



Sandcastles News

Issue 14

July/ August 2013

A note from Cindy



Our birthday month has come and past and fun was had by everyone on Friday 24th May. Now our summer holidays are just around the corner and with it comes an opportunity for everyone to chill out, and re- charge the batteries .

At Sandcastles the summer allows us to get outside with the children due to our large garden area. I have to say it is lovely to hear the children outside laughing with each other playing games.

They certainly have great imaginations and if you listen carefully you can hear them "play house" allowing each child to carry out a different role in their game.

On Saturday 3rd August we will be holding a Open and Fun day and we would love it if you could join us. This is an opportunity to meet on a more social and relaxed day and have the chance to talk with other **parents and staff that perhaps we don't get the opportunity to talk to during the working week. It is also a way for us to show our gratitude to you the parent for continuing to use Sandcastles as your childcare provider. Please plan to be there and if you know any other families who would like to join us for this day please bring them along.**

Whatever you are at this summer I want to wish everyone a relaxing holiday with your family.

Cindy x

A note from Nikki & Joanne

Another school year has finished and the nursery car has finally got a chance to cool down from all the nursery and school runs and we no longer have to dodge the rain showers during pick ups.

We have had several children graduate from pre-school and are starting their journey towards primary education. To all those boys and girls congratulations and good luck at your new primary school. Please come back in September in your school uniforms and let us see you all dressed up.

During the summer we hope to hold several different events such as sports day, sandcastle competitions and lots more. These will take place during our normal hours and we will take lots of photographs which will be posted on our tv in the front foyer for everyone to see.

We are also looking forward to our Open day and we hope to see as many of you as can join us.

Nikki and Joanne D x

We are collecting cereal boxes so we can cut out our pictures for our boards. We would appreciate it if you could bring in any **empty boxes and leave them in your child's room.**



Anyone interested in a Ballymoney Nursery RED coat aged 3-4 please see Nikki

We have started a Sandcastles facebook page and we would love if you would like us. We will be posting lots of information about what we get up to during our day, our favourite recipes and how to make play dough etc. No photos or names of any children will be placed on our facebook page and we please ask that no one places any personal information on our page as we will take it down **straight away and we don't want to offend any one.**





Tiny Tots News

Year one

Tiny tots have been rather busy of late and some of our little ones are celebrating a BIG birthday... **they are turning 1. To Callum, Ellie and Maria a very happy birthday from all your friends in Tiny tots. We hope you celebrate in style!!!!**

Happy Birthday to:

1st

Maria, Callum, Ellie

2nd

Clíodhna, Ethan

4th

Alexa, Lucas B

5th

Isaac, Adam Sc,
Troí

6th

Ethan, Addi

8th

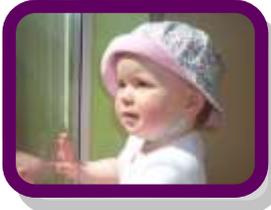
Caitlin

Presently we are noticing that a favourite toy amongst the little ones is the giant dinosaur. This toy allows children to strengthen their grasping technique by lifting up balls, and their hand to eye co-ordination as they take the ball off the floor and place it in the dinosaurs mouth. **Children also get the opportunity to follow the ball as it falls down the dinosaur 's tail and try to pick it up again. Furthermore, this toy also plays music which develops a child's sense of rhythm.** It is also an opportunity to promote sharing and taking turns as only one ball can go in the dinosaurs mouth at any one time and a child must wait until it is their go.

Year Two

In August Ethan will turn two and we want to wish him a very Happy 2nd Birthday from everyone in tiny tots.

Within this age group a favourite toy at the moment is the kitchen and food. It is lovely to see the children playing together and taking turns. They enjoy making us cups of juice and **dinner. Role play is an important type of play for several reasons as it develops your child's imagination and communication skills.** It promotes a sense of belonging and allows the child a way to express how they are feeling. Futhermore, it teaches children about the world and environment around them. This is just a very brief outline of the benefits of role play more **can be read on our 'Play is a childs work' board outside our room.**



Summer will be our theme over July and August and we will be completing lots of different craft in line with this. This will include ice-creams, beach balls, sun shines, buckets and **spades and shells. Our colour will coincide with this and be 'peach' to tie in with the colour of shells.** We introduce painting in our room by letting the children paint with their hands and feet. However as they get older we encourage the children to use a paint brush or sponges which therefore encourages their grip and grasping technique not to mention their hand to eye co-ordination. Again painting is a good way for a child to express their feelings, learn about new colours and themes, build up a relationship with their carers and learn very basic scientific techniques ie mixing colours makes a brand new colour and textures.



Thankfully the sun has been kind to us of late and we are able to get outside. The children really enjoy the freedom of outside as we have such a great area to play in. The garden is especially good for our little ones as it is shaded and not just as sunny and warm on their little skin as the tarmac and they really enjoy running and moving about with all their friends.

Melissa, Lynn and team x



Can every child please supply their own named suncream and sun hat



Toddler News

Summer has arrived and thankfully the sun has been kind to us as of late and boy haven't we taken advantage of it!!!! It is wonderful to get the children outside for some fresh air and give them more freedom to move about. Movement in early years is not to be underestimated. During their first five years children gradually gain greater control and use of the muscles in their bodies. For example a new born baby has to gain control of muscles in their neck so they can see around them unaided. By the time your child comes to us in toddlers they will all be well established walkers and indeed most choose to run rather than walk but we still focus on their movement and teaching them how to gain better control of their body. We do this through fun interactive activities, such as playing with different size of balls (kicking, throwing and catching), circle games such as farmer in the den, parachute, and trikes and scooters. Our scooters are triangle based which makes it easier for our little ones to zoom around the yard. Several of our older toddlers have also grasped how to use the pedals on their trikes and we are all very proud of them as this is a very hard task to complete.

We have also had great fun at our own private beach. The children have all been very good at keeping the sand within the parameters of the beach, taking turns and staying out when the sharks have been spotted in the sea!!!! We have now changed this area to a construction area which we plan to keep for the next few weeks.

Thank you for sending in the sun cream and sun hats for your child. Individual sun cream is especially important as each child reacts so differently to various types or brands of cream.

Hello to Clodhna and her mum and dad. You are very welcome to toddlers, and sandcastles. Already you have settled so well into our wee family. Everyone in toddlers also want to wish Clodhna a very Happy 2nd Birthday.

Finally can I wish all our families and children a lovely summer break.

Jo Jo and team x



Pre School News

Summer time is always bitter sweet in pre-school. On the one hand we can get outside and play in the sun (we hope) but on the other hand we have to bid farewell to some of our friends as they make the transition to primary school. Several boys and girls graduated from pre-school this year and are off to pastures new and to those children we would like to wish you all the best and it has been a pleasure watching you grow in to the confident young children you all are today.

So we wish lots of luck, love and hugs
to...

Isaac, Adam Sc, Lucas E, Chloe, Austin, Jack, Adam s, Katy, Sam, Charlotte, Lee, Katie-Ellen, Scott, Zak and Troi.

We will also be holding a few farewell parties during the summer as well as birthday parties so by September we will be all partied out!!!

As over the summer children are in less often due to holidays and days away our theme will be loosely based on patterns, numbers, letters and colours. We will also be completing lots of summer activities including water play, sprinklers and taking long walks to the duck pond and different parks around the local area.

In relation to this I think nearly everyone has a bottle of sun cream in now but if not it would be appreciated if parents could leave one in for their child.

We do have a nursery one and we always ensure that each child gets cream on but sometimes minor irritations occur so it is better if we have a cream that is suitable for your child.

During July and August we have a few birthday wishes. Happy Birthday to



Isaac, Adam Sc, Lucas B, Alexa and Troi who will be celebrating turning four or five.

Lets hope we have a lovely summer and enjoy our holidays and days out!!

Denise and team x





After School News

Summer is the most exciting time of year in after schools... why I hear you ask? For the simple reason school is shut for two whole months and we no longer have to worry about doing homework, dodging rain showers as we get out of school and have the opportunity to have lots of fun with all our friends.

We have many events planned for July and August and it would be helpful if everyone could bring in a change of clothes and a towel as we intend to get very messy through a variety of different activities.

Over July and August we will also be completing a detailed theme about knights, castles and princesses. This is a popular theme with all the children in after schools and everyone is very excited about learning more about how **Knights and princesses lived hundred's of years ago. During our theme we will be completing several different** worksheets and fact files which will help reinforce literacy and numeracy skills your child will have completed at during the school year.

We will also be celebrating several birthdays over the holidays and we would like to give a big shout out of Ethan, Addi, Luke and Caitlin. Have a brilliant birthday and we cannot wait to celebrate your day with you.

Luke has now left us to go to High school and we would like to say a massive good luck at your new school and it has been a delight to have you in after schools.

Erin and Sophie are also moving on and we would like to wish each girl all the best and come back and visit us soon. We all miss you and you both have been a joy to take care of.

Heather and Emma x



Open Day

Saturday 3rd August
Fun starts 12pm to 4pm
Everyone welcome