



Headteacher

NEWSLETTER



Update from Ms. Parkhouse

Inspection Update

Following our recent school inspection, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our entire school community. While I am unable to share the outcome just yet, your support has been invaluable. I particularly want to thank those who completed the parent view surveys and the many families who reached out with kind wishes of support for our staff and leadership team – it truly meant a lot to Team Sandy Lane. The final report is expected to be published within 30 working days, and I will share it with you all as soon as it is released.

Your Voice Matters: Parent Questionnaire

I am incredibly impressed to report that 167 families completed our parent voice questionnaire last week during Parents Evenings. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. It is a top priority of mine that you know your feedback isn't just heard – it's acted upon. Next week, I will write to you again to share the data from this survey. I'll be highlighting the positive highlights, as well as the specific steps we are taking to improve Sandy Lane based on your suggestions. I really value your transparency, and feel it is essential in helping us drive meaningful change.

New Role: SENCO Assistant

At Sandy Lane, we are committed to ensuring every child receives the support they need to thrive and reach their full potential. To enhance our provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), we are pleased to introduce Elise Halsall as our new SENCO Assistant. In the first instance, this is a one year fixed-term role, which we are piloting.

Elise will work closely alongside Mr Walsh, our SENCO to ensure the administrative and practical side of SEND support runs smoothly. While this is a full-time role, Elise will be sharing her expertise across all four of the Bracknell Forest GLT Primary Schools.

While our SENCO continues to focus on the strategic oversight of your child's education, Elise will provide vital support in the following areas:

- Serving as a regular point of contact to help coordinate meetings between parents, teachers, and external specialists.
- Assisting with the maintenance of records and the processing of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) reviews to ensure paperwork is submitted promptly.
- Helping to track data from interventions to ensure the extra help your child receives is having a positive impact.



OUR PRIDE, LIMITLESS TOGETHER





Key Dates

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



Term 5 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 13th April	School reopens for all pupils - First Day of Term 5
Tuesday 14th April	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 15th April	Parents' Evening
Friday 1st May	Coffee Morning Reception Parents
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday - School Closed for All Staff and Pupils
Thursday 7th May	Coffee Morning Y4 Parents
Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May	KS2 SATS Week (Year 6)
Tuesday 21st April	Start of weekly Year 5 Swimming (10.30am - 12pm) for 10 weeks (Last session is on 7th July: exclusions for SATS week and half term)
Wednesday 22nd April	Year 2 African Workshop
Thursday 23rd April	EYFS Farm Visit (With Foxes)
Friday 1st May	Reception Coffee Morning 09:00 - 10:00
Friday 8th May	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Drama Workshops
Wednesday 13th May	Year 1 Assembly to Parents 14:50pm
Thursday 14th May	Reception Storytime with Grown-Ups at 14:30pm
Saturday 16th May	SLSA May Fayre
Wednesday 20th May	Class Photos
Wednesday 20th May	World Bee Day - Bee Keeper into Nursery
Thursday 21st May	Afternoon - Second Choir Rehearsal at Whitegrove for the Hexagon Concert
Thursday 21st May	Last day of Term 5 for All Pupils
Friday 22nd May	INSET Day
Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026 School reopens on Monday 1st June 2026	



SENCO
Mr Walsh

Spotlight on SEND



Understanding SEND Reform: What it Means for Parents

You may have recently heard mentions of SEND Reform or the government’s SEND Improvement Plan (often referred to in relation to the SEND White Paper). I understand that high-level policy talk can often feel distant from the day-to-day reality of school life, so I wanted to clarify what this means for our families.

At its core, these reforms are designed to create a more consistent, fairer, and "fewer hurdles" system for children with additional needs. The focus is on early intervention - identifying needs sooner and providing the right support without families feeling they have to "fight" for it.

To ensure our school is at the forefront of these changes, we are taking the following proactive steps:

- We are working closely with Bracknell Forest on their "Universal Provision" offer.
- This is in addition to our own high expectations for Inclusion and our own Universal Provision, which is already established, this aims to ensure collaboration in the early stages of this planning.
- At both a Headteacher and Director level, we are active members of the SEND Reform working groups in Bracknell Forest. By collaborating with the Local Authority and other trust schools, we are sharing best practices and helping to shape how these reforms are implemented locally.
- Being part of these groups ensures that the voices of our parents and the specific needs of our pupils are heard when decisions are made about local funding and resource allocation.

Our vision for this strategic work is to ensure that as the national landscape changes, our school remains a place where support is seamless, collaborative, and, most importantly, effective for your child.



FSW
Mrs Hurley

Safeguarding at Sandy Lane



Thames Valley Police Newsletter: We would like to share the latest newsletter from Thames Valley Police, which serves as a vital resource for staying informed about safety and safeguarding within our community. It provides expert guidance on navigating modern challenges. It covers topics such as protecting children from online risks, recognising the signs of cybercrime, and understanding local initiatives designed to help young people make safe, informed choices. Beyond online safety, the updates include practical advice on home security and insights into the ongoing work of our local Schools Officers to tackle issues like anti-social behaviour.

By staying updated on these trends, we can work together more effectively to keep our children safe both in and out of school. It offers a great starting point for open conversations at home about personal safety and trusting one’s instincts.

You can read the full update here: [Thames Valley Police Newsletter](#)

We encourage you to take a brief moment to look through the information provided.





Mr Green - Crossing Patrol Officer



We are sharing some news regarding a much-loved member of our school community, Mr. Green, our School Crossing Patrol officer. As many of you may know, Mr. Green is a familiar and friendly face at Sandy Lane, ensuring our children stay safe every morning and afternoon. Last week, he began a course of chemotherapy treatment, and while we will certainly miss his presence, we are all sending him our collective strength and support.

Please be aware that the Local Authority is responsible for the staffing and management of School Crossing Patrols. We have been in contact with them regarding cover for Mr. Green's post, and while we sincerely hope they will provide a relief officer, this has not yet been confirmed. In the meantime, we ask that all families take extra care and remain vigilant when crossing the roads near the school.

Mr. Green has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks for the kind words he has already received, and he left us with a reminder to "stay safe" in his absence! We are already looking forward to welcoming him back to his post around July. On behalf of everyone at Sandy Lane, we wish him the very best with his treatment and a steady recovery.

Turtles Class Made the Final!

Help Us Become Britain's Funniest Class! Our school has officially been named a finalist in this year's Beano: Britain's Funniest Class competition!

Out of hundreds of entries from across the country, our pupils in Turtles Class managed to tickle the judges' funny bones enough to make the short-list. We are incredibly proud of their wit and teamwork - but now, we need your help to actually win the trophy!

The Beano team has officially opened the voting, but there are a few rules we need to follow to make our votes count:

- Voting is open to Beano comic subscribers. You can only vote once, so please make it count!
- We have until Friday, 15th May at 4:00 PM to get those votes in.
- If you, your neighbors, or your family members are Beano subscribers, please head over to www.beano.com and back our class!

It's a massive achievement to get this far, and seeing the Sandy Lane name alongside the Beano logo is a real treat. Let's show the rest of the UK that the best laughs in the country happen right here at Sandy Lane. Huge congratulations to the students for their hard work (and top-tier jokes). Good luck, everyone - let's get voting!





April: World Autism Acceptance Month



As we enter April, we want to write to you about something that is a profound personal and professional passion of ours at Sandy Lane: World Autism Acceptance Month.

While the calendar marks this as a specific month, for us, the commitment to championing our autistic community is a year-round calling. This month serves as a vital, high-intensity spotlight on why we must move beyond simple "awareness" and toward a culture of radical, unwavering acceptance.

To be "aware" of autism is a starting point, but acceptance is where the real magic happens. It is the active choice to value autistic individuals not in spite of their differences, but because of them.

Our passion for this cause stems from a simple truth: our world is more vibrant, more innovative, and more complete when neurodivergent voices are heard and celebrated. People with autism bring a depth of perspective, an often-unrivalled integrity, and a unique way of processing the world that we should all feel privileged to encounter.

The world can often be an overwhelming place for those who process sensory information or social cues differently. This month exists because:

- **The Burden of "Masking":** Too many autistic individuals feel they must hide their true selves to fit into a neurotypical world. We must advocate for a society where they can be their authentic selves without fear.
- **The Power of Diverse Minds:** We don't just "tolerate" different ways of thinking; we need them. From science to the arts, neurodiversity is a driver of human progress.
- **Dignity and Belonging:** Every person deserves to feel that they are not a "puzzle to be solved," but a human being to be cherished.

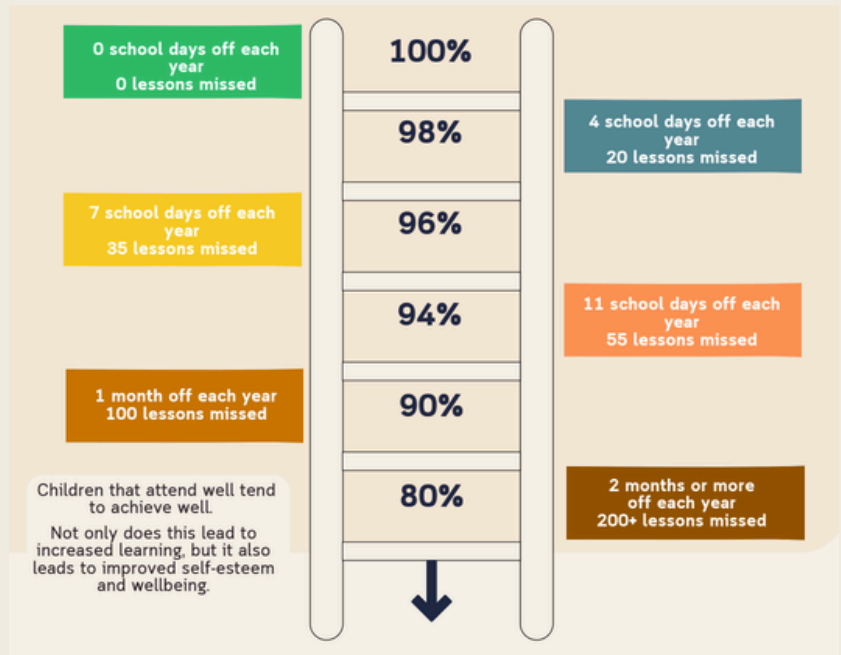
We are deeply committed to ensuring that we aren't just a community that "knows about" autism, but one that fiercely supports and advocates for the rights and happiness of autistic people. It is about empathy, it is about kindness, and above all, it is about recognising the immense brilliance that comes with seeing the world through a different lens.

Let's use this April to listen more closely to children's voices and to reaffirm our commitment to a world where everyone, truly everyone, is celebrated for exactly who they are.

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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.

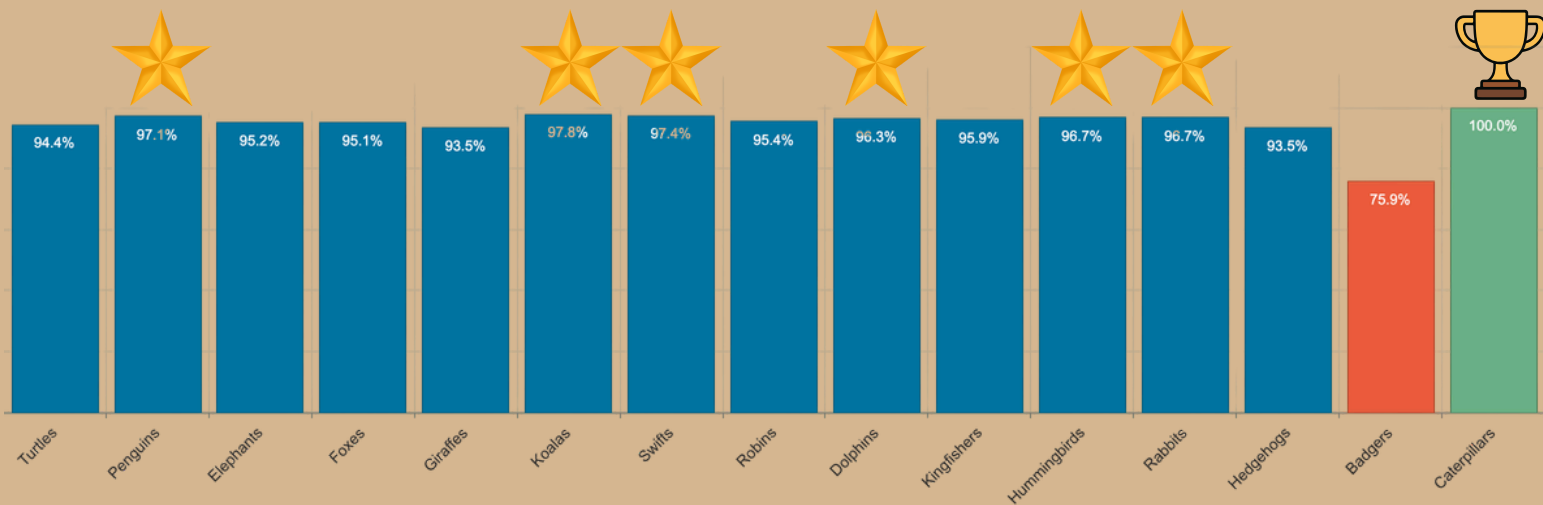


This Fortnight in Figures...

Date Range: 13/04/2026 - 24/04/2026

WHOLE SCHOOL

96%



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October - Holiday Opportunity Reminder!

We are acutely aware of the rising costs of living and the "holiday tax" that families often face when trying to book a getaway during standard school breaks. To support our families, we have made a deliberate strategic decision regarding our October 2026 calendar.

For the next academic year (2026-2027), we have grouped five INSET days together immediately preceding the October half-term. This creates a two-week window where the school is closed, allowing you to take advantage of significantly lower "term-time" prices.

Key Dates for your Diary:

- **Final day of school:** Friday, 16th October 2026
- **The "INSET Week":** Monday, 19th October – Friday, 23rd October
- **Standard Half-Term:** Monday, 26th October – Friday, 30th October
- **School Re-opens:** Tuesday, 3rd November 2026*
- **Please note:** Monday, 2nd November is also a designated INSET day, meaning children return on the Tuesday.

By scheduling our staff training days in this block, we are providing a 17-day window (including weekends) for rest and recuperation. Because the first week of this break falls while most other schools are still in session, families can often find flights, hotels, and packages at a fraction of the usual half-term cost. We wanted to give you as much notice as possible so you can get booking now and secure the best possible rates!

You can view and download the full 2026-2027 term date calendar on our website here: [Sandy Lane Term Dates 2026/27](#).

We hope this initiative helps our community enjoy some well-deserved time together without the financial strain of peak-season pricing.



Emergency Preparedness

Following our recent parent survey, we wanted to take a moment to address some of the feedback regarding school security. In the context of today's global news, we understand that safety is at the forefront of every parent's mind. We want to reassure you that safeguarding remains our absolute priority. We would like to share some insight into our emergency preparedness.



- Sandy Lane has robust, detailed protocols in place for various scenarios, including:
- Evacuation (Evac): For situations where we must exit the buildings quickly and safely.
- Invacuation (Invac) & Lockdown: For situations where the safest place for students is inside a secured classroom or building.
- Privacy & Security: For obvious reasons, we cannot publish the specific details or "blueprints" of these procedures publicly. However, please be assured that these plans are reviewed regularly and all staff are fully trained on how to execute them effectively.



We believe that being prepared shouldn't come at the cost of a child's peace of mind. We are incredibly sensitive to the potential for "drills" to feel scary or traumatising. When we practice, we explain things to the children in a way that feels like a routine safety exercise (similar to a standard fire drill) rather than an emergency and we do not over-rehearse. We conduct drills just often enough to ensure everyone knows what to do, without creating an environment of anxiety.



This update is a direct response to the views shared in our recent survey. Your trust is the foundation of our school community, and we are committed to maintaining a learning environment where your children feel, and are, completely safe. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an active part of our school's safety culture.

SLSA Summer Fayre!

The SLSA is officially counting down to our biggest event of the year, and the lineup is looking incredible! We have a jam-packed day planned for the whole family, including:
Maypole dancing, Martial Arts workshops, and Dance workshops.
A wood-fired pizza oven, ice cream van, coffee van, and slushies.
Local stallholders, henna, face painting, a raffle, and classic games.
Now, we just need everyone to start crossing their fingers for some beautiful sunshine!



To make sure we can run every single game and activity, we need a few more helping hands. The games are always the highlight of the day for the kids, but they are also the first things we have to cut if we don't have enough volunteers to man them.

Can you spare a small window of time? Even a short shift makes a huge difference, and you'll still have plenty of time to enjoy the fayre with your own friends and family.

Ready to help? Scan the QR code on the posters around school, or simply click the link below to sign up directly from your phone:
[Sign Up to Volunteer Here](#)
Thank you so much for your continued support—we can't wait to see you there!

Connecting Our Community...

Ed's music Classes

FREE trial in Binfield

17:30-18:00 : Wednesday 13/05/2026 @ Newbold Primary.

*3/4 sized guitars are available to borrow for the session if necessary.

Guitar ages 6+

Children learn the guitar and more general musicianship skills; including music reading and singing... Skills that will set them up to eventually learn whatever they want.

This is done in small groups, through simple folk songs and melodies. Regular classes cost just £90 per term (ten sessions). Progression is offered through upper stages and eventually recitals.

Sign up & Enquiries - edsmusicclasses.co.uk/contact

Follow - facebook.com/edwardjonesmusic



WINKFIELD & WARFIELD COMMUNITY CYCLE RIDE

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

9.30AM



This is a fun, free, family event

START/FINISH @ CARNATION HALL
CHAVEY DOWN ROAD, WINKFIELD RG42 7PA

REGISTER NOW - USE THE QR CODE OR SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS

[HTTPS://WINKFIELDPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK](https://winkfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Event attendees
DR BIKE
bike maintenance and support

Event organisers
Eco Rewards
Rewarding Green & Active Travel





Supporting Your Children Workshops 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), 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 using simple, effective techniques to support them to overcome their Anxious Thoughts & Worries.	
Monday 8th June 2026 Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way Supporting parents of primary aged children develop positive behaviour strategies and handle challenging behaviours with confidence and care.	
Monday 22nd June 2026 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.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates 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.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help primary aged children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way	
Thursday 4th June 2026 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.	
Tuesday 2nd June 2026 (@ Owlsmoor School for Owlsmoor parents)	9 – 11 am
Thursday 4th June 2026 (@ The Pines School for The Pines parents)	9 – 11 am
Monday 8th June 2026 (@ St. Micheals EH for St. Micheals parents)	9 – 11 am
Tuesday 9th June 2026 (@ Meadow Vale for Meadow Vale parents)	9 – 11 am
Monday 29th June 2026 (@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre) 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 Support for parents of primary aged children to gain practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session giving parents of primary aged children the tools to strengthen sibling bonds and create a calm, connected family environment.	
Thursday 7th May 2026	9.30 – 11.30 am
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms for primary aged children. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.	
Thursday 30th April 2026 (CANCELLED DUE TO LOW NUMBERS) Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	6.30 – 8.30 pm


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.




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...



F.A.O the Headteacher / SENCO,

Could you please pass the below information on to the parents & carers in your school who would benefit from this.

As part of Autism Awareness Month we (Autism Family Support Service) are hosting 3 online **You Are Not Alone** drop-in sessions for parents and carers of children diagnosed (or suspected) with autism and PDA.

These sessions are completely free. They take place on the following days:

Monday 6th April from 10am - 11am.

Monday 6th April from 8pm - 9pm.

Tuesday evening from 7pm - 8.30pm.

You can attend one or all sessions.

If you have any questions about your autism parenting journey (education, friendships, meltdowns, emotional dysregulation, etc)

No one needs to walk alone in their autism parenting journey.

Parents are more than welcome to attend any of these sessions.

To request the Zoom link for these sessions, please send an email to team@youarenotalone.community.

Kind regards,

Erik & Sally Wagter

You Are Not Alone

www.youarenotalone.community
www.autismfamilysupportservice.com



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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