



Newsletter

Summer 1: 2022

Welcome to our Summer 2 Newsletter, it has been an extremely busy half term for all at Sunfield with new students starting, new staff starting and many new-born animals to join the Sunfield community.

Bottle feeding Sandy!

This year, Eva, one of our nannies had triplets and although they were all healthy, Eva unfortunately rejected one of the kids.

This gave us the opportunity to bottle feed the kid. She became an immediate hit with many of the children and was soon named "Sandy" by one of pupils, because of her sandy/beige colouring.

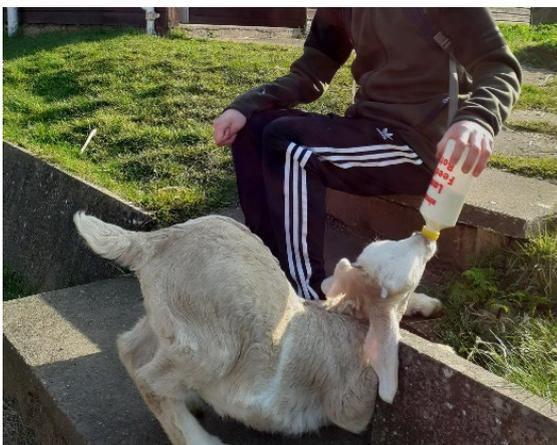
A bottle-fed kid is always friendly, due to bonding with humans more than other goats. Sandy quickly came attached to the staff and students who fed her and was more interested in following humans around than goats when let out of her pen!



It's been fascinating to watch the young people at Sunfield feeding Sandy her bottle of milk. Some of our young people who struggle to settle, sat quietly for a few minutes whilst she fed. Others whose tendency to grab or over enthusiastically push into animals found the right level of contact when feeding her.

So what is it that centres our young people when bottle feeding? Most likely it evokes the same feelings as caring for the young evokes in all of us; nurture and love. This palette of emotions centres us, bringing us into contact and attention to the other.

Feeding Sandy was so successful that we decided to expand the possibility for our young people so we brought in nine cade (orphaned) lambs from a local biodynamic farm. Although the experience is a little less intimate and more chaotic than feeding an individual kid, it still seems to evoke a warm focussed relational space, for those young people who visit them.



Ed Berger - School Farm Manager

Upper Grove: new training and development provision at Sunfield

At midsummer / St Johns we are very excited to be launching our new training home at Sunfield 'Upper Grove' which will serve as a sister provision to the current base for our homemaking seminar at Upper Grange in Stroud.

The seminar and other training related mainly to Field 5 (RMT Seven Fields of Practice): Holistic Support and Care will be available to all colleagues at RMT with a special emphasis on providing training for our staff with responsibility for the support and care of our children and young people in our residential provisions.

The Trust has undertaken the renovation of a former home at Sunfield which sits nestled in an elevated position surrounded by woodland and peaceful groves.

The main focus of the home will be to provide an immersive and reflective experience in the art of homemaking which will take colleagues through a journey through our Care Qualities underpinned by our method, Practical Skills Therapeutic Education:

- Rhythm
- Warmth
- Nourishment
- Trust
- Constancy
- Culture
- Re-creation

We have a rich history. Sunfield has been a children’s home since 1931 and moved to our present location in Clent in 1933. Since coming into the RMT family in 2017 Sunfield has been on a journey to establish the meta picture of RMT as the golden thread throughout the child, young person and staff experience via the seven fields of practice and PSTE.

As we move towards completion of Upper Grove, the spaces are prepared and colour and light stream into the building, we are excited about this new venture that will further benefit the individual children and young people in our homes, and the adults who learn, reflect, enjoy and contribute to this unfolding new venture.

Richard Tucker, Head of Therapeutic Care
Ruskin Mill Centre for Practice

Curriculum: New Blacksmith at Sunfield

Our new blacksmith Jake has recently started at Sunfield, he will be working with all of our children and young people.

Since coming to Sunfield earlier this year I’ve had the pleasure of meeting and working with some wonderful young people, some of whom have shown a real talent and passion for metalwork. While we’re still setting up the forge in order to work with heat and ferrous metals, we’ve been working with copper - experimenting with different techniques and tools to apply texture on keyrings, and using rivets to make braille lettering. The great thing about working with metal, especially blacksmithing, is the limitless potential for creative expression. One student has even made a model train! As the workshop evolves, I hope more students will participate in making projects for the school, each other and themselves. Most importantly however, I hope the young people at Sunfield will feel accomplished and rewarded by their work! **Jake**





Safeguarding

Throughout the academic year we make sure that we support our community to understand and learn about areas of growing concern in the ways young people are at risk. We have covered topics around prevent, child sexual exploitation and fabricated or induced illness. All the named issues that are a real threat to anyone, but with our young people's added vulnerabilities it is even more critical that the adults around them are as well informed as possible to keep them safe.

One area that is currently attracting more attention in the press and data available is that of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). This is an area of concern that includes things like county lines or modern slavery. Abuse occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. The types of activities that are often associated with Child Criminal exploitation is children forced to work on cannabis farms, to commit theft, shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

The work we do at Sunfield to support our young people is based on the principles of happy healthy relationships and people who you can trust. We support them with strategies about how to get their voice heard through objects of reference, posters, and our purple dragon, all aimed at helping them know or access trusted adults they can speak to.

If you have concerns about CCE or wish to know more the links below will take you to useful resources that can help in your understanding.

<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/>

<https://www.traffordsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/Children-in-Specific-Circumstances/Child-Criminal-Exploitation-CCE.aspx>

Niall Crawford, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Sunfield Senior Leaders

<https://www.rmt.org/sunfield/>