



Sandcastles News

Issue 11

January 2013



A note from Cindy

Happy New Year

The festive season was here and gone in a blink of an eye and already we are settled well into 2013. It is hard to believe that our winter wonderland party has taken place and we are already looking forward to next years party. I think you will agree it was a lovely family orientated afternoon and thank you to everyone who took part.

At the start of a new year can I take this opportunity to thank all our families for continuing to use Sandcastles Day Nursery as their childcare provider. We are all to aware that in the current climate, many of us are feeling our pockets being pinched more and more and I want to reassure you the parents that we continue to offer our renowned high standard of childcare. You only need to look at the faces of the children bouncing in through our doors in the morning (and some refusing to leave at night) to know your child is in a safe, loving and caring environment.

Cindy

A note from Nikki & Jo Jo

It seems no time at all since we were sitting writing our last newsletter preparing for Christmas and our Christmas Winter Wonderland Party and yet here we are speeding through the first month of 2013.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas party. It was a wonderful afternoon giving staff, parents and children the opportunity to socialise in a more relaxed environment. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and we trust that you the parents did as well. We would value your comments on how you think the new format party went.

The milk carton project was finally revealed and after almost 300 glue sticks and 600+ milk cartons our igloo was built. It was enjoyed by all the children during the first few days of January when they were able to go inside **and 'chill' out.**

Thanks also to Tommy who made our marvellous sleigh. We hope you got lots of photos taken.

As we look forward to 2013 we are already planning our next big event which will take place in early March. More details to follow closer to the time. You will also find enclosed in this newsletter holiday dates for 2013 when the nursery will be closed.

Please note that nursery will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2014 and not Friday 3rd January as previously given out to parents on the holiday sheet.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused

Nikki and Jo Jo x





Happy Birthday to:

1st

Max

2nd

Annie, Eoin, Eva,
Hope

3rd

Mollie

4th

Austin

6th

Taylor

7th

Rossanna

10th

Adam, Matthew



From all of us in the baby room, we hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

Well, now that all the bobbles, tinsel and glitter have gone, us babies are getting very busy concentrating on our next fun theme. This is going to be Nursery rhymes.

Nursery rhymes are a big **part of everyday 'life' in the** baby room. All the babies really enjoy listening, clapping (and when we are really showing off) the actions too!

Baby Room News

So be sure to keep an eye out on the boards for your favourite nursery rhyme!!

We would like to say farewell to Niamh, Scott and Daniella as they take a big step down to the Young Toddler Room! We wish them all the best, but know they will love their new room, especially all the extra space.

As you may have noticed we have had our Little tikes garden out quite a bit lately in the baby room. The babies love it

and they all seem to play in it together, which is lovely to see.

They have great fun opening and closing the door and posting things through the letterbox. And not forgetting playing peek-a-boo with the big girls through the little tunnel.

With January here we would like to wish Max a big Happy 1st Birthday. We hope you have a great one.

Lynn & Team x



Young Toddler News



We are all feeling refreshed after our Christmas break and are ready for lots more fun and action.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Annie and Eoin who turned 2 in January and Eva and Hope who celebrate their birthday in February.

We would like to say all the best to Milo, Lucas and Calum who are now ready to take adventure and explore with the older Toddlers. We would also like to say a big welcome to Niamh, Scott and Daniella who are now joining the young toddler group.



We are looking forward to getting to know the little ones and have lots of messy fun.

Craft for Feb/ March are as follows. We are going to concentrate on the theme of a Candy Store as well as Valentines day. These will include boards decorated with Love hearts, Button and Gummi bears, as well as Lolly pops, sweet **jars and Pick 'n mix.**

We will be doing lots of painting, sticking, gluing and glitter. We will be using different materials to paint with, such as paint brush, sponges and our fingers. So look

out for our boards to be decorated soon.

Our favourite activity at the minute is having the babies and buggies out. We do role play such as taking the babies for a walk to the shop, putting them to sleep and feeding them. This is really enjoyed by all the children.

Melissa & Team x



Toddler News

The weather outside has got chillier of late but in the toddler room we are heating up and rearing to go in 2013 as we prepare for a new theme based around fairytales. Look out for all our craft displayed on our room boards based on our favourite **fairytales... I wonder can you remember them all?**

We will be completing all manner of activities based on our themes and reading all our favourite stories including the Enormous Turnip, Three little pigs and Goldilocks and the Three bears. We plan to transform the room into an enchanted castle and we will enjoy getting messy making this out of paper mache.

A theme based around fairy tales and when reading stories together has been proven to greatly enhance a **child's language and cognitive** development (the benefits of a bedtime story www.thepsychologist.co.uk) It also promotes imagination, develops attention span and helps your child interact with their peers to name a few areas of development.

Our themes run on a bi-monthly basis and over 2013 our themes are based around fantasy and history such as fairytales, mermaids and pirates, medieval, Wild west, space and Aliens, Egyptians and dinosaurs. We are looking forward to taking part in these themes and through these themes your child will benefit in many different ways which will be discussed in future newsletters.

2013 has brought about some changes in the Toddler room. Mandy is now a very proud mummy to Emily and is enjoying spending her maternity leave with David and Emily. She wants to thank all the parents for their generosity and kind wishes on the birth of Emily.

Some of our toddlers have graduated to Pre-school, leaving us for the new bright, heights upstairs. To Mollie, Caroline and Rosabelle, it has been a real privilege to care for each one of you, to aid you in your early childhood development and prepare you for your next adventures in Pre school.

On the flip side we are very pleased to



come Calum, Lucas and Milo to our fold. To all three boys and indeed their families can I formally welcome you and I trust each of you will enjoy your time with us.

JoJo and team x



Pre School News

During the year there are always special occasions and we will of course be looking at these and completing some craft to send home, these will **include Easter, Mother's Day and so on.** There may also be the odd Party day too (any excuse really to have a party)

We do send some craft from our themes home but we keep the rest to **put in your child's scrap book. These scrap books chronicle your child's time** in pre-school and include craft and photos.

We only have one 1 Birthday this newsletter so a big Happy 4th Birthday to Austin.

Can I welcome Caroline, Rosabelle and Mollie into the Pre-school room girls you have already settled in so well to our gang, it feels like you have been with us ages.

Denise and Team x



Can I start by wishing all our families in pre school a Happy New year. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the holidays and got an opportunity to re-charge the batteries, I know I did and know everyone

in pre-school is surging ahead preparing for new themes.

Our themes this year will include...

Disney

Where we live

People's jobs

History

Magical and fantasy

Patterns, numbers, letter etc.



After School News

Hi from After schools and Happy 2013. We are all refreshed from our Christmas break and have settled well into a new term at school which sees us knuckling down and getting on with learning new and exciting stuff.

At Sandcastles we are learning all about TRANSPORT and the many different types of ways to travel and get about. Our big board shows how hard we have been working on this theme. We can even spell some of the longer vehicles names such as Tractor!!

We will be busy during this term getting home works completed but that will not stop us thinking about special occasions such as Valentines Day and Pancake Tuesday and we will definitely be thinking about some special crafts to mark these special days.

With the hustle and bustle of Christmas I forgot to formally welcome Adam and Luke into our gang. Boys to say you have both settled into our **room well is a massive understatement and it's a pleasure having you in after schools... the craic's mighty when you are about!!!**

Just a wee reminder if you avail of the school pick up service, could you ring into the office and let Nikki or Joanne know if your child will NOT need picked up from their school on a certain day as this causes unnecessary disruption to other children and staff members.

Last but not least can I give a massive shout out to Adam, Matthew, Rossanna and Taylor who all celebrate birthdays during January and February. I hope you all have a memorable birthday.

Heather and team x

Save the Date

World Book Day

7th March 2013

Dress up as your favourite character

from your favourite book
and join us for a fun filled,
action pack day of storytelling



During the winter months we do endeavour to keep the car parks frost and snow free. However, at times of deep frost or snowfall this is not always possible. Please take care crossing the car park and if you need any assistance coming into the nursery please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

Holiday Dates

Nursery will be closed on the following dates during 2013

St. Patrick's Day:

Monday 18th March

Easter Holidays:

Friday 29th March

Monday 1st April

Tuesday 2nd April

May Bank Holiday:

Monday 6th May

July Holidays:

Monday 8th July - Friday 12th July
(inclusive)

Christmas Holidays:

Tuesday 24th Dec- Wed 1st Jan
(inclusive)

Nursery will re open Thursday
2nd January @ 7.45am

