Sandal

Primary School & Nursery

Welcome to Reception

Our Aims

Where little roots grow strong and children blossom.

Welcome to Early Years at Sandal Primary School. Our EYFS is a place where children are known, valued and encouraged to become confident, curious learners.

Our motto Nurture Grow Succeed, sits at the heart of everything we do.

- We will foster a nurturing environment which values every child, their families and all staff members and allows everyone to realise and fulfil their potential.
- Our curriculum will be broad and balanced, responsive and creative and will meets the needs of our children and allows everyone to foster a love of learning and to discover their talents, interests and passions.
- Our children will be active, curious and reflective learners.
- Our children will be active, responsible citizens and will be prepared for life beyond the gates of Sandal.

Our Vision

A place where everybody thrives.

Every child begins their journey with a sense of belonging. From these strong roots they find the courage and confidence to branch out and take risks. As they grow, children explore the world around them, discovering their true potential. Through kindness and curiosity, everyone achieves their best. Like snowdrops emerging through the winter frost, our children push through with resilience, prepared to flourish within the shifting seasons of an ever-changing world. Our classrooms are bursting with joy and exciting opportunities, empowering each child to blossom with a love of learning.

Over time, our children grow to stand tall with integrity and be proud of who they are. Their learning reaches beyond our school gates like seeds carried forward into the future. By nurturing today's learners, we shape tomorrow's generation - creating a respectful community that makes a lasting, positive difference.

Our Values

• Nurture: Synonymous with the fabric of Sandal - valuing the whole child.

• Kindness: Compassionate, generous, helpful and thoughtful.

• Empowerment: You can do it. Be proud, be confident. Go for it!

• Curiosity: Eager to find out more - a curriculum that interests everyone.

• Respect: Respecting each other, equipment and ourselves.

• Integrity: Doing the right thing even when nobody is watching.

These values are integral to our day-to-day life at Sandal, and will form the focus or school assemblies, classroom discussions and our partnership with you. We have already seen children across the school displaying these values, which has been lovely to see.

How to get ready for Reception

Going to the toilet

Encourage your child to be confident using the toilet independently. Practise getting to the toilet in time and wiping themselves properly using toilet paper.

Washing hands

Help your child understand why it is important to wash their hands well with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and before eating.

Getting dressed

Encourage your child to practise getting dressed and undressed independently. Jumpers and coats can be tricky, so give them lots of opportunities to practise. It is also helpful to practise buttons, zips and other fastenings.

Eating

Encourage your child to use a knife and fork independently and to carry their own plate or tray safely. If your child is bringing a lunchbox, please make sure they can open it themselves, including any containers, packets or bottles inside.

Tidying up

Encourage your child to take responsibility for their own belongings and help with simple jobs at home. Practise hanging up their coat, putting toys away and helping to clear the table. These little jobs will help them feel confident and independent when they start school.

In Reception we can

Use the toilet and wash our hands.



Take our shoes on and off.

Hold a pencil.

Write our names.



Put our coat on and zip them up.



Take turns and share with our friends.

We can play.

Your Child's Learning and Development

How do we support your child's learning and development?

At Sandal Primary School, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework and use Development Matters to support and guide our planning.

Your child's learning and development is supported across seven areas of learning – three prime areas and four specific areas.



We have a carefully planned, play-based curriculum that provides children with exciting opportunities to learn both indoors and outdoors. Our provision is designed to build on what children already know and can do, while helping them to develop their confidence, independence and curiosity.

A typical day in Reception

8:50 School starts

9:00 Phonics

9:30 Provision

10:30 Reading

11:00 Drawing Club

11:30 Lunch

1:00 Maths

1:20 Outdoor and indoor provision

14:30 Tidy up time

14:40 Carpet Input

15:20 home time

Phonics

At Sandal Primary School, we use Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised to teach phonics and support children in learning to read. Children are taught the sounds they need to read and spell words, as well as how to blend these sounds together to read words. As they progress through Reception and Year 1, they will build their phonics knowledge and develop their confidence and fluency when reading.

Your child will bring home books that are closely matched to the phonics they have been learning in school, so they can practise reading independently and successfully at home.

In Year 1, children across the country take part in the Phonics Screening Check. This is a short assessment where children are asked to read real and made-up words using the sounds they have been taught.

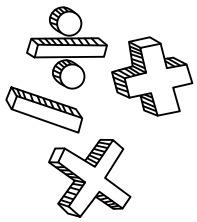
We will hold a phonics and early reading workshop during the first term to show you how we teach phonics at Sandal and share ways you can support your child with reading at home.

Please listen to your child read at least 3 times a week and record their progress in their reading record. We will send home reading books on a Friday.

Writing

At Sandal, we want children to develop a love of writing from the very beginning. We use Drawing Club to bring stories, imagination and creativity together, encouraging children to develop their ideas, explore new vocabulary and express themselves through drawing and writing. Children build their early writing skills at their own pace, progressing from mark making and letter formation to writing words, captions and sentences as their confidence grows.

Maths



We use White Rose Maths to develop children's confidence and enjoyment of mathematics through practical, hands-on learning. Children explore numbers, counting, patterns, shape, space and measures using a range of resources, games and everyday experiences. We encourage children to talk about their mathematical thinking, solve problems and develop a secure understanding of numbers, building strong foundations for future learning.



Outdoor learning



At Sandal, we are incredibly lucky to have such wonderful outdoor spaces, including our own woodland, allotment, orchard, sensory garden and pond. Outdoor learning is an important part of our curriculum and gives children the opportunity to explore, discover and learn beyond the classroom. Throughout EYFS, children enjoy a weekly outdoor learning session with our Outdoor Learning Teacher, Mr Haywood, where they can get hands-on with nature, investigate their surroundings and follow their curiosity. From exploring in mud, leaves and natural materials to learning about plants, animals and their habitats, every experience encourages children to develop their communication, creativity and problem-solving skills. Outdoor learning also helps children to build confidence, independence and resilience as they try new things, take supported risks and work together with their friends. We embrace learning in all weathers, allowing children to experience the changing seasons and develop a real appreciation for the natural world. These special opportunities create exciting memories, encourage a sense of wonder and help children develop a love of learning that they can carry with them throughout their time at Sandal.



Uniform

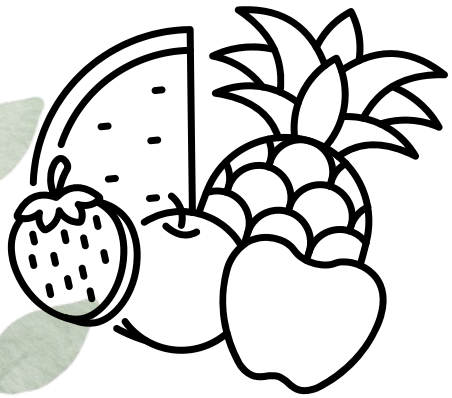
White or black shirt or polo-shirt; Red sweatshirt/Red cardigan
Black or grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress/tailored shorts/culottes
Black or red flat shoes or boots/plain black trainers
Black, grey, white or red socks or tights

Summer Uniform – Optional:
Red gingham dresses and "play suits"/white shoes

For PE:
House coloured t-shirt with Sandal logo or a plain appropriately coloured t-shirt. These are available from Whittakers School wear.
Plain black shorts
Pumps

Buddies

Starting school is an exciting new adventure and we want every child to feel happy, safe and part of our Sandal family. Our Year 5 buddies help our new Reception children settle into school, build friendships and grow in confidence. Through spending time together and supporting one another, our older children help make the transition into school a happy and positive experience, building lovely relationships across the school.



Snack

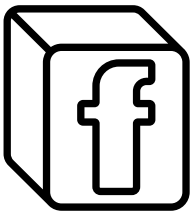


We encourage children to develop healthy eating habits from the start of their school journey. Children are offered fresh fruit each day as a healthy snack, helping them to stay energised and ready to learn. Free school milk is available for children under five through the Nursery Milk Scheme.

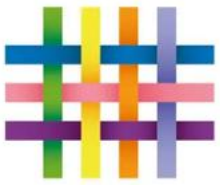
Communication

We love sharing the children's learning and achievements with families. Through Tapestry, parents can see special moments from their child's learning journey, while our school Facebook page provides updates about activities, events and life at Sandal.

We also send a half-termly newsletter to keep families informed about our learning focus for the coming weeks, key dates, upcoming events and important school news. Alongside this, parents receive regular updates about what the children have been learning, helping them feel involved in and connected to their child's school experience.



Facebook



Tapestry



Email