



Sandcastles News

Issue 22

November/December 2014

A note from Cindy



Hello to one and all, we've had a busy couple of months, firstly can I just say a huge thank you to all our parents for taking the time to get involved with the Onesie/Pyjama Day. A worthy cause, which was for raising money in aid of Cancer Fund For Children, we collected a total of £90 which was sent off to the charity. Thank you all so much making a donation and for sending you children along dressed to participate, they all looked fantastic. I think the staff enjoyed the Onesie/Pyjama theme as much as the children, there's a picture floating about on the information board of them all looking very comfortable.

I'm sure you'll agree the children have all been very busy creating pictures and craft for the themes in their rooms over the last couple of months and I believe the Pre-School children even had mum's and dad's taking them to the forest on a weekend to do a scavenger hunt for Autumn, brilliant family fun.

It seems no time since we said Happy New Year to everyone and here we find ourselves on the countdown to Christmas. All the Supervisors and staff are in Christmas mode and talking about craft and activity plans for **the children, not to mention the Christmas Party. We're now getting excited about our Grotto plans this year** something that everyone will enjoy, not to mention the room activities, the food hall and of course a visit from Santa himself, so we look forward to seeing everyone join on us on Tuesday 23rd for a fun afternoon.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for continuing to use Sandcastles for your childcare needs and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and A Prosperous New Year.

A note from Nikki & Joanne

Cindy xxx

Hi everyone, welcome to the last newsletter of 2014!! which means that we need to mention Christmas, yes thats right; **apologies when it's just November!!**

Firstly we'd like to welcome our new families and children who have started Sandcastles in the last couple of months, it's lovely to have you join the Sandcastles family. We also have a couple of new members of staff so we'd like

to take this opportunity to welcome them also; Barry and Eileen have been with us now for the last month and have settled into the Sandcastles team, getting on well in the rooms with both staff, parents and children. Just in time for the festive activities!

This year the Christmas Party will be taking place on Tuesday 23rd December 3pm—5.30pm, the Nursery will be set up for a fun afternoon. Tiny Tots Room will

be our Food Hall with lots of refreshments, nibbles and drinks. Our Toddler Room will be housing lots of fun craft activities, face painting and a photo booth. Pre-School upstairs will have some games and craft activities for the children to participate in and then not forgetting the most important place for the children to visit the Grotto, which will be set up in **After-school's. Parents can arrive from 3pm** onwards to collect their child/children from their respective rooms and then take your time together to enjoy going around the activities in each of the rooms throughout the afternoon.

Don't forget to visit Santa in the Grotto who I'm sure will have a gift for each of the children to take home for under the tree!

We look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Party to enjoy the afternoon with your children and have some fun for the start of the holidays.

Now that we have come into the darker evenings can we just remind

everyone to be careful in the car parks with children walking back and forth to their cars with parents.

Should the front car park be busy please feel free to use the rear staff car park, in doing so please also feel free to use the staff exit beside the Toddler Room to be safe on return to the car with your children.

Should anyone have any questions about the Christmas Party or anything in general please do not hesitate to speak with any one of us at any time.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas.



Tiny Tots News



Happy Birthday to:

1st

Lyla

Erin

Cadean

Robert

2nd

Eileen

Katie

Riley

3rd

Charlie S

Robert

Daniel

Bella

Adam

4th

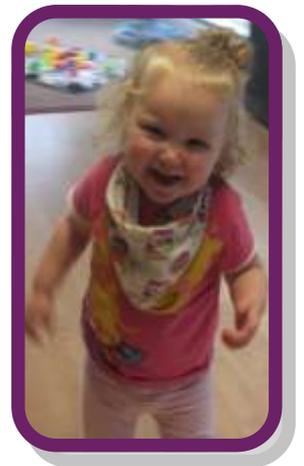
Lucas

Cameron

7th

Colin

Tiny Tots have been really busy over the last few months. We **have had lots of fun in our onesie's and we even went a walk to the new park dressed in our onesie's!!** While we were there we got to climb up high to go fast down the tunnel slide, swing on the big net swing and have a bounce on the trampoline. It was great fun and all the time helping to develop our gross motor skills and practicing our balancing skills too.



We've been enjoying the opportunity to get outside the last few weeks with our coats, hats and scarves on to go and explore the leaves. We really liked to crunch through the leaves and hear the different rustling sounds and investigate the various shapes, sizes and colours of the leaves. We also collected leaves to use to make Autumn sticky collage **pictures.** **These autumn activities have helped to develop the children's sense of** the outside world and allow them to experience first hand the changing seasons and the weather conditions while out in the playground.

All the children in Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed activities together, especially water play and bathing the toy babies. Group activities like this allow the children to interact with the different ages and learn from each other. It also helps towards developing social interaction skills and leadership and communication skills among each other.

The cardboard boxes have been a big hit in the Tiny Tots. We've enjoyed pre-tending to be in boats, spaceships and cars. It's amazing how much fun you can have with a box!! Playtime with the boxes helps the children to begin to use their imagination and independence, while developing play situations from ideas and experiences the children have previously watched others doing. The children also gain physical challenges like climbing in and out of the boxes and also communicating with one another whilst they play.

Over the next few months we will be using lots of glitter, glue, paint and cotton wool along with other craft materials to get ready for our Christmas boards, which **will be what our Winter Theme will be based around.** **Here's a little list of some** of the things to look out for: Angels, Stockings, Snowmen, Christmas Trees & Crackers.

A Big Happy 1st Birthday to Lyla, Erin and Cadean for November. Then we have Eileen, Katie and Riley turning 2 in December a big Happy Birthday to you all have a fantastic time celebrating with everyone.

Finally all the best to Charlie and Sarah who have both moved on to the toddler Room. We really enjoyed our time with you both watching you learn and grow doing lots of fun things together, have fun with JoJo and the girls.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party for some fun. On behalf of Tiny Tots we would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas.

Melissa, Andrea, Catherine, Annie
& Lynsey xxx



Have You Any Unwanted White Blankets, White Sheets or White Towels to Help With the Grotto Project **This Year, We'd really appreciate them.....Thanks**

Toddler News



Toddlers have been busy creating some masterpieces to help aid their understanding of transport. Everyone has had lots of fun and enjoyed learning about different types of vehicles. Some children can even differentiate between the types of tractors by colour.

Bella and Sarah kindly brought in their Autumn goody bags which they had collected from their weekend walks which enabled all of us to look at, feel and discuss what happens during Autumn; like how the leaves fall off and change colour. We also got to see conkers, pinecones, acorns and spinning jennys. Thank you girls for providing us with these wonderful items to see.

Now our focus turns to Christmas and all the excitement that comes with it. We will be learning new songs relating to this topic, in the coming weeks I will make copies of the words to send home so you can be in the know with your children when they start to sing!! We will also be making lots of lovely decorations for our room so keep an eye out at the beginning of December when **we start to decorate the room and see if you can find your child's masterpiece.**



Even though the weather has got a bit colder now, the children still enjoy getting outside. Could we ask that parents please remember to provide a hat and warm coat and if you wish a pair of wellies (the wellies can be named and kept at Nursery if you wish)

We would like to send big Happy Birthday Wishes to Charlie S, Robert, Bella and Adam W who turn 3 we hope you **have a great time celebrating your birthday's with everyone.**



This year we have a lovely idea for our Grotto for the Christmas Party so if anyone has any old white sheets, blankets, tablecloths or towels that you no longer require we would be very grateful for them to help with the decoration of the Grotto, many thanks in advance.

And finally this is the last newsletter before Christmas so we would take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Jo Jo, Eimear, Mandy, Lynsey & Michelle xxx

Pre School News

Hard to believe that the end of 2014 is nearly here, this year has gone very quickly and a busy one it has been too.

Some staff left to start a new career, new staff started, some of our older kids started P1 and we had new boys and girls **join our room!! I'm sure** most of you have met the new members of staff by now to join Victoria and myself (Denise). We have Barry who started a month ago with us and has fitted in very well with everyone in the building and is getting on great with the kids. Then we also have Eileen who is here to do the school pick-ups and also take and collect our older ones to Ballymoney Nursery School. All the kids get on great with

her too and from what I hear the craic in the car is mighty hahahahaha.

I'd like to thank all of you

for taking part in our Autumn Scavenger Hunt.

The kid's were really excited about doing some "Homework" and they loved having their mum and dad's help. The display of stuff looked fab and we took **photo's for you to keep.**

Thanks again for your input in working together on this little project.

The numbers are going up again in our Room so the coat pegs are filling up fast. I appreciate that some children like to bring things from home but as storage is limited and we **don't want to lose or have anything broken** could we ask if size and the amount of things brought in be considered thanks.

We are busy at the minute getting ready for winter and Christmas and will be making lots of treats to take home too. Once we have the room all ready, preparing for the Christmas party is the next big job, so lots of fun in the weeks ahead.

We have 3 Birthdays to mention this time round, so Happy Birthday to Lucas, Cameron and Daniel. Have a great birthday guys!!!

Hopefully we will see you all at our Christmas Party so your children can show you all the things we have been busy making, colouring and painting.

As always if you have anything you want to ask/discuss about your child, Pre-School or anything in general you can speak to us anytime!

Denise, Barry & Victoria xx



After School News

Hello guys;

Well we have just had a great weeks' holidays there doing lots and lots, we had fun playing group games, loom banding and even having a few rounds on the Wii which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and of course a couple of DVD afternoons. It was a great week for the kids to kick back, chill out and relax.

It's crazy to think it's November already, how the year has flown. We are definitely making our way through Autumn and the Afterschool boys and girls have been showing their vast knowledge on the season, writing out their facts for our board! (why not come check it out?!)

Speaking of December and Winter we have been doing a lot of creating and planning for the Christmas themes and Christmas Party (not long now!!) Just wait until you see all the surprises we have in store for you guys. And believe us when we say we are looking forward to the party. Lots of activities, **plenty of food and best of all.....School Holidays!! Yippeeee, a long week off without teachers, homeworks, uniforms and school. What more can the kid's ask for!!**

And of course we all have been on our best behaviour (well most of the time), so we hope a very special visitor will be popping by....have you all started your lists?, we have!!

Oh but not forgetting, Christmas isn't the only special day, we have to give a big Birthday shout out to Colin who will be 7 this month.

That's all from us folks, we hope you're looking forward to coming along and going around with your kiddies at the Christmas Party as much as we are, we'll see you all there :-)

Heather and Team x

Christmas Party
Tuesday 23rd December
3pm - 5.30pm
Come along for some fun & visit Santa in the Grotto

Sandcastles 2015 Closure Dates

New Year's Day Thursday 1st January 2015

St Patricks Day Tuesday 17th March 2015

Good Friday 3rd April 2015

Easter Monday 6th April 2015

Easter Tuesday 7th April 2015

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2015

Monday 13th July — Friday 17th July 2015

Thursday 24th December 2015

Sandcastles Christmas Holidays will be:
Wednesday 24th December 2014
until
Thursday 1st January 2015
Re-Opening Friday 2nd January 2015

