

Issue: 14



Headteacher

NEWSLETTER



Update from Ms. Parkhouse

Welcome to a new term at Sandy Lane! As we move into this busy (and short!) term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the journey we are on together. There has undeniably been lots of change across the school recently.

Some change was proactive and pre-planned, such as the introduction of our Internal Alternative Provisions – the new Badgers and Dolphins groups. These have had a fantastic start, offering bespoke, high-quality support for our SEND learners.

Other changes have been reactive, such as the merging of Year 4 and the restructuring of our Year 5 classes. The Year 5 teams are settling brilliantly. We have seen a significant improvement in learning behaviours, engagement in learning, and pupils working collaboratively as a team. The new Koalas class also deserve a special mention, who have been phenomenal their first week.

Growth is rarely a linear path, and nothing truly great happens without change. I want to reassure you that I would never implement changes that I felt were unnecessary or not in the absolute best interests of your children and our school community. Every decision I make is handled with immense care, meticulous attention to detail, and a commitment to high expectations. These expectations aren't just for academic provision, they also extend to the level of pastoral care and nurture we provide our pupils. Our vision to to give your children the opportunity to achieve their limitless potential is not just a marketing tagline. It is a vision I am passionate about. When I refer to being 'Limitless Together,' it represents my commitment to working in transparent partnership with you to achieve this.

Thank you to the many parents who have caught me for a chat to advocate for these improvements, or those who have requested meetings to work proactively with me. It has been great to see an increased engagement at our Coffee Mornings. These sessions are specifically designed to give you the protected time and space to share ideas, concerns, or opinions so we can continue to move forward in partnership. Thank you to Mrs. Hurley for her commitment to these and for supporting our families so brilliantly.

Your support is invaluable. I couldn't be prouder of our pupils and staff. Supported by your vital input, this week feels like a genuine turning point for our school. Together, we are building something very special at Sandy Lane!



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER



Key Dates



Term 4 Key Dates

Whilst we endeavour to ensure that you get as much notice as possible for all school key dates, there might be times when this isn't possible. Thank you in advance for your understanding when this does happen!

Monday 23rd February 2026	INSET Day - School Closed for pupils
Tuesday 24th February 2026	School reopens for all pupils - First Day of Term 4
Wednesday 25th February	KS2 Choir attending the O2 - All Day
Thursday 26th February	Year 5 Parent Drop In /Coffee Morning
Tuesday 3rd March	Pupil Parliament Trip
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (Pupils are invited to 'Dress for Reading': either as a favourite character or in their 'comfies')
	World Book Day Special Lunch Menu
	Nursery Parents are invited to come and read to children at: 8:35am - 9.00am and 2:50pm - 3:15pm
	Book Sale and Golden Lucky Dip (Middle Playground) - SLSA Event
Thursday 5th March	KS2 Choir attending Whitegrove for Hexagon rehearsal - Afternoon (details sent out)
Tuesday 10th March	Year 5 German <i>Karneval</i> Celebration - Assembly for parents 2.40pm - upper school hall
Thursday 12th March	Year 6 Parent SATs meeting 3:30
Friday 13th March	Wonderful Women Cake and Flower Sale (Middle Playground) - SLSA Event
Thursday 19th March	Year 1 Parent Drop In / Coffee Morning
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day (Pupils are invited to wear Red Nose Day Accessories alongside their usual school uniform)
Tuesday 24th March	School Nurse Drop In Sessions 9:30am - 11:30am (only by prior arrangement with school office for children aged 5 & over)
Friday 27th March 2026	Last day of Term 4
Easter Half Term: Monday 30th March 2026 - Friday 10th April 2026 School reopens on Monday 13th April 2026	



[Click here](#) for a handy printable for the fridge.



Uniform Labelling

Please could we ask a huge favour? Please can you name everything your child brings to school (within reason!) We are currently seeing a mountain of unnamed jumpers, polo shirts, and PE kits in lost property. It is incredibly difficult to return lost items to their rightful owners without a name tag. A quick sharpie on the label makes a world of difference!





SENCO
Mr Walsh

Spotlight on SEND



Individual Learning Plan Reviews

All children on our SEN register are having Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) reviewed and shared at the moment.

To ensure our support is as effective as possible, we have further streamlined our ILP format. You will notice that the documents now have four columns instead of five. This change allows us to be even more precise in our planning. We are focusing on:

- Ensuring every target is directly linked to your child’s specific area of SEN to keep our approach purposeful.
- Clear targets so we can accurately track the progress your child is making.
- Outlining the specific support and strategies being put in place to help your child succeed.

We have been delighted by the feedback from parents and pupils regarding the Reasonable Adjustments section. It is wonderful to hear how these small, high-impact changes in the classroom are helping our children feel celebrated, understood, and supported in their daily learning.

We are sharing these now to ensure you have plenty of time to review your child’s ILP before the upcoming parents' evenings, so that there is time to reflect on these during those meetings as we truly value working in collaboration with you.

As always, if you have any immediate SEN questions, please do speak with your child’s class teacher in the first instance.

Reading Den & Nature Kitchen in Reception

We are so excited to introduce two new additional features to our Reception outdoor area: The Reading Den and The Nature Kitchen.

The Reading Den offers a cozy, magical escape to fall in love with books! It is so welcoming and offers a space for imaginations to run wild as children read!

The Nature Kitchen has been specifically designed to inspire children’s writing. It’s a brilliant opportunity where our children can write ingredients and compose out their own creative ‘mud recipes’.

Amazing things are happening in Reception! Thank you Mrs Whitehead and the Reception Team!





FSW

Mrs Hurley

Safeguarding at Sandy Lane



Handle with Care Initiative

At Sandy Lane, we take our pastoral care responsibilities incredibly seriously. We know that a child's emotional wellbeing is the foundation of their happiness and success at school. Because of this, we are formally reminding families of a pastoral initiative that is already working wonderfully for many of our pupils and families: "Handle with Care."

- The concept is incredibly simple, but we have seen firsthand how impactful it can be. When we get a Handle with Care notification from you, we offer extra patience, support and TLC to your child and spread the word to ensure all staff do the same.
- We understand that family life can be unpredictable. Sometimes mornings are unexpectedly stressful, there might be a disruption to the usual routine, or a family might be navigating a challenging emotional period at home.
- Children often carry the weight of these home experiences into the classroom, and they don't always have the words to express why they might be feeling a little unsettled. This initiative is designed to bridge that gap and wrap a little extra support around them.

How to Use It

If your family has had a difficult morning or is going through a tough time, simply give us a brief message saying, "Handle with Care." You can do this in whichever way is easiest for you:

- Verbally: Let a member of staff know at the school gate.
- By Phone: Call the school office.
- By Email: Send a quick email to the school office Secretary account and we'll forward it on.

Nothing else needs to be said. You do not need to provide any detailed explanations or answer any intrusive questions. Those three words are all we need.

How It Helps

When we receive a "Handle with Care" message, we discretely communicate this to your child's teaching team. This serves as a quiet signal for our staff to:

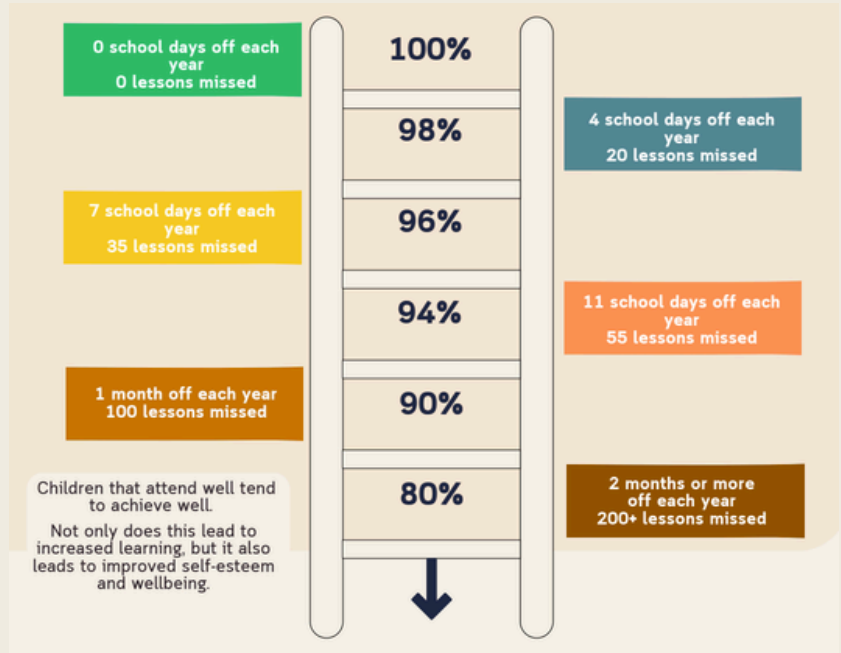
- Provide emotional reassurance before your child even walks through the classroom door.
- Adjust our expectations for the day and offer extra flexibility where needed.
- Ensure they receive an extra layer of patience, understanding, and kindness.
-

We want to strengthen our partnership with you, ensuring that school is a safe, empathetic, and supportive environment for your child, no matter what kind of morning they've had. Thank you for working with us to care for our Sandy Lane pupils.



Attendance Matters

- Absence should only occur when your child is far too ill to attend.
- If your child is suffering from Colds, Headaches, Tiredness or Sore throat we would suggest that you administer paracetamol or ibuprofen and bring them into school.
- If their condition deteriorates, we will always call you.
- Family holidays and day trips must be arranged outside of school hours.
- Medical or dental appointments should be arranged outside of school hours, if this is not possible supporting evidence should be provided please.

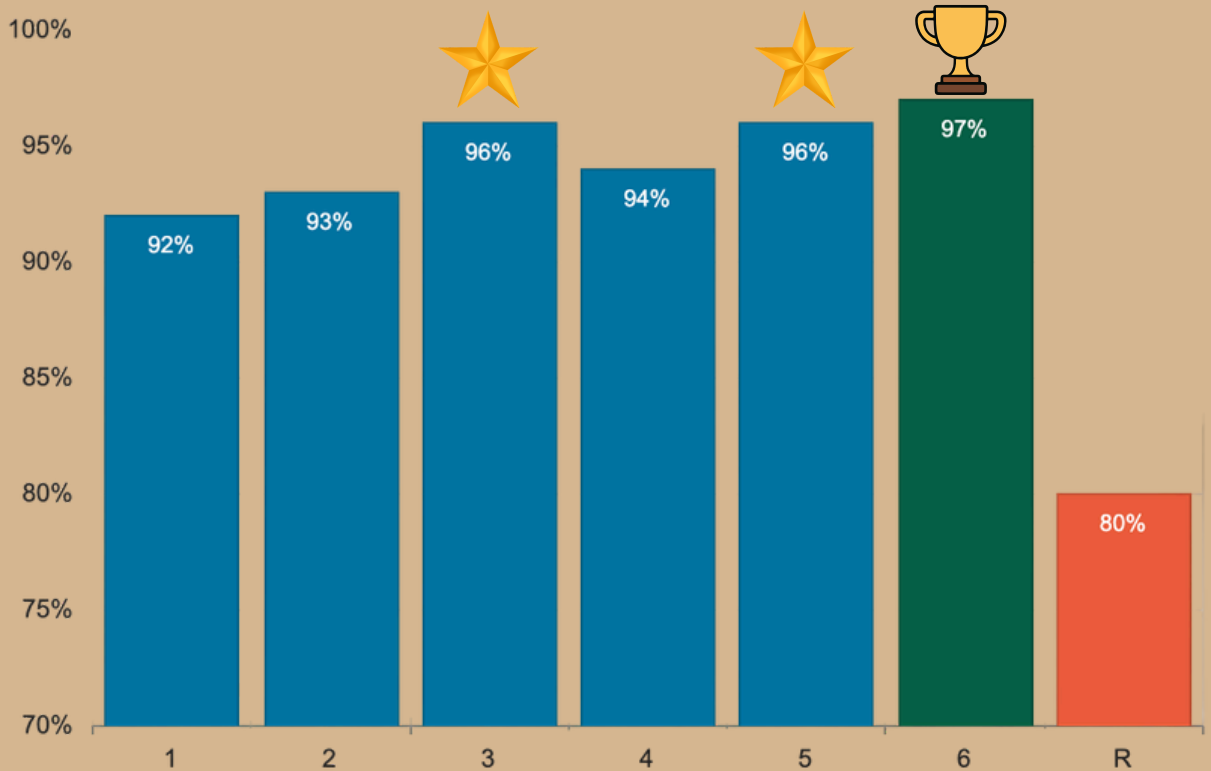


This Term in Figures...

Date Range: 09/02/2026 - 27/03/2026

95%

WHOLE SCHOOL



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER



Language of the Month



German Ambassadors voted on the Language of the Month for March and we are pleased to announce that it will be Welsh to mark St. David's day last Sunday!

Sandy Lane's Language of the Month:



Welsh



Bore da!

Prynhawn da!

YV YOUNG VOICES

Last week, the children had an absolutely unforgettable experience performing at Young Voices at the iconic The O2 Arena in London.

From the moment they stepped into the vast arena, the excitement was electric.

Singing alongside thousands of other children, accompanied by a live band and dazzling lights, they felt like true stars on a world-class stage. The atmosphere was filled with joy, pride and a wonderful sense of unity as their hard work and dedication truly paid off. It was a magical evening of music, confidence-building and memories that will last a lifetime for everyone involved.



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Connecting Our Community...

**THE PLAYSTATION
EASTER
HOLIDAY CLUB**

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

8am - 5:50pm

Join us this Easter for a spring themed week of crafts, Easter Egg hunts, bug hunting and nature walks... and an Easter party to round it all off!

£30 per day
Ages 3 - 12

10% Sibling Discount

HAF Free Funded Sessions

Ofsted Registered

- ✓ Free Play Setting
- ✓ Exciting indoor and outdoor activities
- ✓ Ofsted Registered
- ✓ Qualified, nurturing staff

theplaystation98@gmail.com
07940717051

Open to all children, based at Sandy Lane Primary School

<https://the-playstation.classforkids.io/camp/26>

ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

**GET SET FOR ULTIMATE
EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!**

Exceptional activity camps for children aged 4 to 14 at **LVS Ascot, Ascot**

ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK

SEE ONLINE FOR LATEST EARLY BOOKING OFFERS

Let's Play

FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, SOFT PLAY, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GEMING, LASER TAG, HIEP WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Bracknell Leisure Centre
Bagshot Road, Bracknell, RG12 9SE
9.00am - 4.00pm
Early drop off from Barn, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12
FROM £29.50 PER DAY!

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!
Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drinks Bottle.

Scan the QR code for more information, call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk

Parent Courses

Managing children's behaviour, Thursday 5 March

Explore positive behaviour strategies, gain tools for handling challenging behaviour

Anxious thoughts and worries, Monday 13 April

Explore how anxiety affects children and learn techniques to help support them

Working in a school, starts 16 April

Learn about working in a primary school and the role of a teaching assistant

Paediatric first aid, 13 May

Learn how to assess and respond to sick or injured children

Courses take place at Bracknell Open Learning Centre. More information can be found at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-learning



Email us at: secretary@sandylanebracknell.com with one page posters and we will endeavour to include it in our newsletter (please avoid emails with lots of text!)

OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER



Connecting Our Community...

Supporting Your Children Workshops 2025 - 2026










To book a space email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk



Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session**, is universal (not specific for SEND), aimed at parents of primary aged children and is for the adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book if you are **going to be able to attend** to avoid other parents missing out.

All sessions unless stated otherwise take place at **The Bracknell Open Learning Centre**

Supporting Children to Overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries Exploring how anxiety affects primary aged children learning simple, effective techniques to support children to overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries.	
Monday 13th April 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 8th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way A session exploring positive behaviour strategies enabling parents to gain practical tools for handling challenging behaviours with confidence and care.	
Thursday 05th March 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Thursday 23rd April 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 22nd June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting your pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.	
Wednesday 4th February 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting your teen in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16) A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.	
Thursday 12th February 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Transition to secondary school Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.	
Monday 29th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.	
Thursday 25th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
A healthy night's sleep Sleep is essential for children's wellbeing, learning, and behaviour. Get practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits	
Tuesday 17th March 2026	9.30 – 11.30
Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session, to give parents and caregivers tools to strengthen sibling bonds, whilst creating a calm and connected family environment.	

Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms, and every child deserves to feel secure / supported. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.	
Monday 9th February 2026	9.30 – 11.30

To book a space or get further information email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Each toolkit is universal (not SEND specific) aimed at primary aged children & not suitable for younger siblings to attend and will be held at the Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out.

EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance)

A 2-week toolkit (you are expected to attend both sessions)

Week 1 – parent only session looking at - What EBSA is, how to support your child to build 'being in school' resilience and what you can expect schools to do.

Week 2 – parents + child (need school's permission for child to attend) looking at supporting children to challenge 'What if's?' produce resilience tools and next steps.



Preparing to be Mum

FREE 4 hour Workshop for mums to be

Run by trained antenatal facilitator
Discuss preparing for birth and labour
Master changing, holding and bathing baby
Talk about Mum's mental wellbeing
Places limited, booking required

Register your interest:



More than Words communication group

FREE term-time weekly group for ages 3 - 4 years

For families who would like support with their children's communication and language development

Thursdays
9.30am - 11am

Get in touch to join the group

Contact:
office@hsbf.org.uk
01344 860025



Mums in Mind Group

Our free six-week postnatal mental health course brings mums who are feeling low, anxious or overwhelmed together in a safe group setting

Suitable for mums of children under 18 months, living in Bracknell Forest

Get in touch to join the group
office@hsbf.org.uk / 01344 860025



Baby and Mum Group

Free term-time group for new mums of babies aged under 12 months. Safe and supportive environment to make friends and share experiences
Chance to chat to specialist speakers about activities and help for families in the local area.

Get in touch to join the group
office@hsbf.org.uk / 01344 860025



Preparing to be Dad

FREE 4 hour Workshop for dads to be

Run by a male facilitator
Discuss labour and birth
Master changing, holding and bathing
Understand the importance of Dad's support pre and post pregnancy
Talk about Dad's mental wellbeing - if required

Register your interest:



Play & Learn Group

Weekly term time group for ages 12 months - 3.5 years

An opportunity for children to socialise in a friendly, fun and educational environment

By invitation only





Virtual Coffee Morning Eating and Movement

Friday 13th March - 10:00 - 11:00am

25 spaces available!

Join our online informal discussion. What to expect?

Respectful and supportive discussion including:

- What works for your family at meal times
- What are your concern areas around eating
- How do you support your child with eating
- How you handle food centric activities and celebrations
- Encouraging affirming movement
- Eating out

Sign Up Today!

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/awaiting assessment/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:

 Gems.4Health@nhs.net
 0800 999 1342



Email us at: 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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Connecting Our Community...

"Best club my daughter has been to!"

fearless girls club

Recommended by psychologists, loved by parents and girls!

★★★★★

AN AWARD-WINNING CLUB FOR GIRLS AGED 8 TO 12

A safe space for girls to have fun, explore the big questions, make new friends and learn to love being themselves.



KNAPHILL
Tuesdays, 5.30pm to 7pm

CHOBHAM
Wednesdays, 6pm to 7.30pm

GUILDFORD
Tuesdays, 6pm to 7.30pm

SUNNINGHILL
Thursdays, 5pm to 6.30pm

BOOK ONLINE NOW

www.fearlessgirlsclub.co.uk
clubhouse@fearlessgirlsclub.co.uk

SCAN ME




GEMS Autism & ADHD Support Service East Berkshire

the autism group

1 on 1 Support Sessions

An online or over the phone, 60 minute session offering support and advice.

Suitable for Parents and Carers whom:

- Has a child/young person who may have, waiting assessment or has been diagnosed with Autism or AuDHD (Autism & ADHD).
- Require strategies for a new presenting issue.
- Attended workshops/courses previously and need further advice.
- Want to talk confidentially or uncomfortable with group sessions.
- Are neurodivergent themselves or have access needs.

Available for families residing in, or have a registered GP in East Berkshire.

To book your place contact GEMS:

 Gems.4Health@nhs.net

 0800 999 1342

Sign Up Today!



We have just released a new date for our Managing Anxiety workshop, hosted by The Autism Group.

Managing Anxiety	<i>Hosted by The Autism Group:</i> What to do when worries take over. Looking at what causes anxiety & some tried & tested strategies to tackle it.	Autism Support For parents & carers of primary & secondary school aged children.	Online:. Wednesday 10th June 2026.	10am 12pm
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Booking link : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-anxiety-tickets-1541098209229?aff=oddtcreator>

If this is not what you are looking for, please look at our website for more information, please note most workshops/courses are either fully booked, waiting for a new date or have limited spaces available. <https://www.gems4health.com/workshops/>

We do have a variety of demand support which is accessible directly from our website and available 24/7.

<https://www.gems4health.com/about-adhd/>

<https://www.gems4health.com/about-autism/>

<https://www.gems4health.com/learn-more/>

<https://www.gems4health.com/gems-advice/>



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