



# Headteacher

## NEWSLETTER



### UPDATE FROM MS. PARKHOUSE

We hope you are enjoying the festive season!



As a quick reminder of the support currently strengthening our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) at Sandy Lane, we continue to benefit from the expertise of **Mr. Maddison** (GLT Senior School Improvement Leader, Monday/Tuesday) and **Mr. Cooper** (GLT Senior School Improvement Lead, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). They bring a wealth of experience, including previous headship and senior leadership roles, with a focus on curriculum development and school improvement to help us achieve excellence. **Ms. Penn**, who continues to cover Ms. Amor's maternity leave, joins us from Park Hill Junior School and brings extensive leadership expertise, including as a DSL and qualified SENCO, with a Master's degree focusing on SEND and literacy.

With Ms. Amor's full-time Deputy Head role currently covered part-time by Ms. Penn (Monday - Wednesday), and given my increasingly busy diary, we recognised a need for additional leadership support and are therefore, very pleased to announce an increased SLT capacity with the addition of **Mrs Hunter** (Assistant Director of Primary Education). We really appreciate Ms. Hunter stepping in and adding some vital capacity for us currently, and she is very pleased to be sporting a blue lanyard again!



Finally, thank you to all the parents for your wonderful support during our recent Christmas events; it was great to see such well-turned-out occasions! I must also thank our hardworking staff for their commitment in preparing the children, and all the parents who volunteered, making the recent Christmas performances such a tremendous success.

Term 3 dates will be released later this week. I would like to wish all our families a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year, and I look forward to what we can achieve together in the Spring Term! **Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us.**



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER



# British Legion Poppy Appeal



## Remembrance Tide Success: Thank You!

We are delighted to share a wonderful achievement from our recent Remembrance Tide period. We have received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in recognition of our outstanding fundraising efforts! I am so proud to announce that, thanks to the generosity and support of our pupils, families, and staff, Sandy Lane School successfully raised an incredible £515.74 during November 2025. This is a remarkable total that will directly support the vital work of the Royal British Legion.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important cause!



## Safeguarding at Sandy Lane



*"Safeguarding is a set of measures to protect individuals from harm, abuse, or neglect"*

We want to assure you that every member of the Sandy Lane team is the heartbeat of our safeguarding culture. Our dedicated staff—from teaching assistants and teachers to leaders—do not just teach; they provide the constant presence and care that helps our children feel safe.

They are the smiling faces a child looks forward to seeing, providing the comfort and encouragement that can empower a child to speak up if they ever need help.

Our staff chose to work in a school because they genuinely care. This care is demonstrated daily as they safeguard your children, envelop them in the Sandy Lane family, and help them thrive.

They continually reach out to families with empathy and encouragement, ensuring that your children are safe, happy, and well looked after in our care.

This collective commitment—where every adult plays a vital role—is Safeguarding at Sandy Lane! Thank you, as partners, for working with us to ensure our children's wellbeing.

Please keep caring for each other as a school community. Together, we will continue to make a difference but a heartfelt thank you for all your time, effort and kindness you continue to show towards our little people and each other.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a well earned rest over the holidays.



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER





## Spotlight on SEND: Building the Brain's 'Control Centre'



As we approach the end of term, I would like to highlight two excellent services available to support you as parents and carers.

### Occupational Therapy (OT) Advice Line

Occupational Therapists (OT) help children develop the skills needed for everyday life, focusing on:

- Play and Self-Care: E.g., dressing, eating, toileting.
- School Tasks: E.g., writing and focus.
- Social-Emotional Growth: By addressing fine motor skills, sensory processing, and cognitive abilities.

They use play-based activities and environmental adaptations to improve independence and participation at home and school.

📞 Free Parent/Carer Advice Line: Parents and carers can call the OT team for free on 0118 904 3700 on a Tuesday or Thursday from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm to speak directly to an Occupational Therapist. You can discuss a potential referral or request for help.

We encourage you to share any reports or recommendations from these calls with your child's class teacher so that we can consider how best to support your child in school.

### GEMS (Gaining Emotional Management Strategies)

GEMS serves families of neurodiverse children who live or whose GP is based in East Berkshire (Slough, Windsor, Maidenhead, Bracknell). Whether you are early in exploration, awaiting assessment, or seeking strategies post-diagnosis, GEMS welcomes you to get in touch.

### Upcoming Workshops from GEMS (Hosted by Parenting Special Children):

Understanding Emotional Regulation

Focus: Understanding emotional regulation, factors affecting regulation, the window of tolerance, the neuroscience of regulation, and strategies (e.g., fight/flight/freeze/flop/flood/fawn responses).

Support For: Autism & ADHD Support, for parents & carers of primary & secondary school aged children.

Online Date: Wednesday 21st January 2026, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Booking Link: <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/understanding-emotional-regulation-berks-east-jan-2026/>

### AuDHD (Autistic and ADHD)

Focus: Neuro-affirming, strengths-based workshop to help better understand AuDHD experiences. Explores strengths and challenges, practical strategies for home and school, reframing behaviours, and supporting self-esteem/advocacy.

Support For: Dual Pathway Support, for parents & carers of primary & secondary school aged children.

Online Date: Tuesday 3rd February 2026, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Booking Link: <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/audhd-workshop-berks-east-feb-2026/>

### NEW: Interoception

Focus: Understanding the sense that helps you feel what's going on inside your body (tired, hungry, thirsty, hot/cold). Addresses difficulties with self-regulation, recognising hunger, toileting, and making a connection with emotions.

Support For: Autism & ADHD Support, for parents & carers of primary & secondary school aged children.

Online Date: Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Booking Link: <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/interoception-workshop-berks-east-march-2026/>

# Connecting Our Community...



**YOUR VOICES ARE NEEDED NOW**

## WE NEED YOU!

**BRACKNELL SEND SERVICES SURVEY AUTUMN 2025.**

We need your voices to share with **Ofsted/DfE** and **NHS England** in their next visit in the new year, use the QR code

**WE'VE ALREADY HEARD SOME POWERFUL VOICES - HAVE WE HEARD YOURS?**

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY TODAY AND HELP SHAPE SEND SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE.**




## AGED 7-18?

### WANT TO PLAY IN A BAND?

**JOIN OUR BRAND NEW WEEKLY SESSIONS IN BRACKNELL AND BASINGSTOKE!**




**FREE TRIAL SESSION!**  
Booking Essential

- ▶ All abilities welcome!
- ▶ Instruments can be provided
- ▶ Learn bass, guitar, drums or vocals
- ▶ Fill in our online enquiry form now (QR code) to be sent full info and then get booked in!
- ▶ Learn in your lessons - play in a band each week - gig for friends and family every July!

**SCAN HERE** to fill out our enquiry form





**LEARN - PLAY - GIG**    **THE ROCK PROJECT BRACKNELL & BASINGSTOKE**  
www.therockproject.com



## TOM DEAN SWIM SCHOOL

### SWIMMING LESSONS

Our mission is to foster a love for swimming while building strength, discipline and water safety skills

Scan for more information

TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM



## What we offer

- Babies (3-18 months)**  
Discovery Ducklings 1 - Adult & Child Classes
  - Gentle introduction to the water
  - Confidence building through songs & play
  - Fun, safe bonding time with your little one
- Toddlers (18 months - 3 years)**  
Discovery Ducklings 2 & 3 - Adult & Child Classes
  - Build water confidence
  - Learn to splash, float & travel with support
  - Progress to buoyancy aids & happy submersion
- Pre-School (3-4 years)**  
Ducklings 1-4 Classes
  - From first kicks to swimming 3m+
  - Building confident little swimmers
- Children (4 years +)**  
Stages 1-10
  - From floating & 5m swims
  - To all strokes, dives & competition
- Adults (16 years +)**
  - Non-Swimmers - build water confidence
  - Beginners - learn to swim
  - Improvers - develop technique
  - Advanced - master your strokes

**Why choose us?**

- ✓ Family-friendly lessons
- ✓ Endorsed by Olympic Champion Tom Dean MBE
- ✓ Skills for life

We look forward to welcoming you to the Tom Dean Swim School



TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM    ENQUIRIES@TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM



## Library News: Click Here!

Don't miss out on the latest updates, events, and resources from the library this month!

Click the link below to view the December Library Newsletter:

[VIEW THE DECEMBER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER HERE](#)

Email us at:

[secretary@sandylanebracknell.com](mailto:secretary@sandylanebracknell.com)

With one page posters and we will endeavour to include it in our newsletter (please avoid emails with lots of text!)

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