



The Gruffalo event held for **Comic Relief Day** on Friday 18th March was a great hit. Staff and children alike enjoyed a really fun day getting faces painted, planting seeds and having a special gruffalo lunch.

A grand total of £203 was raised which is a brilliant amount and behalf of comic relief



Thank you to everyone who is supporting Tesco for School and Clubs and Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers which can still be left in the box in the hall. To date we are well on target to get our new painting equipment and breeze blocks

## A note from Cindy

The run up to any major holiday time can often be frantic and **chaotic! So it's nice to get some** time off to spend with our love ones and its especially nice when we get two bank holidays so close together!!

Spring time is a lovely time of the year plants and flowers are beginning to blossom and baby animals such as lambs are skipping through the fields.

In sandcastles we too have been getting into the spring feeling which has been reflected in our craft. We also can get outside

We have been very busy in nursery as of late with parties and visits from guest speakers. On behalf of the nursery we can thank everyone who has given of their time to come and speak to us we really do appreciate it.

Cool for Schools Photography went really well and as we go to print we are really looking forward to seeing the final photos. Staff and children alike got in on the act and had fun

more and having such a lovely outside secure area which means that most of the children can get out and explore the environment around them. Our birdhouses are



back up in the trees and Gilbert has already started cutting the lawn in preparation for the children getting down the garden to go on the climbing frames.

We are hoping to develop our own

wildlife and vegetable garden in the near future. This will be an exciting opportunity for staff and children to develop their green fingers and learn more about how food grows and where it comes from. Hopefully we will get to eat some of our produce towards the end of the summer.

If any parents out there are budding (excuse the pun) gardeners and could provide us with cuttings of their favourite plants we would **greatly appreciate it. I'm really** looking forward to seeing all the little ones out pottering about our garden!!! You never know we might have the next Alan Titchmarsh or Charlie Dimmick in our midst.

Wishing all our families a truly blessed Easter

Cindy x

## From Nikki and Joanne

**trying to spot where Jude's** monkey went as he fell off her head.

On behalf of the staffing team at Sandcastles we would like to officially welcome Annie, Lesley, Kathy and Holly to our team and say congratulations to Heather who is now the Acting Supervisor of After schools, everyone has settled in to their new roles well. Also at this time we would like to wish Tara all the best as

she moves to Belfast to live with her boyfriend and start into a new job working in a day nursery in Belfast. Good Luck Tara.

We want to wish all our families a safe and Happy Easter holidays.

Nikki and Joanne x



9th Birthday:

Lucy

5th Birthday:

Gabriel, Joshua

4th Birthday:

Niamh, Niall,  
Taylor and Zoe

3rd Birthday:

Aislinn, Jessica,  
Emma, Marcus,  
Gemma, Jamie,  
Annie,

2nd Birthday:

Adam S, Zac,  
Lee, Charlotte,  
Scott, Katy

1st Birthday:

Naoise, Elsa,  
Lucy and Faith



Hello from the baby room and can I begin by welcoming Faith, Shannon, Sarah and their families to Sandcastles and in particular to the baby room. We hope you enjoy your time with us, having fun and meeting new friends. Now on to the important business what we have been up to since the last newsletter.

Our theme has consisted of Easter and Spring time crafts. We have all enjoyed getting messy painting with our hands and feet decorating bunnies, easter eggs and chickens. We also completed a very colourful rainbow using hand prints from everyone in our room.

Hi, from everyone in the young **toddler room. I'm going to start by** welcoming Caroline, Mollie, Luke, Rosabelle, Troi and Heather to Young Toddlers. They have all joined us from the baby room and are getting on really well. Can I also formally welcome Zachary and Alexander to Sandcastles and Young Toddlers. Boys we hope you and your families have a fun time with us. And feel right at home with us very soon.

We are currently working on easter projects and we will beginning our new craft theme of nursery rhymes. We decided to pick this theme because we have noticed during circle time the children are really responding well to singing all the different rhymes and learning all the actions to them. Some of our favourite ones include five little men on a flying saucer, Row, Row Row the boat and



## Baby Room News

All this painting with our hands helps us get used to different textures and aids our hand to eye coordination not to mention its great fun!!!

As ever our art work can be viewed on our boards in the room and once down we will put all the artwork into folders which your child will get once they have completed the baby room.

Since the weather is finally hotting up we have been able to get out more frequently for walks. It is lovely to get the chance to take your little ones outside. If you could provide sun hats and sun-creams for these times we would really appreciate it.

Our favourite toy at the minute seems to be the Fisher Price cube pull along trailer. This is very popular as it makes lots of noise, lights up and even picks up the cubes off the floor. As many of our little ones are getting on their feet this is a great toy to encourage those leg muscles and stability.

Melissa, Mandy & Emma x



## Young Toddler News

five little speckled frogs.

We are also beginning to get outside much more as the weather is starting to pick up. We enjoy getting out in the fresh air and as the weather continues to get warmer we will be going out more and taking the inside out. We will take our tables, toys and craft outside in to the garden or shaded areas of the play-ground. We feel this is important as the children get lots of fresh air and get the freedom to move in larger secured areas.

Our favourite toy at the minute seems to be our wendy house located in the corner of our room. The children love playing games of peek a boo opening and closing the

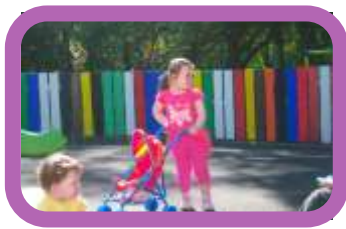
window shutters and door and they all like going in together to have a little chit chat. It is lovely to watch all the friendships growing in our room the older children seem to take the new younger ones under their wings!!!



Alison  
and  
team x



Firstly a big hello from everyone in toddlers. On behalf of my team I would like to welcome Adam Service



and Caitlyn who have reached the grand old age of two and who are now part of our room. We hope you enjoy your time in toddlers

and at long last Oliver and Adam have been reunited I know you have missed each other boys !!



Another new face you will soon get to know very well is that of Anne Marie. Annie is a new permanent member of the toddler team and takes over from Tara who has moved to be with her boyfriend in

Belfast. Officially on behalf of everyone in Sandcastles Annie Hello and hope you settle into our room quickly.

Since the weather has been warming up we are getting outside more and I have to say the toddlers are really enjoying their time outside. They particular like getting to go on the tricycles and in the police, fire or pink coupe cars. Its great to get outside without coats and scarves!!!

We really enjoyed our gruffalo party and all the fun stuff we got to make and do. The gruffalo buns were really yummy and all the children enjoyed making them just not as much as eating them.

We also enjoyed planting our seeds. I hope all you parents have kept up with the watering of them.



Let us know how they are getting on.

Our craft has been as messy as ever which makes it soooo much fun. It is good to come up with new ways to get the children painting, and we enjoy using stampers and sponges to create our masterpieces.

Clare and team x

## Pre School News



Well Pre-school have been exceptionally busy since the last newsletter so without further a do **here's a brief round up of goings on** from upstairs.



To begin we want to formally welcome all the children who have joined us from toddlers Alfie, Evie, Matthew, Sophie and Colin you guys have already settled in really well to life in pre-school and we hope you enjoy being in Pre-School as much as we love having you with us.

I hope everyone had a lovely Mothers Day and that you liked the gifts you received especially the DO NOT DISTURB signs!!! I wonder did they work? Everyone worked really hard doing all the **gifts for their mummy's who mean** sooo much to them.

Our theme has been stories and Books which the children have enjoyed learning about. In pre-school we love listening to stories

during circle time and this theme has proven very popular with all the children. You would have seen **your children's personal story books** we made to link in with this theme. The children really enjoyed making them, and they turned out to be a great success. Their imagination is wonderful and a sheer delight to listen to all the quirky answers that



they give.

Our boards for this theme were **done in small groups, so if you can't see your child's work in the hall it** will be on the boards in our room.

We had a visit a few weeks back from a lady called Josie who very kindly brought in her guide dog Marcell. Josie gave the children a

talk about what it is like to be blind and how her dog helps her. Everyone enjoyed the visit and I think having a dog in our room was a puzzle to some of the boys and girls.



When arranging vistors to come in we try to mix the days and times up a bit to ensure your child doesn't miss out.

Not long now till our Easter holidays and we will be making some lovely craft to go home. I hope everyone **has a nice Easter break and let's** hope the sunshine will stick around!

**I'm sure you will all know now but** just in case its great news to say Michelle is pregnant and will be expecting her second wee bundle of fun in September.

Happy Easter everyone

Denise and Team x



# Photo Gallery



## After School News

Hello from after schools. Well the last few months has brought a lot of changes to afterschool. We have a new member of staff Lesley who has been with us for a little while and is getting on really well.

Further more I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I am the new Acting Supervisor in After schools which means that Lesley and I will be the

permanent members of staff in our room. Thank you for your patience and understanding while staffing got sorted out.

We have finished our recycling theme which was a massive success and thank you to everyone who provided rubbish for us to go to the skip. It has been such a good theme that the nursery has decided to become more eco friendly and are recycling more and more each

week.

We are into our new theme where we are learning about being fit, healthy and clean. We are learning all about how important healthy food is for us, why we have to stay clean and where all our energy for running about comes from. We have even tasted some new healthy fruits at break and over our Easter holidays are getting a **fitness talk from Con's mum Gemma.** (Thank you Gemma for that)

We have loads of exciting stuff planned for over Easter holidays so keep an eye out for that in the next newsletter.

Happy Easter

Heather and Lesley x



Could all parents please provide sun cream and a sun hat for the sunny days

# EASTER CLOSING



Nursery will be closed on Friday 22nd, Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th April for Easter and Friday 29th April and Monday 2nd May for the Royal Bank Holiday

We wish all our families a very Happy Easter