

## Thank you for joining Sands Knitting Challenge

Our FAQ document is here to help you with your questions but if you can't find the answer you are looking for please email [fundraising@sands.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@sands.org.uk) or post your question in our Knitting Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1330127728666571>. The group is a fantastic community of Sands Knitters, all happy to help one another.

**Q: How do I join the Sands Knitting Challenge?**

**A:** Please register via [Sands Knitting Challenge](#)

**Q: Is there a fee to register?**

**A:** Yes, it's £25 to register, you will receive knitting needles, wool, knitting pattern and tote bag. Having a registration fee helps us to cover the costs of sending out our knitting packs, meaning all money raised from sponsorship can go towards supporting bereaved parents and saving babies' lives, rather than covering pack and postage costs.

**Q: Why am I receiving an error message when trying to register?**

**A:** We can't see an error on the website but are aware of the small amount of people receiving an error message, we are unsure why this is and are monitoring and feedback. Please try using an alternative device or browser, this seems to fix the issue for everyone.

**Q: Why do Sands Memory Box blankets need to be white?**

**A:** To ensure that Memory Boxes are appropriate for every baby, we only use white blankets as they are a neutral colour. In some cases where a baby has died early in pregnancy, parents simply do not know the gender of their baby, and different colours can have different cultural significances.

**Q: Do you accept blankets that are not hand knitted or crocheted, for example fleece?**

**A:** No. We only accept hand knitted or crocheted blankets.

**Q: Can I knit with synthetic fibres or is it wool only?**

**A:** We accept blankets made with wool or synthetic fibres.

**Q: Can I use my own pattern?**

**A:** Yes, as long as you keep the blanket white and between 20" and 24" in size, all designs are welcomed.

**Q. Do you accept knitted items other than blankets?**

**A.** No, unfortunately we can only accept white blankets. If you have other items to donate, such as blankets of different sizes or colours, or baby clothes, please get in touch with your local hospital, to see if they can accept them.

**Q: I'd like to crochet a blanket for a Sands Memory Box, can I do this?**

**A:** Yes! Please use our crochet pattern available at: [sands.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-sands/knit-sands](https://sands.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-sands/knit-sands) or you can use a pattern of your own, keeping the blanket between 20" and 24".

**Q: Do I need to knit the blanket in a certain amount of days?**

**A:** No, you can tailor the challenge to suit you and complete at your own pace.

**Q: Are the patterns in US or UK terminology?**

**A:** Both the crochet and knitting patterns are UK terminology

**Q: Can I knit more than 1 blanket?**

**A:** Yes, if you have the wool and the time, you can knit as many as you like!

**Q: How many stitches should I have before I start decreasing?**

**A:** keep increasing until you've used one 100g ball, then attach the second 100g ball (magic knot has been the method suggested by a sands staff member - YouTube have lots of examples) and then start decreasing.

We have found the average people increase their stitches to sits between 130 and 180. However, this varies a lot for each knitter depending on their tension. Do double check your measurements before deciding to decrease.

**Q: I'm not a confident knitter; can you help me get started?**

**A:** Knitting a blanket for a Sands Memory Box blanket is a great project if you are starting to knit. There are many useful online videos which are made specially for beginners. There are a lot of 'How to Knit' videos on YouTube for example [www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_R1UDsNOMk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_R1UDsNOMk) or visit this website here [sheepandstitch.com/start-here/](http://sheepandstitch.com/start-here/)

**Q: How can I get people to sponsor me to knit?**

**A:** Share your fundraising page far and wide and ask those around you to support you in your efforts if they are able to. Share the reason you're knitting, and the difference donations can make. You could also ask people to challenge you with their donations, for example: for every £20 donated I will complete X number of hours/stitches (or X number of blankets if you are an experienced knitter!). Do what works for you and what you think people may sponsor you for.

**Q: Do I have to collect sponsorship and fundraise alongside?**

**A:** Fundraising is optional, we are delighted to have you with us donating your time and skill to make the blankets. If you are able to fundraise alongside this a bonus, and will help us ensure all blankets are delivered in beautiful memory boxes to bereaved parents.

**Q: How long does it take for my pack to arrive?**

**A:** We send the packs 2<sup>nd</sup> class with Royal Mail and have experienced some varied delivery times, if you have been waiting longer than 3 weeks, please do email [fundraising@sands.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@sands.org.uk)

**Q: Where do I send finished Memory Box blankets?**

**A:** Sands Knitting Challenge, C/O Partridges, Eagle Avenue, Magnetic Park, Desborough, NN14 2WD. Please remember to include the reply slip included in the pack. Or if you no longer have the slip include a note with your details so we know it's from you.

**Q: Can you make a blanket without joining the challenge or paying the registration fee?**

**A:** If you would prefer not to join the challenge, you can still get involved and join our wonderful group of volunteer knitters. For more information, please visit [Knit for Sands](#), or email [volunteering@sands.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@sands.org.uk).

**Q: How else can I support the work Sands does?**

**A:** There are loads of ways you can get involved to help us support bereaved parents, improve the care they receive and help us ensure that fewer babies die in the future. Find out more in the Get Involved section of our website: [sands.org.uk/get-involved](https://sands.org.uk/get-involved).

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