



# Sandcastles News

ISSUE 1

SPRING 2011



The Gruffalo will be joining in the fun at Sandcastles as we hold a **Wear Red for Comic Relief Day** on Friday 18th March.

There will be lots of fun things happening during the day including face painting, seed planting, bun decorating (and eating) and a very special RED lunch followed by gruffalo crumble and owl ice-cream.

Donations of £1 would be greatly appreciated and all money raised will go to comic relief.

We are now collecting Tesco for School and Clubs and Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers which can be left in the box in the entrance hall.

Everyone has supported us well in the past with these schemes which has enabled us to purchase some very cool equipment



Happy New Year (even though it is February it still feels like the new year!!). There has been loads happening since our last newsletter;

**We've had a couple of** new faces joining our staff and lots of new wee faces joining our rooms and they have all been made welcome and have well and truly settled in now. We also had the addition of a new room (which you probably **couldn't help but notice**) in the front foyer to help store our ever expanding amount of toys and equipment. Thank you for putting up with the disruption and noise whilst this was being built.. Also speaking about disruptions, thank you so much for taking care in our carparks during the snow and ice, there was only so much we could do even with the much valued assistance of the tractors (thank you especially to Thomas and William for that) and

for Granda Gilbert and the girls every morning and evening spreading salt and grit, the conditions were still treacherous, so we are very thankful that there were no accidents.



Granda Gilbert has also been busy planting our willow woodland hut, so watch out for that over the next few seasons. Another thing to look **out for is our new web site...** we are going technical (probably about time too!) Sandcastles new web site will be online by the end of March (**at least that's the plan**). Thank you for sending back your permission slips for your children's photos to be used there and also on the big

new screen in our front hallway. **The staff can't wait to see them** displayed.

Since our last newsletter we have also taken part in a lot more training courses; Manual Handling for Children, Supervision & Leadership, Pediatric First Aid, Autism, Fire Warden Training, Fire Legislation & Risk Assessment, Relaxation Techniques for Children.

Finally I just want to say a big thank you for allowing us in Sandcastles to look after your children, I know I speak on behalf of the staff to, it really is an honour, a privilege and a blessing to spend time with them.

Cindy

## From Nikki and Joanne

A new year, and lots of going **on's in nursery life**. **We have had** new additions to our family circle with Lynsey and Lynn having their babies and new members of staff join us. Can we formerly welcome Michelle and Holly into Sandcastles and hope they enjoy their time with us.

A few children have joined us and we want to welcome them and their families to our very own sandcastles family and wish you all a very happy time at

nursery.

Hopefully the weather is starting to get slightly better and we thank everyone for their patience and understanding over the winter with regards to the frost and snow. Roll on the long HOT summer days.

The children are enjoying getting out in the fresh air and the addition of our latest piece of equipment as seen in the photo has went down a storm. Who

would have thought a piece of spouting and a tennis ball would be sooooo much fun!!!

We are always around (somewhere) so if you have any **queries please don't hesitate** to talk to either one of us.

Nikki and Joanne x



**8th Birthday:**

Matthew

**5th Birthday:**

Rossanna

**4th Birthday:**

Niamh, Niall,  
Taylor and Zoe

**3rd Birthday:**

Alfie, Colin, Evie  
and Sophie

**2nd Birthday:**

Oliver, Caitlyn,  
Austin,  
Serephina

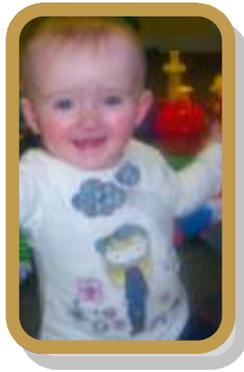
**1st Birthday:**

Olivia, Heather,  
Mya, Mollie

# Baby Room News

On behalf of all the baby room I would like to welcome Naoise, Elsa, Olivia and Zack to our room. Everyone has settled really well into our room and we are all getting to know each other better.

We have been very busy creating lots of artwork which is currently on display around



our room and include, red heart bears and lady-birds,

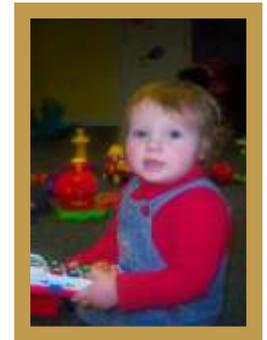
baa, baa, black sheep and **Balloons for Mickey's Magical** birthday board. Of course we have our ever popular photo board which displays photos of what we get up to on a day to day basis. All the children love looking at themselves the wee posers!!!

We have noticed at the minute the activity tables and the helter skelter ball blast are our favourite toys. The children love to pull themselves up and stand at the tables which is great as it is developing their gross motor skills as well as their, imaginative, social, intellectual

and fine manipulative skills.

We are already thinking of our next theme and how messy we can get when painting!! Look out for all the craft on our boards.

Melissa x



# Young Toddler News

Hello from Young Toddler we have seen a few changes in 2011 with one of our team members becoming a mummy for the first time and two new members of staff join us full time. Lynsey E has become a proud mummy to a baby boy called Lewis who was **born on his mummy's birthday!!! Now that's what I call a good birthday present!!** Both are doing well and have already been in to visit.

Debbie has moved on and is settling well into her new job but has also come back and visited and commented on how big everyone is getting.

Joining the young toddler team is Catherine and Michelle I want to officially welcome both of them into our wee family and hope they enjoy the room as much as I do. Lynsey Scott and Lynsey Shannon complete our team.

Our theme for January and February has been Mr Men and Little Miss and we have all really enjoyed using loads of different materials to make some of our favourite characters from the books. It was difficult to choose from

all of them there are 90 in all but we finally narrowed it down to Little Miss Chatterbox, Mr Happy, Mr Strong and Mr



We read each of the characters stories which the children loved and unbeknown to them helped with their attention span and cognitive development. Our favourite song of the **month has been 'row, row the boat'** and it fun to see the children rocking back and forward and screaming at the end!!!

Our favourite activity has to be water play.

Bump. I decided on these because each has a different colour and while we were making them we were able to tell the children what colour each one was so they could start to recognize between different colours. We used purple tissue paper, yellow card, red paint and blue felt tips which all helped the children develop their fine manipulative skills, hand to eye co-ordination and intellectual development. Everyone enjoyed getting messy!!!

We have very cool water trays which if you press the right button squirts out water and is a brilliant way for the children to develop their imaginative, social and motor skills.

So as you can see we have been very busy and will continue to be so as we plan for our next theme.

Alison x





I have stepped up into Supervisor while Lynn is off on maternity and on behalf of the team can I wish Lynn, Alan and Jack and baby Eva all the best and we cannot wait to see her. The other members of the team are Gillian, Hannah, Tara, Eimear and Janet.



Our theme for January and February is people who help us—policemen/ women, nurses, dentist, teachers and firemen.



The children thoroughly enjoy making craft related to the theme and we are so happy with how the boards now look. The children get to paint with brushes and sponges and stick various different types of materials, they get to feel different textures which develops their sensory skills along side their fine manipulative

skills. We also talked about what jobs these people do and how they help us.

Each day we have story time were we spend about 20 minutes reading stories, singing songs, flash cards and playing games like pointing out our different parts of our bodies.

Toddlers love messy play—water play, play dough, dressing up, and our new venture—baking. We successfully made some heart shaped shortbread and resisted the urge to lick the spoon and bowl!!!

We also enjoy getting outside even if it is just for a quick run around and weather permitting getting out a walk is always a hit

spotting tractors and lorries.

We also enjoy getting out our climbing frame, tunnels, parachute and cars. It means the children are still getting some physical **activity even when they don't** realise it.

Claire x

Cool for Schools



Photography

will be at nursery on Thursday 14th April so get practising those smiles!!!

More details to follow

## Pre School News

Well Christmas came and went already and everyone is back in the normal routine once again. I'd like to start by introducing you to a new member of staff.

Gemma has joined the Pre School team on a Friday. She completed her work placements with us and after she got on so well and enjoyed being here is now on a more permanent basis. You may have also noticed Michelle is now in on a Thursday as well—she just can't keep away.

Our theme for January and February has been a continuation of WINTER though we have been concentrating more on the weather side of things. We also sent craft home for Valentine's day and we hope everyone enjoyed their lolly!!

As the weather has still been cold and frosty we have been unable to get outside the same, so we have been playing more games and



activities inside to allow the children the chance to get some physical exercise.

To give you a brief outline of our theme for March and April— this will be based on our favourite stories and books. Included will also be Pancake Day, Mothers Day and Easter. More information will be given next month.

When doing our themes, crafts, games, stories and even playing we are always encouraging the **children's learning opportunities** and striving to improve their skills and support each individuals needs. When doing and preparing any activity or play session we always consider the five main areas of development which are, social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional. Below is a brief example :

Social—interacting and communicating with the others, learning

and sharing, becoming independent and valuing others.

Physical—Hand/eye co-ordination, large and small movements, balance, control, awareness of being active.

Intellectual—understanding about the world around us, basic maths skills and science skills, language development.

Creative—Promotes imagination and creativity, use of a range of paints and materials. Promotes sensory development, giving a child a sense of achievement.

Emotional—feeling safe and secure, expressing feelings, developing confidence, developing self esteem.

These are all a brief outline on our learning outcomes and we are currently working on a new development plan for display on the new website and outside the rooms so please be on the look out for that. If you require any more information please feel free to speak to myself or Michelle.

Denise x



*While we teach our children all about life, Our children teach us what life is all about*

Angela Schwindt

# Photo Gallery



## After School News

In After Schools we have gone Eco Friendly basing our theme on Recycling. We have created vibrant boards on the benefits of re-cycling, we have been going around the nursery to look for items to recycle and we have even persuaded our parents to recycle at home!!!! To top this we got into the scenic and headed to the recycling point and placed all the plastic, paper and cardboard materials we had collected in the correct bins. All this and we had homework to contend with.



Pamela has sadly moved on and we wish her all the best in her new job and we will soon be getting a new Supervisor but until then Heather has been keeping us all busy ensuring homework is **completed and Valentine's Craft** is ready to send to that special someone. She has even brought in some board games which takes Jo Jo back to her childhood and she is always popping into the room for a quick game of Popup Pirates or Screwball Scramble.

One of our favourite games is Pop to the Shops and is really

good fun. We all own different shops and have to buy and sell with the money we have. Its always exciting to see who will be first finished.

Everyone is enjoying After Schools and we can't wait to half term to be here all day!!!!

Love Heather, Bailey, Joshua, Lucy, Matthew, Jamie, Tyler, Gabriel, Caitlin, Rossanna, Lachlan x



# COMING SOON



Best wishes to  
Lynsey Shannon and Neill  
who get married on 4th March.  
Hope you have a wonderful day



We will be launching a New website in early Spring. We are very excited about this as for the first time parents will be able to download information leaflets and monthly newsletters. They will also be able to view photos of some of the activities the children get up to while they are at work