



Sandcastles News

Issue 18

Mar/Apr 2014

A note from Cindy

Spring has finally sprung and all our children have been enjoying the outdoors together, lets hope this continues **and they get to play in the much loved outdoor areas.** As I'm sure you noticed we had our **Inspection by Early Years** last month, our Social Worker was out with us and all went well as he looked at the different areas including the physical areas of play and activities that we provide for the children here at Sandcastles.

Now we have concluded our Inspection all is under way to organize the upcoming 10th Anniversary of Sandcastles. Over the last 10 years we have had the privilege of caring for all your little ones here in Sandcastles which has been a delight and we value your support as you continue to use Sandcastles for your childcare. We look forward to the coming months as we start preparations for a fun filled afternoon on Saturday 24th May as this is our official birthday, so we hope you can come along and join us for some fun activities and the return of the Garden Tea Room. More details will follow so please look out for them and keep this date free.

All the boys and girls are working hard on crafts and displays as we prepare for the arrival of Easter at the end of April and we look forward to what fun activities everyone will be joining in with for Sports Relief with on 21st March. Warm wishes for a lovely Easter to everyone.



A note from Nikki & Joanne

Cindy



Well here we are entering the Spring and so far the weather hasn't been too bad for us, The children have been enjoying lots of opportunities to get outside for playing on the bicycles and on occasions recently all rooms have managed to get out for a few walks. Pre-School have even been out to visit the ducks at the trim trail, lets hope it continues as the children love to get out and about with the girls.

Can we just remind parents that with the brighter evenings upon us about the importance of being careful in the car parks in the mornings and evenings with the children coming across the car park or going to the **cars as we have a lot of traffic coming and going at all times of the day.** Toddler's, Pre-School & Afterschools children are all taught the importance of safety and holding hands when anywhere there is traffic, on this note can parents please remember to use the Entrance and Exit and again if it is busy in the evenings please feel free to park vehicles in the rear car park and use rear entrance if necessary on busy evenings.

The end of March see's Sports Relief a time where we can all have fun getting active and also help to raise a little money for those less fortunate. This year the children will be taking part in some fun activities with the help of Timmy from Timmy Time who wants to do lots of jumping games this year so remember the 21st March the children will all need their jumping shoes on!!

There are lots of fun themes throughout the rooms over the next few months so keep an eye out for your **children's work displayed around the Nursery to see what they're all learning about, not forgetting too that** Easter is upon is at the end of April so no doubt lots of nice treats and surprises for all to make and do.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents and children a lovely Easter

Nikki & Joanne

Tiny Tots News



Happy Birthday to:

1st

Ivy

2nd

Molly, Patrick, Connlith

3rd

Rosie

4th

Elsa, Alex, Emma, Sarah

Lucy

5th

Jack

6th

Aislinn

8th

Gabriel

We would like to give a warm welcome to Pixi, Leila and Cara who have recently joined us in the tiny tots room. All the girls have settled in really well and we hope your time with us is enjoyable.

Happy first birthday to Ivy, and second birthday to Molly, Patrick and Connlith. We hope you all have a lovely birthday.

In the Zoo is our next theme that we are getting organised for! We have purposely picked 5 animals which we feel are our Tiny Tots Favourites to focus on. These are Monkeys, giraffes, sea lions and elephants. As well as learning the animal and what it looks like, this is a great opportunity to learn the animal sounds and actions.

So make sure and have a look at our new boards come April to see what your very own little monkey has been up to!!

For our next colour board we will be focusing on green and orange which ties in nicely with our zoo theme.

Year 1

The past couple of months we have had great fun with lots of messy play!! From painting with our fingers, hands and feet to baking buns to, pouring flour over the floor and rolling in it! Our tiny tots have loved every minute of it. It is a great way for our little ones to explore colours and textures but have fun at the same time.

Our little ones have been doing so well painting with dabbers and sponges. This really helps develop their hand and eye co-ordination and fine manipulative skills.

Year 2

As with our younger Tiny Tots, our older toddlers absolutely love messy play! Being that bit older they can do more and become more involved especially when it comes to baking. They love mixing the chocolate and decorating the buns. Although it is definitely more fun eating them!!

Again painting with our hands and feet and playing with flour or water really gives our tiny tots a great way to explore colours and textures. And this gives us big girls a good opportunity to interact and talk to the children about what they see and feel and engage all our senses.

Coming up in March and April is Mother's day and Easter so be ready for some lovely surprises!!



Toddler News

Spring has sprung and we are really beginning to enjoy the benefits which spring brings. We are getting outside more often and for longer periods of time. The children are loving the fact that they are getting out and getting various different outdoor equipment out. Children in our room learn how to peddle our tricycles and by the time they move to pre-school are experts in zooming round our playgrounds. Some of our older toddlers also enjoy using our scooters. These are suited to the smaller legs as they have triangle bases. This type of play is a great source for children to develop their core stability and gross muscles. It is a way for them to enhance their balance and co-ordination, to gain confidence and to express and release their feelings, cares or worries. It is also helps children develop their social skills and sharing skills.

For March and April our theme is Down on the farm and we hope to create our own farmyard home corner **later in the month. Flash cards, number cards and alphabet cards have all been made to enhance toddler's** learning in this subject. We will also be learning about Spring, Easter and our boards in the hall will reflect this.

Happy birthday to Rosie who will turn 3 at the end of March. We hope you have a lovely day with your friends and family.



Jo Jo and team x



Pre School News

Spring has finally arrived and it is lovely to see the longer days starting. We have been enjoying getting outside a lot more now but we still keep wrapped up nice and warm as it is still a bit chilly.

We have had some of the Toddlers move up to Pre-school and join the big boys and girls. So a big welcome to Annie, Eoin and Lucas H. Also so we have had a couple of new friends come to join our Sandcastles family, so big warm welcome also to Ava and Poppy and Lacus C. We hope you all have a fantastic time with us in Pre-School making new friends and joining in all the activities we have planned.

Our Theme for March and April is about Seasons and Celebrations. We will be discussing how, why and what happens as the seasons change, we will be looking at seasons around the world and pick our favourite time of the year, so watch out for our new board displays to see what they think is their favourite. There are many **different celebrations all year and March and April are a busy time. We have Pancake day, St.Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter. So you know what that means there'll be lots of gifts and treats being made to** take home to mums and dads over the coming weeks!!

The room is quite mixed now with both a younger and older age group. Any work, craft and activities that we do I will be adapting to suit the age groups. Many of the older ones are given a little more responsibility and messages to do around the nursery which they thoroughly enjoy and helps to build their confidence in what they can do to help. Over the next few months we will be trying to encourage the children to become more independent and help them prepare for school i.e. zipping up their coats putting on their own shoes etc so watch at home and see how they develop in these skills and encourage them as they try.



Birthday wishes to Emma, Elsa and Alex who will be 4 in March and Lucy and Sarah are both 4 in April. Have a great birthday to you all.

Hope you all enjoy Spring and lets hope the weather is good to us.

After School News

Well guys it's crazy to think that spring is here already and it's great to see the change in the weather. We are finishing our theme on the Romans this month, I think we are all fluent in Roman Numerals and Latin ABC's. We have even been learning some great Ancient games too!!

Calling all Rugby Fans!! Has everyone been watching the 6 Nations? In Afterschool's we are rugby mad, so we thought for our monthly theme we would look at the origins of rugby and I'll give you a clue it wasn't William Ebb Ellis (1823)

We are looking at the Ireland team line up for this season and all the team players....Do you have a favourite player if so let us know.....Maybe we at Sandcastles should start our own team, come and check out the kit designs in Afterschool's.

Hopefully now with the better weather starting we can get down the garden and play a few games of rugby too, if you see us out why not come and cheer us along!

We would like to give a big shout out to Gabriel (8), Aislinn (6) & Jack (5) who all celebrate their birthdays during March, Happy Birthday guys.

And don't forget a great big shout out to all you Special Mummy's..... we hope you all get spoilt rotten on Mother's Day xxxx



After that busy month we then have Easter to relax a little while all the children are off on Holidays, as ever we have lots of activities organised so don't forget to let us know if you'll be coming along to Afterschools to join in the fun. There'll be Scavengers Hunts, Easter Activities & Nature Walks to name a few.

Heather and Team x

Sandcastles will be closed for Easter Holidays on:



**Good Friday 18th April 2014
Easter Monday 21st April 2014
Easter Tuesday 22nd April 2014**

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter



We're Joining In The Fun
On Friday 21st March 2014
for Sports Relief

Timmy Time is going to help make it lots of fun for the boys and girls at Nursery, everyone is going to become woolly jumpers for the day, trying to jump as long as they can, as high, as far as they can, everyone get practising!!