

## Early Years Newsletter

Autumn 2023

### **Welcome**

Welcome to Sandridge Early Years! We have really enjoyed meeting your children and are looking forward to working with you to make this year a fulfilling and fun-packed experience for your child. Our experienced Early Years' team provides a comprehensive Early Years' curriculum and, in partnership with you, aims to give your child the best possible start to school.

Teacher: **Mrs Hardie**

Teaching Assistants: **Mrs Di Fonzo, Miss Mockridge** (mornings only)

### **Sharing your child's learning**

#### **WOW! moments**

At school, we assess and observe your child while he or she works and plays, which we record in your child's Learning Journal. As the most important person in your child's life, you are in the unique position to notice exciting and memorable moments in their development. Please use the 'WOW! moments' sheets that we will email home soon to share with us any such moments so we can all contribute to building up a complete record of how special your child is. If you prefer you can create your own and email them to [admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk) and the office staff will forward them on to us.

#### **Teacher availability**

We recognise the very important role that parents have in their child's education and value parents and teachers working in partnership for the benefit of each child. We would like to communicate with you at mutually convenient times. For example, after school we will not be free to talk while we are dismissing the children, as we need to do this as safely as possible. Please be patient and stand back from the door so your child and we can see you easily. If it is urgent, we can have a short chat after all the children have gone. If you need to have a more in depth discussion, please feel free to make an appointment via the office. Alternatively, you can phone/email the office about any relevant issues and they will inform us directly. Please note that we are with the children during the day and so emails will be checked as soon as possible after school. We will have a chance to meet properly at the parent consultation evenings in October.

Doors open at 8.35a.m and pick up is 11.40a.m for Nursery (from the side door) and 3.10pm for Reception (from the class door). Please try to drop off and pick up punctually as lateness can be unsettling for children.

## Helping your child at home

You can help your child become independent at school by teaching them skills such as how to dress themselves, use the toilet and **wash hands properly** afterwards, and how to tidy up their own toys when they have finished with them.

**You can stay informed about what we are getting up to by reading the (fortnightly) Early Years newsletter and the (weekly) school newsletter.** These will give you opportunities to discuss your child's learning with them. Parental interest is very important to young children and it motivates them. Occasionally, the children may be asked to bring items in from home, related to the topic we are doing or for the 'Marvellous Me' box (Reception children only), but otherwise **please leave all toys at home.** Thank you.

The children will bring home class library books for you to share together. While you are reading to your child, encourage them to discuss the pictures, sequence the story and talk about what might happen next. Reading with your child is one of the most important things you can do to help their development. All the children will change their library book once a week on a Monday. For Reception aged children, reading books will be sent home regularly. Please also see separate reading letters that have been emailed.

## What goes on in school?

### The Outdoor Classroom

In the Early Years, we use both indoor and outdoor spaces **every day** to develop the children's learning, whatever the weather – there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing! Please could your child wear a named waterproof jacket with hood and bring named welly boots to keep in school. A spare set of clothes is required – named and in a separate bag. This can be left at school on their peg. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather – sun hats for summer weather and gloves, hats and scarves when it becomes colder.

**Every item must be named!** Please ensure your child comes to school with a **named water bottle** that should be taken home every day to clean and renew the water. We will, of course, refill these when necessary during the day.

### PE

All children will need to come in, in their PE kit on **MONDAYS** and **THURSDAYS**. **(NB: Please check that your children's clothes, socks and shoes (wellies) fit them at regular intervals.)**

**We like to make learning practical and fun. We like to give the children access to a range of experiences including cookery, messy play, play dough and creative activities. We would appreciate a small contribution of £10 per term to cover the additional costs this incurs. Please pay this via the Arbor parent portal/app. Thank you.**

## We learn and have fun!

Our topic the first half term is 'All About Me!' and 'Colours'. We will be talking about topics such as ourselves, our families, what I look like, what I like to do and colours. In the second half term, we will focus on 'Dark & Light'. We will, of course, be thinking about 'Autumn' and 'Festivals'. Please read the newsletters for more curriculum information.

In Early Years, the focus this half term is on settling the children in so that they are happy and confident in their new setting. We foster skills of independence, curiosity and a love of learning through play. Play encourages positive brain development, which leads to better social and academic success.

**We are looking forward to fun, productive and exciting times in Early Years  
2023/2024!**