

Sandbrook Nursery School



School Curriculum

At Sandbrook Nursery School, we aim to provide a stable environment in which your child will reach their full potential in all aspects of their development and growth. Through a play based curriculum, your child will be acquiring all the early language, reading, number and scientific skills which they will need as they move on to Primary school. The Nursery curriculum has six areas of learning, as set out in the Pre School Curriculum guidance document issued by the Department of Education.





Language Development

This area of the pre-school curriculum is crucial to living and learning. It provides an opportunity to help develop a love of books and an enthusiasm to start writing! In school we have well resourced reading areas where the children can choose to read a book. Opportunities will also be provided for children to listen to and respond to stories, rhymes and songs. They will also be encouraged to develop their listening and communication skills as they talk about their experiences, ideas and feelings.

Early Mathematical Experiences

This area of learning involves counting, sorting, matching, looking for patterns, making connections, recognising relationships and working with numbers, shapes, space and measures.

Through play, children can develop a positive attitude to maths and number. We use a wide variety of resources to help promote the development of mathematical skills and knowledge such as songs, rhymes, table games and construction toys. We organise these resources so that mathematical experiences happen informally throughout the Nursery day. Children are encouraged to explore, investigate and talk about their experiences.



The Arts

This area of the pre-school curriculum includes art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play. There are painting easels, craft tables and free craft areas to encourage the children to paint, draw, cut and stick, write and play with a wide variety of materials. The role play areas change with each topic to reflect the changing learning themes and the children are encouraged to express their ideas, communicate their feelings and use their imagination. The children will also learn songs and listen to and respond to music in movement and dance.





The World Around Us

In this area of learning, children are developing the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world around them and their environment. During the day children will talk about the weather, seasons, family members, events in their lives and many other topics important to them. The children will also become aware of environmental issues such as litter, personal safety in the sun and road safety. Through their natural curiosity and the opportunity to play with a wide range of activities both outdoors and indoors, children will begin to explore, observe, use their senses, make models, and put things together in a variety of ways as they begin to learn about themselves.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

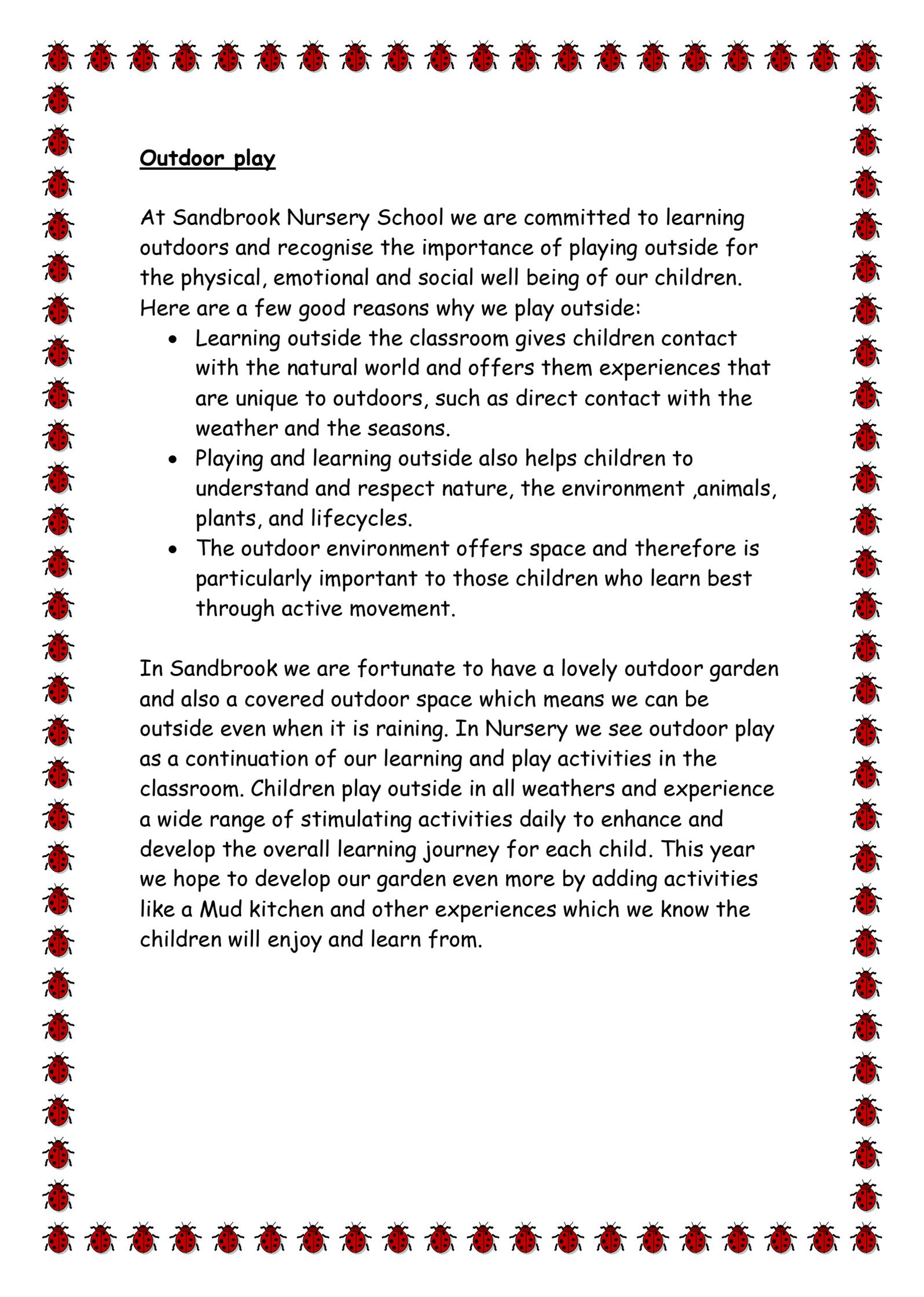
This area of learning is about emotional well-being and opportunities will be provided for children to develop personal and social skills. Children will be encouraged to co-operate with others, share, take turns and explore their emotions through role play and other activities. Sandbrook Nursery aims to develop pupils' understanding of themselves and where they fit in, their independence and the importance of showing empathy for others. Children will be encouraged to participate in songs, stories and circle time.



Physical Development and Movement

Children will enjoy physical play both indoors and outdoors. Physical Development is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Pupils take part in music and movement sessions indoors and will have the opportunity to develop their large motor skills using the outdoor equipment during daily outdoor play sessions. During these sessions they will develop spatial awareness, balance and co-ordination. Children also develop fine motor or manipulative skills essential for pencil, brush and scissor control as they take part in art and craft activities and also threading and other activities.





Outdoor play

At Sandbrook Nursery School we are committed to learning outdoors and recognise the importance of playing outside for the physical, emotional and social well being of our children.

Here are a few good reasons why we play outside:

- Learning outside the classroom gives children contact with the natural world and offers them experiences that are unique to outdoors, such as direct contact with the weather and the seasons.
- Playing and learning outside also helps children to understand and respect nature, the environment ,animals, plants, and lifecycles.
- The outdoor environment offers space and therefore is particularly important to those children who learn best through active movement.

In Sandbrook we are fortunate to have a lovely outdoor garden and also a covered outdoor space which means we can be outside even when it is raining. In Nursery we see outdoor play as a continuation of our learning and play activities in the classroom. Children play outside in all weathers and experience a wide range of stimulating activities daily to enhance and develop the overall learning journey for each child. This year we hope to develop our garden even more by adding activities like a Mud kitchen and other experiences which we know the children will enjoy and learn from.



Nursery Fun

