



September Newsletter

Welcome Back!

A massive welcome back to all our families who have had a summer off – we can't wait to hear about all the little ones adventures! Also a huge welcome to all our new starters who have begun over the summer and the start of September 😊

Holiday Club

We have had an amazing time here over the summer, lots of sports and craft activities on site and trips out around Tattenhall and even some trips to the Zoo, Delemere forest, Hayrack Farm and more! We have put some pictures at the bottom of this letter of all the fun we have been having.

Pre-School

Parents of the pre-schoolers may be noticing a few changes for the start of this year, we have attached a leaflet explaining about 'school-readiness' and how you can support these changes at home. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to your child's key worker or Laura or Astone.

Staff News

We have lots of staff information for you this month. Firstly to explain that sadly we have had to terminate Jess' contract following some issues. These issues have nothing to do with her practice onsite which was always exemplary. If you have any questions regarding this please speak to Astone, you can contact via email or 01829770889 also.

Laura is slowly getting ready to come back to work after having Albie, she will be on site a couple of mornings from October and full days Thursday & Friday from November. After Christmas she is planning on working Wednesday – Friday onsite 😊 She is still available via email sandybearsnursery@live.co.uk if you want to contact her.

As we have hired some new staff over the summer and existing staff roles have changed below is details of all the staff and where they will be working!

Laura Yates – *Owner & Manager*. Laura will be working on site in the office when she returns from her maternity. Laura is on hand to help out on extra busy days in the baby room too.

Astone Mackintosh-Smith – *Manager* – Laura and Astone are now sharing the managers role to ensure a manager is onsite at all times. Astone will spend 1 ½ days based in the office and 2 ½ days in Big Bears as a keyworker.

Laura Silverwood – *Deputy Manager* – Laura is now taking on our Deputy Managers role and works full time in Big Bears as a key worker. She will be an additional person who can deal with any questions or queries parents may have.



Beckie Williams – *Bear Cubs Room Leader* – Beckie is room leader for our Bear Cubs room and works in there full time as a key worker.

Kim Beaumont – *EYT* – Kim is one of our Early Years Teachers and works full time in our Big bears room as a key worker.

Sarah Lees – *Level 3 Practitioner* – Sarah is trained to Level 3 and works 4 days in our Big Bears room as a key worker.

Vicky Walley – *Level 3 Practitioner* – Vicky is trained to Level 3 and works 30 hours in our baby room as a keyworker.

Lauren Bell – *Level 3 Practitioner* – Lauren is trained to Level 3 and works full time. She spends 3 days with our bear cubs as a key worker and 1 day in Big Bears.

Gemma Jones – *Apprentice Nursery Nurse* – Gemma is currently working towards her Level 2 Childcare qualification. She works 1 day in Bear Cubs and another 2 days in Big Bears as a key worker to 2 children.

Sue Patten – *Apprentice Nursery Nurse* – Sue is currently studying for her Level 3 childcare qualification part time and works 2 days in Big Bears as a key worker and 1 afternoon in Bear Cubs.

Eboni Elliott – *Apprentice Nursery Nurse* – Eboni is our newest member of staff studying for her Level 3 childcare qualification. She will work 3 days in Bear Cubs and 1 day in Big Bears.

Katie Williams – *Cook* – Katie is our new cook who started over the summer, she has worked in restaurants and then schools and will be with us 5 days a week.

Any questions on staff or key workers feel free to speak to Astone or Laura.

Term Dates

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.

Facebook

We now have a new business page for Sandy Bears that you can like on Facebook. This is the most up to date place for information about Sandy Bears. We also run competitions on here to win free sessions so search for us with 'Sandy Bears Nursery & Pre-School' so please like and share our page!

Parents Committee

Our next Parents Committee meeting will be Monday 5th October at 6.10pm. If you would like to join our Parents Committee Team then please send us a message or speak to Astone or Laura.

Ofsted Updates

Ofsted have provided all Early Years Settings with a new framework to work towards. If you would like to view this new framework you can visit... <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015> .

Pyjama Fun Day

We will be holding a Pyjama Fun Day for Crackerjacks Childrens Trust on Wednesday 7th October. We invite all children and staff in Sandy Bears to come dressed up in their pyjamas and donate £2 to this charity who help families and children with severe disabilities. For more information see the poster on our front door.

Policies

Every September all our policies are reviewed and updated in accordance with any legislation changes and changes within our setting. If you would like to view these there is always a hard copy onsite and they are available to be emailed. We always use parents comments to amend and adapt these too so if you have any suggestions on our policies please speak to Astone or Laura.

A* Sports

We are really excited to announce that A* Sports will be returning this term! Kyle will be running 2 sessions every Wednesday morning for the children, they will be split by age/ability and all sessions are linked to the EYFS. These sessions are charged at £3.50 per week term time only. This is an OPT OUT extra so if you do not want your child to participate please let a member of staff know. *All children who do opt out will have another EYFS planned session to partake in*. As Kyle is due to have a baby next month he will possibly miss a couple of sessions but these will be reimbursed on the following bill when we know exactly what he will attend ☺



School Uniform

We have just received an order of uniforms so if you would like to purchase these then we have a special 'Back to School' offer on! 2 x polo shirts for £15 and 2 x Jumpers for £17 for September only! Please speak to a member of staff if you would like to order these!

Day Nurseries Recommendations

Sandy Bears is registered on Day Nurseries website which allows parents to leave reviews. If you would like to leave us a review then we will give you one FREE 9-12 session for taking the time to do this. Please press the red button on the top bar of our website to find the link!
www.sandybearsnursery.co.uk .Thank You 😊

ITERS

Following on from our ITERS inspection we have been updating our Big Bears room. We now have a designated '2s Area' where the younger children can relax and spend some quiet time with the other 2 year olds and their key worker. We also have had a big move around change ready for the new term 😊

Bear Cubs

Bear Cubs have requested family pictures for a beautiful display they are doing, some are already up so if you would like to see where they will be going please just ask!

Also a note from the staff to make sure you are labelling clothes so items don't get muddled together during the day (because as we all know bear cubs need lots of changes!!) Thank You 😊

Intercom

We have recently installed a new intercom system for our front door. This is an additional safeguarding tool used alongside our 'spyhole'. When you arrive at Sandy Bears please ding the buzzer and someone will let you in! Thank You.



