



Sandcastles News

Issue 23

January/February 2015

A note from Cindy

Happy New Year to everyone, here we are in 2015 and what a blustery cold and snowy start to it we've had so far! It was great to see so many Mum's, Dad's, Brother's, Sister's, Granny's, Grandpa's, Aunties and Uncle's all come along with the children to enjoy the Christmas Party. We had a fun filled fantastic afternoon with lots of activities, including making reindeer food, marshmallow snowmen, getting faces painted and lots more, the children seemed to have lots of fun crafting with all their little brown bags filled full.

We've got some lovely pictures of the children with Santa receiving their presents in the Grotto, not to mention how nice it was to see the surprised looks on their little faces when they walked into the Grotto this year to find Olaf and Elsa in our Frozen Themed Grotto. Everyone was excited to see Elsa but they all became a little shy at the thought of speaking to her! The staff in Sandcastles were all extremely busy in the run up to **the Christmas Party and I'm sure you'll agree they did a fantastic job in decorating all their rooms and hallways to make it a special time for your little one's to enjoy, along with lots of Christmas activities and all those beautiful Christmas crafts that they were able to take home for you to treasure.**

They've all been having fun at the start of this New Year already with our snowfall, the children we're so excited to see the snow that after breakfast on went the wellie's, coat's, hat's, scarves and glove's to head out into the playground and garden to have some fun. Pre-School even managed to make a fantastic snowman.

Now the children have started learning about new things for the next Theme so watch out for all the displays **of work and artwork in the coming weeks, it's always fantastic to watch how they progress with each theme and** enjoy looking at their little talented pieces of work. Wishing everyone a Prosperous New Year

Cindy xxx



A note from Nikki & Joanne



Hi everyone, welcome to the first Newsletter of 2015, we would like to say on behalf of ourselves and all the staff thank you so much for all the lovely gifts that were brought into Nursery for everyone during the Christmas period it was very kind and very much appreciated by all.

Well here we are into the New Year and the children have all settled back in well after the Christmas break. We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year, the children were all excited on returning to Nursery after the holidays that Santa had come to their house with toys for them.

It was great to see so many of you able to make it along to the Christmas Party, we had a lovely afternoon and everyone seemed to enjoy all the festivities from the

Food Hall, the arts and crafts and this year our entertaining Photo Booth which everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy having a turn at.

We have had a number of new children start throughout all the different age groups in the last couple of months and settled in extremely well. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome them and their parents into the Sandcastles family and hope that they feel at home with us and have lots of fun making new friends.

Ourselves and the Supervisors are always about should anyone have any queries or questions no matter how big or small.

We will be having our inspection over the next couple of months. On occasions they require parents to fill out questionnaires, therefore some parents may be contacted by our Social Worker and we would be grateful if you could take the time to

fill these forms out and return them if they do so, many thanks in advance.

Over the last week or so the weather **hasn't been exactly that friendly with** some snow and frost. Where possible we put out signs and try to clear the car park, as well as throwing down some grit to try and make the pathways as safe as possible, so please do be careful in the mornings and the evenings. Should anyone require any help in the mornings or **evenings please don't hesitate to ask** a member of staff or ourselves and always remember to ensure the children are safely buckled into their car seats before setting off on your journey home.

Nikki & Joanne

Tiny Tots News

Happy New Year from everyone in Tiny Tots!



Happy Birthday to:

1st

Evie

Robert

2nd

Pixi

Darragh

Charlie

3rd

Max

Reuben

4th

Cameron

Daniel

Hope

Eva

5th

Ava

Ben

7th

Taylor

We would like to give a big welcome to all our new Tiny Tots who have come to join us at Sandcastles we hope you have lots of fun exploring and making new friends over the next few weeks. All the best to Eileen, Katie and Riley who have all moved up to the Toddler Room, we hope you have lots of **fun with your new friends we'll miss you lots.**



All the children were really busy over the Christmas period making lots of Christmas craft and singing Christmas songs. They all seemed to really enjoy painting their feet and hands, sticking and sprinkling the glitter. We hope you all liked their little master pieces.

We took advantage of our one day of snow and got all the children wrapped up in **hat's, coat's and boot's and went outside to explore. The walkers all enjoyed** making footprints, following each others tracks and throwing snowballs. Even those in the buggies had fun exploring the cold feeling of the snow and having a slide in the buggy.

All the children in Year 1 and Year 2 had great fun doing some messy play activities, especially body painting. Body painting allows the children complete freedom to explore painting on a large scale using every part of their body. They have so much fun during this activity both watching their friends and exploring themselves.

Over the next couple of months we will be exploring "Old McDonalds Farm" using this as a basis for new and exciting crafts. We will introduce the children to the different animal sounds and of course we will be singing some songs about animals, lots of fun to be had with this theme, watch out as the boards in the room change, feel free to have a look and see if you can spot your little's ones handy work.

The children are thoroughly enjoying our story and song time at the minute. This is another group activity where the children have time to relax together and enjoy each others company. This helps develop their concentration skills. Year 1 have especially enjoyed doing song time with musical instruments so they can make lots of noise and join in. Year 2 love hearing stories, especially the pop up books, they make lots of noises of all the animals they see and learn new words too!

Happy 1st Birthday to Evie and Robert in January and Happy 2nd Birthday to Pixi, Darragh and Charlie for February, we hope you have fantastic birthday celebrations with all your families.

*Melissa, Andrea, Catherine, Lynsey
& Annie xxx*



Toddler News

As we begin a new year I want to take this opportunity to firstly wish all our families a Happy New Year and secondly thank you for your support in 2014. It flew by so quickly but lots of happy memories were made as we got to interact, teach and watch your children grow physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

We had many new faces join us in Toddlers and many move on to their next stage of learning. Most recently Ethan, Charlie and Robert moved to Pre-School and by the end of January Bella, Adam and Max will be joining Denise upstairs. Each and every one of these children have brought much laughter and joy in aiding their journey throughout toddlers and we now send them to Denise with much love and best wishes.

On the flip side, at the beginning of December Riley, Katie and Eileen joined the Toddler family and even in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of Christmas these three youngest members have really settled into our room well. On behalf of all the staff team in Toddlers I want to welcome their families to Toddlers and trust your time will be an enjoyable one.

As we start 2015 I'm very briefly going to highlight what you can expect from your child's time in Toddlers. The

Toddler room will bring about many changes to your child. By the time they are ready to move on to Pre-School their personality will have grown beyond belief and they will be independent little people ready to tackle anything. They will be able to hold a conversation with you telling you what they got up to at nursery, what they like to eat (and not eat!), what they want to play with and what they want to wear (did you ever believe a two year old could be such a fashionista!). They will be able to feed themselves and dress themselves with a just a little help.



In Toddlers we encourage children to put their own socks and shoes on each day, as well as their coats when we are going outside. Most significantly by the time your child is ready to progress to Pre-School they will be fully toilet trained and free from nappies for good. Toilet training is a very unique experience for each child and it is very much child led. Some children toilet train shortly after turning two while some are nearly three before reaching this milestone. Some take a few days to train while others can take a few weeks. **There is no set time for toilet training so don't worry if your child does not toilet train** as quickly as their siblings or peers. Whenever the time is right we will work along side you to make this transition from nappies to pants as easy and stress free as possible.

I hope this gives you a brief insight into what you can expect while you are in Toddlers. If you have any questions, **qualms or queries please feel free to talk to myself at any time and I will be happy to help so that your child's time** in my room is as enjoyable as possible.

Pre School

Jo Jo, Eimear, Mandy, Lynsey & Michelle xxx

*Happy 2015 everyone! It will be about April before we get used to that and not write 2014!! Looks like it might be a chilly snowy start to the year but it **won't bother us, we will be wrapped up warm and still play out especially in the snow!!***

*As we are in the new year we are kicking off by refreshing a few of our daily routines and adding in some extra things now everything and everyone has settles after Christmas. Circle Time is altering a little and we are doing some new flashcards and name cards. We have lots of new themes, crafts and special days coming up this year, so keep your eyes **peeled for your child's work when it's put up on display***

*for myself, Barry & Victoria we are also starting a few new things in the way of recording a few more pieces of information on your **child's day and what they do.***

*This will help us fill out a personal achievement sheet every 4-5months for your child. These are then put into **your child's "All About Me" books** that we send home when they leave us for school. We keep a few examples of work from each **of the theme's we do to put in their books too** so you can see how they have progressed through the year.*

*We are also working hard to **wards encouraging your child's independence.** This will be by motivating them*

through simple tasks such as putting on their coats and shoes, meal times, putting their belongings on their pegs

and in their boxes and going around nursery to do messages (this is especially for the boys and girls who are heading to P1 in September.) All these are things that you as parents can encourage at home as well so we can help them progress along together.

***Here's to a fun packed year** with lots to look forward too and lets hope for a warm Spring and Sunny Summer.*

Big Happy Birthday wishes to Cameron, Daniel, Eva & Hope celebrate their 4th Birthdays and to Ava who will be 5. Have lots of fun and birthday celebrations.

*Denise, Barry & Victoria
xx*



After School News

Hey guys, Hope you all had a lovely Christmas, it was great to see so many of you at our Christmas Party. **It was a brilliant day with lots of fun activities for the kid's to explore around the nursery.**

Our Afterschool's Room was turned into Elsa's Magical Castle for the day of course with our special visitor Santa giving out gifts and posing for pictures. All the hard work throughout the nursery was worth it with lots of fun being had by everyone, what a great way to end for the holidays.

After a nice break we're back to the New Year with plenty of fun things planned. Afterschool's would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

For January we will be looking at New Year celebrations. When and why they started and how people around the world celebrate New Year. Did you know that some people around the world celebrate New Years on a different day from us how strange is that!!

We're looking forward to finding out and learning lots of new facts about New Year celebrations in other countries, we'll be having fun with lots of different crafts and creating a display on one of the boards in the room so watch out for that and why not take time to look at what we find out you might learn something new as well.

All the boys and girls are working very hard at their homework's in the afternoon's as well as having fun with activities later in the evening and they love relaxing on Friday afternoon with games, craft and the occasional DVD. Don't forget we're always about should you have any queries or questions about anything in Afterschool's so don't hesitate to ask either of us.

Big Birthday shout out to Ben who will be 5 in January and to Taylor who will be 8 in February, have a **fantastic birthday guys and Happy Birthday from all of us in Afterschool's .**

Heather and Team x



Nursery will be closed on the following dates during 2015

St Patricks Day

Tuesday 17th March

Easter Holidays

Good Friday 3rd April

Easter Monday 6th April

Easter Tuesday 7th April

May Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May

July Holidays

Monday 13th July—Friday 17th July (Inclusive)

Christmas Holidays

Thursday 24th Dec—Friday 1st Jan (Inclusive)

Nursery will re-open on Monday 4th January @ 7.45am