



Newsletter October 2015

Welcome

A big welcome to some all of our new families that have started over the last month, we hope you are enjoying the start of your Sandy Bear journey!

We also would like to welcome Gill Roderigues to our staff team, she will be working as a supply practitioner covering both our rooms from mid October!

Bear Cubs

Parents may have noted lots of changes in our Bear Cubs room. We have had a big clear of toys which makes the room look bigger and provides more floor space for children to move and explore. Beckie has been purchasing lots of heuristic and natural resources which the children have really engaged with. Our clear plastic sweet jars have provided HOURS of engagement and all ages have spent time stacking, filling, shaking, popping lids on and off and scooping in and out! Beckie has also written a small section on our new 'Black, White and Red' Areas....

Why black, white and red?

Studies have shown that young babies respond highly to bold colours and geometric shapes which in turn stimulates their brain cell connections using both sides of their brain. Young babies are not as stimulated with shades and pastel colours, but contrasting colours send strong visual signals to the baby's brain. It is been observed that using bold colours and geometric shapes help babies increase their concentration skills, increase attention span and enhance curiosity. We have provided two areas in the baby room with black, white and red resources. The first is our 'comfy corner' which is loved by our baby bears as it is somewhere they can relax and explore different materials, read our black and white books and also explore our sensory basket, it has a mirror which they love to look into and develop their own sense of self. The second space is our maths area which is an enclosed space, home to lots of moving beads and tubs to empty, fill and stack beginning the development of early concepts of Maths.

Big Bears

Our Big Bears room has also had a big move round to incorporate a better noise flow. We now have 2 quiet cosy areas near the door and have moved our big heavy (noisy!!) blocks onto our carpet near the back door! We have an area that is "2s only" which gives our younger children some quiet space away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the room and allows practitioners time to bond and develop play. The room is working much better and we think the children are using and engaging with the resources so much better. We are just waiting for the arrival of some new resources for our book corner 😊

We would like to remind parents that labelling clothes is really helpful otherwise clothes can become confused! We have had lots of same design wellies too so if you could label these it would be very helpful. It is unfortunately getting much wetter and colder however this does mean lots of literacy and maths learning to be done in the water outside! As we are 'all-weather' please could you remember to bring wellies and warm waterproof coats for your children. Thank you!

Halloween Party

This year our Halloween Party will be held on *Friday 30th October 11am-1pm*. We will be painting faces, having lots of party games and a spooky themed party lunch. If you would like your child to attend the price for the party is £10 so please speak to a member of staff to book them in!

Half Term

We have lots planned for the rest of our half term (**26th-30th Oct**) including French lessons, ZooLab and lots of Halloween and bonfire themed activities! We are very very full so if you would like to book any extra sessions in please speak to Astone ASAP.

Parents Committee

Our committee meeting this month was brilliant and gave us lots of ideas for Christmas. We also spoke lots about our outdoor area and how we can continue our fundraising for a new climbing frame. We are asking for help from parents and our first mission is to collect old butter and gravy pots to decorate for the children to use as 'brown penny' pots so if you have any of these please could you save them and we can start sending them out!

The next way we will be fundraising is our '*Baby Sitting Evenings*'. These will consist of babysitting nights at Sandy Bears where staff will look after children of parents together using different themes ie film night, pizza night and treasure hunt. All ages of children are welcome and they can use Sandy Bears sleeping facilities if you wish. These will be taking place over the next few months and all money raised will go into our fundraising pot for the climbing frame.

Our first evening will be *Tuesday 3rd November from 6.30pm-9pm*. This will be a bonfire themed night with toasted chocolate dips and sparklers! Prices are £10 per child and there is limited spaces so please speak to Laura Y or Astone to book your place.

Our following evening will be *Thursday 3rd December from 6.30-9pm* which will be a Christmas Film and Hot Chocolate night 😊

We will be putting up a running total up of what we have raised in the cloakroom so all parents can see how close we are to our new climbing frame. There will also be pictures of some of the plans we have had drawn for what we could achieve in our garden! Our Target Total is £7,000 so we have a long way to go but we know Sandy Bears will achieve this!!

Thanks in advance 😊

Facebook

Our Facebook page is growing well and we are nearly at our target total like of 150! If you share the post you will be in with a chance of winning 3 x free 8-1 or 9-3 sessions for term time OR holiday club! Just search Sandy Bears Nursery & Pre-School to share our post!

Role Play

If anyone has any old beauty bottles/shampoo/food containers then our Big Bears would love them to enhance their role play area. It enhances play to use real things rather than a 'toy' version and the children get so much more use out of them. Thank You!

Term Dates

A reminder of our term dates coming up....

Term 1 - 1 September – 23 October

Half Term 26-30 October

Term 2 - 2 November – 18 December

Xmas Hols – 19th December – 3rd January

Term 3 - 4 January – 12 February

Half Term – 15th – 19th February

Term 4 – 22nd February – 1st April

Easter Hols – 4th April – 15th April

Term 5 - 18 April – 27 May

Half term – 30th May- 3rd June

Term 6 – 6th June-21st July

Summer Hols – 22nd July – 2nd September

These term dates are only for term time children, any children on a 51 week contract are here all year round. For **ALL** Sandy Bears children we are **CLOSED** every Bank Holiday. We also shut down for a week over Christmas, we will shut from **Friday 20th** December until **Tuesday 29th** December. **New Years Eve** our hours run from *8am* – *3pm*. Parents will not be charged for these 3 hours.

If this doesn't make sense or you are unsure of what contract you are on or how funded hours works in relation to these term dates please ask a member of staff.

Reports

Reports will be due out for all children on 16th November so keep your eyes peeled for these!

2 year checks

Before your child's 2 year check with their health visitor their Sandy Bears key worker will write a report. This is for you to take with you so we can work in partnership with the health team. When you book your 2 year check please inform your key worker so as they can complete this ready to take with you!

Learning Journeys

We now have lots of parents logged on to our electronic Learning Journeys and hope you are enjoying keeping up to date with your child's progress. If you are not already logged on please provide your key worker with an email address and we can sign you up 😊

SB x