



# Sandcastles News

Issue 19

May/June 2014



## A note from Cindy



I hope everyone had a lovely Easter Break and enjoyed all the fantastic sunshine that came with it this year. **The children and staff have all been delighted that it has continued now we're back to Nursery and have been making the most of it by taking all the children outside throughout the day to enjoy the bicycles and scooters as well as the balls and ride-on cars in the playground, not to mention the fun down the garden too, I hear Afterschool's have been practicing their rugby knowledge out this term!!**

**Well here we are in May and it's an exciting month this year for Sandcastles, as we will be celebrating our 10th Birthday on 24th May. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all along to our Birthday Party on Sat 24th May, 12pm - 4pm which will be of course none other than a "Beach Party"..... Now what else could we have to mark the occasion!!**

Management staff are currently in the throes of preparing an exciting afternoon for everyone from Carnival Games, Arts and Crafts, Playful Activities, Fun Photo Opportunities and of course the return of our Garden Tea Rooms!! **We can't wait to have a great afternoon of fun with all our parents and children, both past and present so make sure to keep the date free, come along and join in the fun with us on this special occasion.**

Everyone knows we have our own Facebook page, now with over 100 followers which is fantastic, here we like to place little updates for everyone on what has been going on in Sandcastles and also what may be coming up. So we have decided to expand ourselves a little and have recently joined the craze of Pinterest, an exciting web place where we can all share our **ideas with each other, so if you're a member why not look us up and start following us. In the coming months we will be adding various Pins, so why not look up our pins and boards, especially for some crafty ideas to have fun with and maybe even try out at home with your children!**

## A note from Nikki & Joanne

Cindy xxx

Well spring has well and truly **arrived now and we've been** enjoying the lovely weather at the minute with all the rooms making use of the outdoors while it lasts, everyone has returned fresh from their Easter Break and the Afterschool children have been enjoying themselves getting up to lots of activities whilst on Easter holidays including Scavenger Hunts in Mountsandel Forest and lots of crafty activities.

We would like to say a huge and appreciated *Thank You* to all who gave generously for Sports Relief the children had great fun on Friday 21st March doing lots of jumping activities and dressing up in their woolly jumpers as did the staff!!

**We're all looking forward to what** this month brings as Cindy mentioned we celebrate our 10th Birthday on Saturday 24th May

from 12-4pm. We look forward to spending the day with our nursery families and also to the job in hand of organising a fun filled day for everyone **to enjoy, I'm sure all our parents are** especially looking forward to the Garden Tea Rooms, more details to follow in the coming weeks.

This year we would like to introduce our **"Sandcastles Summer Scheme"** this will be for all children of school age, we have put together a scheme which will run alternate weeks throughout the months of July and August in our **Afterschool's facility. Times and** dates of the scheme will be made available in the next month and parents are welcome to place their **child's name down if they wish them to** attend, it will include many different activities from getting to know you games and team building experiences to making and having fun creating and doing various crafts, cooking and outdoor activities in our spacious garden area. The scheme will run every day in the weeks chosen and will

be from mid morning until mid afternoon, so we will be providing a healthy home cooked lunch and dessert for each of the children attending. We look forward to this new venture and the fun days planned out for the summer.

The month of May means parents will now have received the Ballymoney **Nursery and local Primary School's** acceptance letters for their children.

We would appreciate it if parents could speak with us accordingly if you wish to prevail of the Model Nursery collection at 11.30am which we provide or enquire about Afterschool spaces which include 2pm and 3pm collections available for children from most of the local schools, this can change yearly depending on demand so **please don't hesitate to speak with** us.

Enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter now to see what everyone has been up to.

Nikki & Joanne

# Tiny Tots News



Happy Birthday to:

1st

Leila, Caitlin

2nd

Erin, Lily

3rd

James, Ava

4th

James, Zack,  
Shannon

5th

Katy, Charlotte,  
Katie-Ellen

6th

Adam F

9th

Samantha

10th

Sandcastles

We would like to give a big welcome to Niamh, Caitlin and Pele who have joined the Tiny Tots Room. Everyone has settled really well and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

**It's farewell to Conlith & Patrick who have turned a big 2 and have moved to the Toddler Room. It's been a pleasure looking after you boys and we know you will love your time with the Toddlers.**

Happy 1st birthday to Lelia who turned One in April, Niamh who turns One in May and

Caitlin who is a big One in June! A happy 2nd birthday to Erin and Lily for June, we hope you all have a super birthday and have fun celebrating.

Our next theme we will be having fun with is Transport. This is our June & July **theme, we think this will tie in well with the "Holiday Season" for all you lucky people who are jetting off to somewhere nice!**

Our means of transport we will be focusing on are aeroplanes, boats, cars, trains and buses so make sure and look out for **your little one's craft being displayed around the room on the boards.** Our colours for this month will be red and blue so keep an eye out down by the windows to see what we are going to have there.



## Year 1

Our Tiny Tots have been really enjoying us bringing out the push along trucks and cars to play with. They love to pull themselves up and go walking up and down the room with them (sometimes with a little help!). This really helps the children to focus on their balance and get those feet going in the right direction ready for them to take off on their own!. Some of our Tiny **Tots have experienced their first fun of "body painting" which they loved!! It's a really great way for them to explore colours and textures while having lots of fun.**



## Year 2

Our older Tiny Tots absolutely loved the body painting, they thought it was great to paint their own arms and legs with the paintbrushes and sponges!! This is a great way for them to explore colours and textures but at the same time have lots of messy fun!! Our chalk-board is a big hit too with the older toddlers, they love picking out their favourite colour of chalk and doodling away on the big chalk board, which is great for the imagination and hand eye co-ordination.

Finally not forgetting about this great weather, we have of course been outside enjoying the playground and garden so lots of fun has been had by all with the balls and push along cars, and play house.

**Coming up in June is Father's Day so look out for lovely surprises made by your little ones!!**

*Lynn, Melissa and Team x*



# Toddler News

While Easter has come and gone the Toddler Room have been celebrating the good weather and sunshine **which Easter brought along for us!! We really do enjoy getting outside and it's great to get outside** without our coats, hats and scarves. If we could have a bottle of sun-cream brought in for each of your children which can stay in Nursery it would be much appreciated. We ask for new sun-cream each year as once sun-cream is opened and used it has an active ingredient which perishes after 12 months and is no longer safe to use.

We have enjoyed our farm theme so much we are continuing it into May and will have our farmyard up and working by the Birthday Party. Talking of parties I look forward to seeing all our families join us at the 10th Birthday Celebrations and having more time to chat to you all. We will also be making lots of decorations for our party and looking at celebrations during circle time.

A big hello to Patrick and Connith who are joining us in Toddlers from the Tiny Tots Room, to their families we also welcome you and hope you have an enjoyable time with us.

Hope and Eva have now progressed to Pre-School and while it is sad to see the girls move the girls are ready for the transition and I know they will enjoy learning and experiencing new things in Pre-School



Big Happy Birthday wishes to James and Ava, have lots of fun celebrating!!

Jo-Jo and Team



## Pre School News

**I'd like to start by saying** I hope everyone had a lovely Easter and enjoyed this glorious sunshine **we've had, long may it continue.** Summer is just around the corner **and it's great to be able to get the kid's outside** so much again they just love it, though anyone who knows me knows we are always outside!!

Though we may not need them just yet your child will require sun-cream again this year. We ask for a new one each summer as there is only a 12 month life on the bottles once they are **opened. Your child's bottle** will be kept safely in the Pre-School Room and labelled with their name on it.

May and June are going to be busy as we have lots of fun things planned. There is our

10th Birthday Party, **then there's lots of local fun** such as the North West **200, Giro D'Italia, Raft Race** and much more. Our theme for May and June is all about sports and having fun so we are hoping the sunny weather stays so we can try out lots of fun new sports, games, ways of moving and simply having fun and being silly!!

There have been some new boys and girls started in our room so I would like to say a big welcome **to....Hope, Eva, James and Rosie.**

Very Happy Birthday wishes go to James, Zack and Shannon who are all going to be a big 4. Hope you all have a wonderful birthday and lots of fun. Very soon I will be sending a letter home for all the children who are starting Primary 1 in September. It will be about the ways that we try

to help your child prepare for the change ahead and the things that we can both do at Nursery and home with them to make them that little bit more independent. We always have lots of little chats with the children when it comes to this time of year in preparation for September and the big step **ahead so it's good if we can work together to help the change go smoothly and get any of your child's worries sorted.** In conjunction with this we will be spending time on our curriculum during July and August to build **on the children's self confidence, self worth and independence** as they prepare for their journey to school.

**That's all for now, fingers crossed** this lovely weather stays ;-)

Denise & Team xx





# After School News

Hey guys,

Well here we are now in the Spring Term, YIPPEEE!!! We hope you all had a nice **break we definitely did!! We had lots of in Afterschool's, we have been getting messy** with our crafts, kicking back and relaxing with nice chilled days but with such great weather over Easter we have been getting outside loads. We were busy on some adventures in Somerset Forest and Mountsandel Fort doing our Scavenger Hunts and oh all the things we found the children had a great time.



Oh and of course the rugby being our theme we have been down the garden loads carrying out passing **drills, kicking practices and even having a game or two.....Goooooo Sandcastles!! We've got some future** Ireland players in the making I believe.

**But now the holidays are over and it's back to school days and homework's, but we are all well rested** and fully recharged for the last term before the summer holidays Whoop Whoop!!

And speaking of celebrations we would like to give a big birthday shout out from all of us in Afterschools to Charlotte, Katy & Katie-Ellen who will be 5, Adam who will be 6 and Samantha who will be 9, hope you all have a great birthday.



**But that's it from us guys so make sure to pop and see our budding rugby stars in** the making!!

*Heather and Team x*



Invites You To Celebrate

## Our 10th Birthday

On Sat 24th May  
From 12-4pm  
Fun For All The Family

Activity Trailer    Carnival Games  
Tea Rooms

Timmy says a big thank you to all the donations and jumping activities done for Sports Relief we raised just over £95.00 :-)



Date For Your Diary

Thursday 5th June



Jude from Cool For Schools

Photography will be coming along to take your