



September Newsletter

Welcome

A massive welcome back to all the children who have been off on their summer break and to all our new starts in both Big Bears and Bear Cubs! It's been a lovely summer but we are happy to have all our little ones back together again 😊

Dates for the Diary

Term Dates:

Below are the term dates for the rest of the year so please pop them on your calendars and diaries 😊

Term 1

5th September – 28th October

Half Term

31st October – 4th November

Term 2

7th November – 23rd December

CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN

26th December – 3rd January

Term 3

9th January – 17th February

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 😊

Wednesday 26th October – 1.30pm-2.30pm – **STAY & PLAY**

Thursday 1st December – 10.30-12pm – **ACTIVE WALK**

Tuesday 13th December – 10.30-11.30 – **STAY & PLAY**

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**



Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 23rd September. Once again we are supporting this charity event. To wear jeans to Sandy Bears on this day you need to place a donation into the pot in our cloakroom!
Thank You

If you have any questions about these dates please don't hesitate to speak to a member of management.

Halloween

This year our Halloween party will be taking place on Monday 31st October 10am-1pm. We would love for all our little ones to come dressed up for the occasion! This lands in half term so if you would like to book your child as an extra please speak to a member of staff!

In addition to our party we will also be going on a trip to Malpas Pick Your Own Pumpkins!

We will be going on Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th with Big Bears and Thursday 27th with Bear Cubs.

Sign up and more details will be on October newsletter and a sign-up sheet will be put on the front door at the beginning of October! 😊

Uniform

Our uniform consists of a polo shirt, jumper and a Book Bag. These are available to view on the door to Big Bears, if you would like to order any of these please speak to a member of staff!

Jumper & polo Shirts - £10.50

Book Bag - £4

Labels

Please could you ensure all of you childrens items of clothing and footwear are labelled, this helps us greatly in identifying any lost items and prevents items going home with the wrong owner! Thanks in advance.

Pegs & Buckets

We hope that you have all seen our new peg and shoe bucket system by now, we think it is working so well and it seems to help children with their morning transition. If you have any questions- about this please speak to your key worker.

Old Magazines

The children have all been showing lots of interest in magazines. We are requesting for any old childrens magazines that you may have lying round to be donated to our literacy area! Thanks in advance 😊

Old Pans

Outside we have a music walls full of pots pans and old spatulas where the children can explore the different sounds. If you are throwing any old kitchen bits out please think of Sandy Bears before you do!



2 Year Olds

If your child is 2 years old you will need to provide them with nappies. You can place these in their bags or hand them to a member of staff in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation.

Family Books

As you may know some of the children have 'Family Books' at Sandy Bears. These consist of pictures of all the people (and animals) that may be important to them. If you would like us to make one of these for your child please provide us with pictures and we will make them into their very own book.

Show & Tell

In Big Bears lots of children like to bring toys from home, we know that these can be a comfort to them and help settle them some mornings. However it can be tricky keeping track of all the different items so we know have a 'Show & Tell' basket on the shelf in the cloakroom. We will be encouraging children to put their items in the basket and show them to their friends at Circle Time each morning.

Theme days

This year we will be having theme dress up days once a month. We will ask for a £1 donation off children and all of this will go to our outdoor fund! The themes are as follows...

Wed 28th Sept – Pyjama Day

Mon 31st Oct – Halloween

Tues 8th Nov – Real Life Heroes

Friday 16th Dec – Christmas!

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

Capture

A few parents have informed us that they are struggling to log on to our online learning journey site, below are the details for the site log in page. If you have any other struggles please call us or email sandybearsnursery@live.co.uk and we can look into this.

<https://sandybearsnursery.capture-eduk8.com/#home>



Personal Details

If your details such as phone number or address change please make sure you write this down/email or Facebook us your new information so we always have contact details for all of our children, thank you!

Lunch box

At Sandy Bears we follow healthy eating guidelines and for children who have their own packed lunches we must also follow these guidelines. NHS recommend a lunchbox to contain...

starchy foods – these are bread, rice, potatoes, pasta and others

protein foods – including meat, fish, eggs, beans and others

a dairy item – this could be cheese or a yoghurt

vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit

They recommend avoiding packaged sweets and chocolates also. If you provide your child with a lunchbox then please follow these guidelines as we may have to contact parents to provide another lunch if it does not meet requirements. Each lunchbox should also contain an ice pack to keep the food fresh. Sandy Bears will provide water for all children at lunchtime. Thank You.

Policy of The Month

This month we are sharing our risky play policy with you, risky play is a big part of the childrens day and we feel it is important to their development. If

Risky and Challenging Play Policy

At Sandy Bears Nursery we understand the positive impact risky play can have on a child's development and self esteem. Therefore we actively promote children's exposure to taking risks and facing challenges, but in a controlled and safe environment. There is a difference between 'hazards' and 'risks'. A hazard is a danger which cannot be foreseen, and therefore can't be intentionally avoided. As many hazards as possible are eliminated from Sandy Bears' environment. A risk is something where children can see the dangers (sometimes pointed out by adults) but can take steps and make their own choices as to how they approach the activity, usually supported by adults, who oversee their safety.

Some examples of these risks are:

- Using real tools when creating woodwork or helping with real life tasks such as building furniture or food preparation - for these types of activities, adults will explain the risks in advance, as well as supervising closely.
- Exploring resources and taking part in activities which may generally be suitable for an older age range – such as building towers with Lego bricks, soft play climbing equipment, using paint and glue, using scissors, threading with beads etc.- Children learn to use these resources safely and follow simple rules to keep themselves safe, such as sitting down when using scissors.
- Outdoor activities such as building with tyres, crates, planks and logs, and using spades and forks in the sand or mud kitchen, and balancing and jumping from climbing apparatus. These are explored by children, and adults reinforce safe use during play.
- Although we are not officially a 'forest school' we do promote the importance of children learning from the outdoors and have a similar ethos as Forest Schools. We may use focussed and controlled activities using real fire to educate children of its dangers or use one for a camp fire to cook marshmallows!



- In our outdoor area we have introduced a real pond. This pond is placed inside a tractor tyre and is raised from the ground to prevent children falling or tripping in. The pond is at a safe level and depth but it is not covered. We have educated the children to keep our creatures safe in our pond and how to keep ourselves safe around it.
- Going on walks around our village may involve climbing over branches, trenching through streams, searching for wildlife and handling wildlife with care.
- We have our own pet rabbits. Children are able to handle, pet, feed and clean them out with parental consent. They are well educated about hygiene and the correct ways to handle and feed the rabbits without harming them.

This is in no way an exact list, but these are examples of activities we offer and resources that are available regularly.

Staff informally risk assess each activity before it takes place, and because we know each child well, and as an individual, we can confidently decide if a resource or activity would be suitable for them. We may need to adapt activities so that each child can take part in their own way. More dangerous activities are risk assessed in writing

formally, and the risk assessments are regularly reviewed. Risk assessments are working documents and adults are aware of any steps which must be taken to reduce risks and eliminate hazards.

Activities and resources will be supported by a capable and confident adult when and where needed – this could be one adult with a small group of children or one adult to each child.

Children and young people themselves recognise that you can't make everything safe and that a balance is needed between risks and fun. Children recognise that knowing about risks and how to manage them is an essential part of growing up... Through play, children are able to learn about risks and use their own initiative. If children and young people are not allowed to explore and learn through playing and taking part in positive activities, they will not learn how to judge risks and manage them for themselves. These skills learnt through play and other activities can act as a powerful form of prevention in other situations where children and young people are at risk.' (Play England, 2007)

Statement written and implemented 13/04/2016

Sandy Bears Nursery + Pre school

Laura Yates

Manager + Owner

SB x