

March Newsletter

OUTDOOR FUNDRAISING!

As we have been fundraising for a very long time for our outdoor area we now want a final push! We have £3,000 left to raise and we want to do this by FRIDAY 2ND JUNE! We realise this is really soon so we are planning lots of events over the next few months and we would love it if you could get involved with just 1! They are as follows...

- 1) We are raffling a WHOLE WEEK FREE HOLIDAY CLUB for a child age 3+. This is a voucher for **Mon-Fri 8-6pm** care for 1 child for either Easter Holidays or the Summer Holidays! Raffle tickets can be bought from Sandy Bears and will be charged at £5 per strip! We will be drawing the winner on **Monday 27th March!** Good Luck!
- 2) Cake Sales! We will be holding 2 cake sales, one on **Friday 17th March 2-3pm & Friday 7th April 12-2pm!** Please support us with cake donations ☺ and pop over to purchase one of the yummy cakes!
- 3) On **Thursday 23rd March** Astone will be tackling a Sponsored Silence!!! The silence will be from 8am-6pm and she can only communicate through signs and her notepad! This will be EXTREMELY difficult for her so please please sponsor her and give us all a little bit of peace for the day ;)
- 4) We are doing a sponsored Easter Egg Hunt for the children! Anyone who brings some sponsorship pennies can take part! These will be held on **Thursday 6th April and Wednesday 12th April @ 1.30pm** – prizes included!!!
- 5) Finally we are holding one of our Babysitting Evenings! This is from 6.30pm-9.30pm on Wednesday 5th April and is charged at £10 per child (3+) Please speak to Laura or Astone

Thank You

Thank you so much to all of the parents who helped out by donating animals for our 'Bring Your Pet to School Week'. The children learnt SO much and couldn't have been happier or more excited when they discovered our temporary residents...roll on next year! Pictures are available on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sandybearsnursery/>

Dates

Term Dates

Monday 3rd April – Half Term

14th & 17th April – BANK HOLIDAYS –CLOSED

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

Staff Competition

Our latest competition was for the staff to design a new provision for outdoors. We have had so many wonderful entries and are once again overwhelmed by the effort and hard work of the staff. The winner of this competition was Sarah – Well Done! You can probably notice the new outdoor elements but if you would like any explanation of these and their learning links please speak to any member of staff!



Forest School

We are so excited to announce that Astone will be undertaking a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner course. We already love anything outdoors so we cannot wait. Astone will have an intensive week in June having training on all elements of forest school from child development to woodland conservation. Following this Astone will complete a portfolio of practice in Sandy Bears and an assessment week. If you have any questions about this then please ask Astone ☺

Pre-School Open Evening

This year we are going to hold a pre-school open evening. As we have lots of parents asking lots of questions about the next cohort of pre-schoolers we will be holding an evening to go through all of these. This will consist of a small talk about Sandy Bears Pre-School and then staff will be on hand to



answer any specific questions you may have. This Open Evening will be on Wednesday 24th May at 6.15pm. Please could you let Astone know via email (sandybearsnursery@live.co.uk) Facebook or in person if you plan to attend. 😊

Questionnaires & Terms and Conditions

Thank you to everyone who has already returned these we do appreciate you getting them back to us! We are working our way through the comments on your questionnaires and are looking at new things to implement from these. We are also overwhelmed by the lovely comments parents and children have made! If you have any further comments please don't hesitate to contact Laura Y or Astone. If you have not yet received either of these then please speak to your key worker.

Parents Evening

Thank you to all parents who attended parents evening, we hope you found it informative and enjoyed having a formal catch up with your key worker, if you were unable to attend and would like either a phone appointment or a written report please speak to your key worker.

Gardening

We are now just about ready to start renovating our garden for the spring! If anyone has any old seeds, pots, soil or tips on how to make the most of our outdoor garden we would love some advice! In addition if anyone would like to come and do a gardening session with the little ones we would be very grateful.

30 Hours

As many of you may know alongside the government scheme Cheshire West will be offering eligible parents 30 free hour's childcare each term time week. All ineligible parents will still be entitled to their 15 hours free term time hours. Parents will be able to check availability at www.gov.uk from April 2017, the basic criteria for families living in England will be

- Both parents working (or the sole parent working) subject to the following criteria:
- Each parent (or sole parent) has a weekly minimum income equivalent to at least 16 hours at national minimum wage/national living wage and neither parent (or sole parent) has an income of more than £100k per year.
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on parental, adoption, maternity or paternity leave, on statutory sick pay.
- One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based in receipt of specific benefits.

Once eligibility is confirmed you should receive a voucher code to give to a childcare provider to arrange your place. As we have limited availability for September 2017 any parents wishing to increase their hours at Sandy Bears to reflect their new free hours must put this in writing as soon as possible.

As we are a setting open 51 weeks of the year we are eligible to provide these free hours as 22.25 per week.

If you have any more questions regarding the free hours please do not hesitate to speak to Astone or Laura Y who have lots of information packs for parents that can be read or emailed ☺

Book Box

A reminder to parents that we have 'Diary Box Boxes' in both of our rooms. These boxes are for parents to put their child's book in each morning and where you can collect completed books in the evening. If your child's book is not in here then it will not be completed, this system was implemented from parent suggestions to avoid any children's books being missed from their bags.

Policy of the Month

Our Policy of the month is 'Maintaining Childrens Security and Safety on the Premises'. The full policy is available in paper form on site and electronically on our website. This month we wanted to focus on our 'door policy' and the important points of how we safeguard children.

- Only staff who have been working at SBs for 6months and are trained to Level 3 are authorised to answer the door (unless separately named)
- Staff use the 'peep hole' to check the identity of any persons coming into SBs.
- If staff are unsure of their identity they are asked to wait outside whilst this is confirmed with management.
- If the person is collecting a child staff will call the childs carer to confirm this if they were not already aware.
- If the staff cannot contact the parent or carer then the unauthorised person is asked to continue to wait offsite until we can confirm this.
- Our front door is kept bolted at all times unless a member of staff is letting a parent in or out.
- Our only other exit point (garden gate) is also kept bolted at all times.

SB x

