

Welcome to Reception at Sandy Hill  
Academy  
2025-26



Sandy Hill  
Academy



# Welcome to the Aspire Academy Trust

Aspire is a vibrant, highly successful and widely recognised trust determined to raise standards of educational achievement to the very highest levels. We don't just aim for our children to achieve what is average or expected, but for them to excel both academically and in character.

We live in a global economy that requires our children to be prepared to think both critically and creatively, solve complex problems, and to communicate well. Mastery of the basics: reading, writing, maths and technology is our core purpose, and this sits alongside an emphasis on character education, sports and the arts.

Each school is an integral part of their local community with a clear sense of identity and we value the contribution each of these make to our trust. By working in true partnership, we offer exceptional learning experiences to all our children, so they benefit from the strength that being part of the extended Aspire family brings. If you want to learn more about us, our nurseries, our schools and outdoor education centres, then please visit our website at [www.aspireacademytrust.org](http://www.aspireacademytrust.org)

**We can't wait to meet you!**



working together, inspiring excellence

# Aspire Vision

*"By working together and inspiring excellence; we enable our children to excel both academically and in character."*

Our **mission statement** is a declaration of the reason for our very existence, our core purpose. It brings clarity and meaning to the trust's overall strategy, which in turn provides the purpose and direction for all staff.

*"Nurturing curiosity, resilience, respect and excellence; our children will thrive and live life well."*

Our **vision statement** is inspirational, aspirational, motivational and achievable, capturing the essence of what the children leaving our academies will carry with them into their adult futures.



working together, inspiring excellence

# Aspire Values

The **Aspire values** are the foundation blocks of the trust. These core principles guide and direct us, our culture and behaviours. They act as our moral compass throughout the working day.

## **Aspiration**

"We imagine possibilities and make them real"

## **Self-belief**

"We believe in ourselves, in heart, mind and soul"

## **Passion**

"We dare to be different and follow our dreams"

## **Integrity**

"We nurture trust and respect and do what is right"

## **Resilience**

"We find a way or make a way"

## **Excellence**

"We strive to achieve our absolute best"



working together, inspiring excellence



## Welcome to Sandy Hill Academy.

Sandy Hill Academy and Nursery is a vibrant, exciting community offering many opportunities for both educational and personal development. Our school motto is, 'Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed,'

We encourage children to use this language for learning, building independence and resilience, developing life skills. Our aim is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to enjoy their school life and to achieve their maximum potential within a supported, vibrant, whole child-centred environment.

Your support is always greatly appreciated in this important aspect of your child's life. Sandy Hill Academy has a team of dedicated, hardworking and loyal staff. We look forward to working with you during your child's time at our school.

Mr Walker  
Head of School





**Our vision and values: *Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed***

Our vision for Sandy Hill Academy is for it to be a centre of excellence for teaching and learning for all. We will aim to create an environment that is safe and that enhances and develops children's desire to learn and to equip them for their future.

Sandy Hill will be a place where children's individual needs and abilities will be recognised and nurtured, their successes acknowledged and celebrated.

We strive to be a place where children are happy, confident and secure in the knowledge that they are valued and listened to, where they can be excited and challenged in an environment that promotes learning at all levels.

We see Sandy Hill Academy at the centre of our community, accessible to all, and identified as a centre for exemplary primary practice where every child matters, recognising that all children have talents and abilities to celebrate. We encourage a strong community spirit, where we show consideration and respect for each other; understand differences, and uphold kind, well-mannered behaviour.



My Personal Best...

## THE RECEPTION TEACHERS



MRS EVANS- CHERRY CLASS



MRS PENNY- APPLE CLASS

We have two Reception Classes at Sandy Hill Academy. Mrs Evans and Mrs Penny are the class teachers and work closely together to ensure that all children have equal opportunities and that there is continuity across the setting. The classrooms are joined by a shared outside area where the children can learn together to provoke their curiosity and their love of learning. From the outside learning environment, the children can access our very own library where there is opportunity to feed their imagination and foster the love of reading. We also have a wild area in which children can encounter nature and explore the natural world around them. We are really proud of our ever developing learning spaces and environments and love to capture the outstanding learning that happens within them.





OBSERVATIONS OF CHILDREN'S LEARNING ARE DOCUMENTED USING TAPESTRY.

CLASSROOMS MIRROR ACTIVITIES AND AREAS

CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH A BALANCE OF TEACHER INPUT THROUGH 'TOGETHER TIME' AND PLAY 'CONTINUOUS PROVISION'.

# Our Learning Environment



CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND THE SHARED OUTSIDE AREA THAT BOTH CLASSES LEAD OUT IN TO.







OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM



WE HAVE A WONDERFUL OUTSIDE SPACE THAT CHILDREN CAN EXPLORE. THE CHILDREN HAVE A WIDE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT ALL ASPECTS OF THE EYFS FRAMEWORK.

RECEPTION LIBRARY- WE ENJOY THIS SPACE TOGETHER AND THE CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A BOOK HOME TO SHARE WITH THEIR FAMILIES EACH WEEK.



# Ethos, Aims and Values...



## **At Sandy Hill we...**

We have created an enriched environment that enhances and develops children's curiosities and desire to learn that will equip them for their future.

Sandy Hill is a place where children's individual needs and abilities are recognised and nurtured, their successes acknowledged and celebrated.

Sandy Hill is a place where children are happy, confident and secure in the knowledge that they are valued and listened to. Children are excited and challenged in an environment that promotes learning at all levels.

Sandy Hill Academy is at the centre of our community, welcoming to all, and identified as a centre for exemplary Primary Practice.

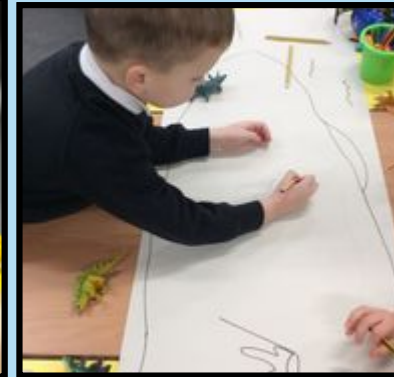
At Sandy Hill Academy we recognise that children develop quickly in the Early Years. We aim to give children the best possible start to life, a secure foundation that their learning can be built upon. Children are born ready and are able and eager to learn and we aim to promote their learning in our warm, caring and safe environment.

We recognise the importance of a strong partnership between parents, carers and staff at school. This is an essential ingredient to the child's success and we encourage parents to contribute to their child's development by sharing their child's learning journey and attending parent meetings.





# Our Curriculum



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum. This document sets out the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

# Reading and Phonics

At Sandy Hill Academy we teach Phonics using Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised which is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) developed for schools by schools. Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised is based on the original Letters and Sounds, but has been extensively revised to provide a complete teaching programme meeting all the expectations of the National Curriculum, the Ofsted Deep Dive into reading and preparing your children to go beyond the expectations of the Phonics Screening Check that takes place during Year 1.

## Daily Taught Phonics Session

Each day your child will be taught Phonics. This is a fun, practical and interactive session that teaches the skills of oral segmenting and blending all children require to become good readers and writers.

The reading, including the teaching of systematic, synthetic phonics, is taught from the beginning of Reception. Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to read words and to spell words using the corresponding graphemes (the written corresponding sound) . The children will then progress onto digraphs (sounds made up to two letters such as 'sh' and 'ch) and trigraphs (sounds made up of three letters such as 'igh' and 'ear.')

We hold a parent workshop in the Autumn term to equip parents to support their child at home.





# A Day in Reception...

WE HAVE A CAREFULLY PLANNED AND STRUCTURED DAY WITH CLEAR ROUTINES AND PROCEDURES. THESE CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND REFLECT THE NEEDS, INTERESTS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THE CHILDREN.

DURING THE DAY WE ENJOY A HEALTHY SNACK AND ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP OUR CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS DURING OUR DAILY 'SNACK AND CHAT'.

WE TEACH THE CHILDREN THROUGH DISCREET TAUGHT SESSIONS. CHILDREN RECEIVE A DAILY TAUGHT PHONICS AND MATHS SESSION EACH DAY AND WILL ATTEND A GUIDED READING SESSION THREE TIMES PER WEEK. THROUGH OUR BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM WE PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH ENRICHED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WOVEN THROUGHOUT OUR TOPICS WHICH INSPIRE CHILDREN TO PRACTISE SKILLS THAT HAVE BEEN TAUGHT AND MODELLED TO THEM DURING CONTINUOUS PROVISION.



WE ENRICH CHILDREN'S LEARNING BY PROVIDING HANDS ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO DEVELOP SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND INTERESTS.

CHILDREN WITH A SEND ARE SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE, WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL CHILDREN. EVERY CHILD IS SUPPORTED TO SUCCEED AND ALL OF THEIR DEVELOPMENTS ARE CELEBRATED.

# I love Sandy Hill because...



## Sandy Hill Academy



**Learning is memorable, meaningful  
and FUN!!!**



# Our School Day



The school gates are open from 8:30am-8:40am.  
The parents of the Reception children enter the main school gates taking their child to their allocated drop off point where they will be greeted by their teacher (see website for further information and videos).

At the end of the day the children are collected from the same place at 3:00pm.

Please note further guidance will be given regarding drop off and collection times. The first two weeks of school the children will be given different timings for the transition period and timings will be staggered accordingly to allow a smooth transition into school. This information will be given to all new starters as part of their 'Welcome Packs'.



# School Uniform



## School Uniform

Our Nursery and Reception children wear black plain or branded jumpers with the Sandy Hill logo. Branded jumpers can be ordered direct from Wovina ([www.wovina.com](http://www.wovina.com)) or Screenprint, Holmbush. Plain jumpers are also accepted, and preloved jumpers with logos can be provided by the school office.

All other uniform items can be sourced locally. For further details, please refer to the EYFS Welcome Booklet Reception 2024.

All hair is to be kept tied back with no dyes or colours added and Grade 2 as the shortest cut length.

Jewellery allowed is a watch and one single pair of small, plain stud earrings.



## PE Kit

Children should wear a plain coloured t-shirt with either plain black shorts or jogging bottoms for PE. The children are allocated to house teams and the colour of their t-shirt should match their house team colour.

Your child's house team will be confirmed to you upon starting school.

PE kit is a requirement however can be purchased from a wide range of sources, e.g. supermarkets.





# School Dinners



Our kitchen and menus are managed by Aspens, with school lunches cooked on site by our fantastic catering team.

Each day there is a nutritious, healthy menu which always includes a vegetarian option. Packed lunches and jacket potatoes are also available daily. Please see the sample menu below.

We will also endeavour to cater for any specific dietary need that your child may have. Please make us aware if your child has any dietary requirements or allergies.



11th Jan, 1st Feb, 22nd Feb, 15th March					
WEEK ONE	MONDAY Family Faves	TUESDAY Authentic Italian	WEDNESDAY Baking British	THURSDAY Food Festival	FRIDAY Fun Day
<b>Main Event</b>	<b>Bangers &amp; Mash</b> Pork chipolata served with mash, green beans and gravy ▲	<b>Margherita Pizza</b> Cheesy tomato topped pizza with seasonal salad and garlic slice ▼	<b>Roast Chicken</b> Boneless chicken with crispy roasties fresh cauliflower and gravy ▲	<b>Chicken Curry</b> Marinated chicken thigh pieces in a mild curry sauce with rice and fresh courgettes ▲	<b>Fish Fingers</b> Golden breaded Pollock or Salmon fish fingers with chips and peas
<b>Vegetarian Section</b>	<b>Quorn Bangers</b> Quorn sausages with mash, green beans and gravy ▼	<b>Pasta Napolitan</b> Wholemeal Penne, tomato sauce seasonal salad and garlic slice ▼	<b>Cheese Pinwheels</b> Toasty cheese spirals with crispy roasties and cauliflower ▼	<b>Sweet Potato Balli</b> Lightly spiced sweet potato, chickpea and lentil curry with rice and fresh courgettes ▼	<b>Picnic Pita</b> Quorn dippers and minty cucumber salad with chips and pitta pocket ▼
<b>Packed Lunch</b>	<b>Pick and Mix Deli</b> Freshly filled sandwich or roll, healthy snack, home bake and piece of fruit ■				
<b>Jacket Potatoes</b>	<b>Crispy Skin Jacket Potato with Toppings</b> ◆				
	<b>Tutti Frutti Sponge</b> Dried fruit and cream	<b>Sticky Orange Cake</b> Zesty orange cake	<b>Cheesecake</b> Baked with soft cheese	<b>Chocolate Brownie</b> Served with vanilla ice cream	<b>Cookie and Shake</b> Soft Cookie & Shake

Sandy Hill Kids Club is a breakfast and after school club open to Sandy Hill children, for children aged from 4 to 11 years.

It is run by qualified and experienced staff who plan and organise fun activities for your children. The children are supervised at all times by the staff, who have all been subject to a DBS check.



## **Breakfast Club**

Open from 7.45am where the children are then taken to their classrooms for 8:30am.

## **After School Club**

During the week children will have the opportunity to take part in art, crafts and games as well as doing their homework or reading to a member of staff.

The children are asked to bring a healthy snack and drink.

## **Times & Prices**

### **Breakfast Club**

7.45am – 8.30am:  
£5.00 *per child per session*

### **After School Club**

Early Session:  
End of school day -  
4.15pm: £5.00

Late Session:  
End of school day -  
5.30pm: £9.00



# Learning Together

"Tapestry keeps you in touch with your child's day wherever you are"



The image shows a login form for Tapestry, an online learning journal. At the top left is a logo consisting of a grid of colored squares (green, yellow, blue, purple, red). To the right of the logo, the text 'TAPESTRY' is written in a large, grey, sans-serif font, with 'ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL' in a smaller font below it. Below the logo and text are two input fields: 'Email address' and 'Password'. The 'Email address' field is a simple white box with a thin border. The 'Password' field is a white box with a thin border and a small eye icon on the right side. Below the password field is a blue button with the text 'Log in' in white.

Tapestry is an easy-to-use and secure online learning journal that helps staff and families across Aspire academies celebrate their children's learning and development in Nursery and the Reception Classes.

As parents, the first day of handing over your child to the care of another can be an emotional time. As your child adjusts to experiences without you at their childminder, nursery, or school, parents continue to want to share in these times.

Tapestry facilitates this by enabling a personal journal, or diary, to build over time. Photographs, videos and notes of special moments are not only recorded, but can be made available regularly and often immediately to you via your iPhone or Android App.





**Camilla Carter**  
SEND Co-ordinator

Mrs Carter is our SENDCo. She works closely with class teachers and teaching assistants to create programmes of support to meet the needs of the child.

If a class teacher feels that a pupil requires support that is additional to or different from what is provided within the classroom then following discussions with parents, the pupil may be put on our school's Record of Need.

Our aim is to support pupils and parents through this process, by explaining each step as it happens, providing support resources and materials if needed and regularly reviewing progress made to identify next steps.

Sometimes, we work with a range of external agencies to provide the best support for children, including:

- Speech & Language therapists
- Educational Psychology
- Occupational Therapy
- Neuro Developmental Specialists
- Medical professionals

We will be happy to talk over any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's needs.







Sarah Chown  
Parent Support Advisor

Parenting is not an easy job and, at times things can get tough. Like every other parent, you want what is best for your child. Parent Support Advisers are there to help deal with any worries or concerns. I may not have all the answers, but together we can work out how to find them.

#### How Do I Do This?

- I offer one to one support
- I listen to you and offer support and advice
- Provide information about other relevant services in the area
- Offer opportunities to attend parenting groups and to learn together.

#### What is a Parent Support Adviser?

Parent Support Advisers are there to help you and your child get the best from your school by providing support, advice and information. A Parental Support Adviser works closely with families to support school staff and external agencies in partnership with families. Helping parents to feel comfortable about coming into school and participating in their children's learning.

I will be happy to help you with any concerns you may have such as:

- Changes in Behaviour with your child
- Child sleep issues
- Debt management
- Housing concerns
- Help with any forms that need completing.

# Trauma-Informed Schools



Trauma Informed Schools UK is a registered community interest company working in association with the Centre for Child Mental Health. It provides training to ensure that every adult in a school or community has the skills and understanding to respond appropriately to the relational and emotional needs children may display.

TiS supports schools to create a mentally healthy environment and culture in which all within the school community, adults and children alike, can flourish and achieve. It advocates a whole school response and evidenced based relational approaches to provide an enriched environment to buffer the impact of stress that may result from adversity and painful life events.

In addition, specially trained Trauma and Mental Health Informed Practitioners offer targeted intervention to children who may be experiencing challenges within their life that without support may act as a barrier to their ability to fully engage with life and learning.



# Safeguarding

"We have a commitment to safeguard our children.

"We all have a responsibility to act if we are worried about a child.  
All children have a right to be safe no matter who they are or what their  
circumstance.

"Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility."

Every academy within the Aspire Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our Child Protection Policy.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.







Sandy Hill Academy

*Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed.*



## Staying in Touch

**Address:** Sandy Hill Academy, Sandy Hill, St Austell, PL25 3AT

**Email:** [hello@sandyhill.org.uk](mailto:hello@sandyhill.org.uk)

**Phone:** 01726 75858

**Website:** [www.sandyhill.org.uk](http://www.sandyhill.org.uk)

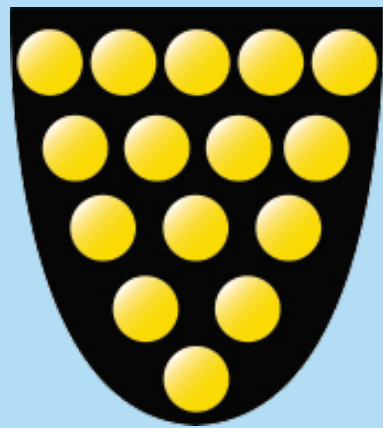


Arbor



ParentPay

CLICK ICONS  
FOR MORE INFO



# Sandy Hill Academy

Thank you for reading our book.  
We hope to see you soon!







