns about Makaton was whether children will use signing instead of attempting to communicate verbally. I soon learnt that Makaton aids speech and should always be used with words to encourage speech. Makaton releases frustration to those children who cannot express their needs verbally therefore signing is a way to allow the child to tell you what they want. The adult must always



reply back to them using the word so the child becomes familiar with word sounds.

I am often asked why children who can express their needs verbally should use Makaton? Well this is simple, imagine if another child is not able to communicate with their friends verbally, if your child then is able to sign back it breaks the communication barrier within the group. This creates an inclusive environment for all of our children.

In the baby room following my course I introduced signing at meal times, we sign 'please' 'thankyou' and 'more' . We sign through nursery rhymes and also in simple instructions. I can confidently say that Makaton has supported children's speech and releases that frustration of not being able to express their needs.

However Makaton is not just beneficial for children who are starting their speech development. Children of all ages can experience language barriers for example, if the child has English as an additional language, those who need extra support in their communication or children who choose not to speak.

I then introduced Makaton into Big Bears by holding a workshop for all the staff. All the staff at Sandy Bears now know basic Makaton which ensures that all children have the same chance to communicate.

I am very passionate about Makaton and feel that it benefits all children aiding their speech and breaking communication barriers between peers. If you would like any more information about Makaton and how it can help your child, please do not hesitate to speak to me or your child's keyworker.

