

Welcome to After Schools

Play is a child's work

A guide to The After Schools Room



Your child has journeyed through their early childhood education and they have now reached the major milestone of starting school. This is an **important stage in your child's life, a stage that we value and are aware is** a huge step for both your child and you as their parents.

At Sandcastles we want to make the transition from pre-school to school an enjoyable experience and in our after schools room we aim to support children through this transition and throughout their primary school life. We encourage their growth through creative means as well as socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally via a variety of different activities, activities I will now outline.

While we work under the Sandcastles ethos of "Play is a child's Work" we understand that children of primary school age need much different stimulus than that of their pre-school counterparts to encourage their ever growing demand for learning.

Afterschool caters for the needs of children entering Primary 1 until completion of Primary 7 (child can attend till end of August). During term time after schools runs from 2pm until 6pm and during holiday times will be open all day if sufficient number of children require it. The room is equipped with age appropriate and stimulating resources so that your child is constantly learning even when they do not realise it.

For instance when your child is playing one of the numerous assortments of board games available, your child will be interacting on a small group level with their peers and adults and learning to wait patiently to take turns. Board games also incorporate in a fun and stimulating way colour recognition, mathematical skills including counting, and language skills. This is only one example of how children will continue to learn even once their school day has finished.

Like the rest of Sandcastles after schools change their theme regularly so they continue to learn about new and exciting topics. Evidence of what your child is learning about will displayed on the variety of boards placed around the room. Another addition to this is a workbook created for each children relating to the topic being covered. This workbook will be jam packed with information and games for your child to complete at their leisure. There will be such activities as dot to dots, word searches, colour by numbers and the booklet will be stored in their boxes so they can go to it whenever they want to chill out and relax.



Peg's and Boxes

A word on boxes and pegs. Each child is given a magazine box with their name on it where they can place any toys or books they bring in. We encourage your child to place personal items in their box or bag so they do not get damaged.

Giving your child a named box and peg so they can store their possessions gives each child a sense of belonging to a group and a duty of responsibility to look after their own bits and bobs.

Personal game consoles may be brought in each Friday if you so wish as a treat however, a limited time is allotted for gaming and the **console will be stored in your child's own box or school bag. We** understand that game consoles cost a considerable amount of money and this is why children will only be allowed to play with their own game so it does not get damaged. During holiday periods the time allotted will change according to the needs of the children.



Homework's



At Sandcastles we understand the importance of homework as a means of reinforcing what your child has learnt during the school day. While we are not a homework club we do set aside a small time in our day to helping your child complete some of their work.

Each child will have up to 30 minutes to complete some of their homework in a quiet area of the after schools room. During this time spellings and reading will be completed first with each of these being completed on a one to one basis. If there is any allotted time left once spellings and reading are completed children will be able to start other items of homework but this will not be supervised with staff being available to assist any child who has difficulty with homework.

Please note we do not have the facilities to complete transfer tests as we feel children require a room where there are no distractions **and let's face it our room can be pretty distracting at times!!**

We do strongly recommend that parents check their child's homework each night as even though we complete homework to a high standard we can still make mistakes too!!!

If you have any concerns regarding homework's please feel free to talk to myself at a time convenient to yourself.

Below are a few examples of the areas in which your child will benefit while attending Sandcastles. There will be a copy of these in full available in the afterschool room if you wish to look at them at any time please ask a member of staff

Social

- ◆ To develop relationships with peers
- ◆ To provide opportunities for children to follow instructions
- ◆ To develop a sense of belonging
- ◆ To encourage children to gain a sense of responsibility
- ◆ To develop sharing
- ◆ To encourage children to recognise their feelings
- ◆ To encourage self reliance

Intellectual

- ◆ To develop different levels of understanding
- ◆ To promote ability to recall past, present and future events
- ◆ To promote reasoning skills and ask questions
- ◆ To promote concentration and develop attention span
- ◆ To develop long and short memory span
- ◆ To encourage communication and use of new vocabulary
- ◆ To promote 5 sensory skills
- ◆ To encourage listening skills towards others

Physical

- ◆ To develop gross and fine motor skills
- ◆ To develop stronger muscles, bones and joints
- ◆ To develop stamina
- ◆ To encourage children to use their body fully
- ◆ To develop spatial awareness
- ◆ To encourage children to move in new and different ways
- ◆ To develop hand/eye co-ordination
- ◆ To improve appetite
- ◆ To create a Sense of purpose and fulfilment
- ◆ To increase self esteem

Creative

- ◆ To provide opportunities to experience different sounds
- ◆ **To create, value and display the children's work**
- ◆ **To stimulate children's imagination**
- ◆ To provide opportunities for quiet times to listen
- ◆ To explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in two and three dimension
- ◆ To encourage the use of a wide range of materials
- ◆ To help children understand about the world/ environment around them
- ◆ To promote freedom of movement in new ways

Emotional

- ◆ To promote high levels of self esteem
- ◆ To manage success and disappointment
- ◆ To promote recognition and expression of own feelings & emotions
- ◆ To enable children to empathise with the needs of their
- ◆ To enable children to empathise with the needs of their peers
- ◆ To build confidence and a sense of belonging
- ◆ To promote resilience as a coping mechanism
- ◆ To encourage a sense of responsibility