



# Sandcastles News

Issue 24

April 2015

## A note from Cindy

Well Easter is here and the children have all been extremely busy creating lots of little masterpieces to take home for mummy's and daddy's. Unfortunately the Spring weather has not got off to a great start for us so the children have been using up lots of their energy in the rooms by playing games, having the cars and slides out and then Toddlers have been doing obstacle courses inside, which they just love.

All the rooms have had a transformation since Christmas with lots of new themes being done for the new seasons, including Nursery Rhymes, All About Me and now Spring. The children thrive on all the topics discussed and it's fantastic to hear how the little one's especially are able to say their days of the week and count to ten so well.

We've bid farewell to a few members of staff since Christmas, it's been great to have had them as part of the Sandcastles Team over the last few years and we now wish them all the best as they set out on a new chapter.

We'd also like to welcome a few new girls to the team and hope they settle well into Sandcastles getting to know the children over the coming weeks.

A warm welcome to all our new children and parents who have started in the last couple of months it's lovely to have you join the Sandcastles Family and we look forward to helping your little one grow, learn and make friends during your time with us.

Hopefully now in the coming months the weather will improve for us and the children will be able to get outdoors a little more and enjoy the garden now Spring is here.

Cindy xxx



## A note from Nikki & Joanne

Hi everyone, As Cindy has mentioned we haven't had the most pleasant start to Spring, however fingers crossed it improves for us in the coming weeks as the children just love to get the use of outdoors come this time of year.

Over the last month we have had our Annual Inspection by Social Services. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire they received and return it to Social Services as part of the Inspection, this plays an important part and we do appreciate the time you have taken to do this for us.

Social Services come out

annually to inspect various areas of Sandcastles, it can be the provision of care we provide, the building itself, the physical environment we provide for the children, our recruitment processes and they can also inspect our paperwork. All in all it's an extremely busy time but an essential part of how Sandcastles continues to function.

We have had a few members of staff decide to take a new direction with their careers, so we would like to wish them all the best in their new ventures in the coming months. This means we will also have a few new faces appearing within Sandcastles in the coming weeks.

All our new staff have now completed the various checks we

require and all hold childcare qualifications. They will be working throughout each of the rooms in the Nursery so we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the team and please don't hesitate to speak to either of us should any one have any questions.

We look forward now to seeing all the lovely Spring art and new themes beginning to be displayed throughout the nursery and watching how much the children love doing all the activities especially Toddler's body painting they just love it!

Nikki & Joanne





# Tiny Tots News

Hi Everyone,

We're all super excited in the Tiny Tot's Room that we are now into Spring, we have been very busy and will continue to be busy doing lots of fun things inside and out now Spring is here.

Happy Birthday to:

1st

Chloe

2nd

Ivy

Joe

Leila

3rd

Molly

Patrick

Conlith

4th

Evie

Rosie

5th

Sarah

6th

Jack

7th

Aislinn

9th

Gabriel

We would like to give a big welcome to our friends Eden, Chloe and Clara who have joined the Tiny Tots Room, we hope you have lots of fun with us.



All the best to Pixi and Darragh who have moved to begin their new adventures in the Toddler Room.

Year 1 & Year 2 Tiny Tots have really enjoyed using the see-saws and the rocking horses. At times we have also enjoyed doing songs such as "See-Saw" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" as the children can rock in the same motion that we are singing.

Year 2 have also enjoyed the mini trampoline as they are able to pull themselves up and bounce. This helps to strengthen their muscles and build on their confidence and also their balance as they stand up to bounce.



Our theme for our craft is Spring and Easter. We are going to be Busy Busy Bee's doing all our craft. Our boards will include



\*Chicks

\* Bee's

\* Rabbits



\* April Showers

\* Rainbows

We will be introducing new resources to use such as pom pom's to paint with and sticking with different materials and paper. These will help the younger children develop their pincer grip and also their fine motor skills. We'll have lots of messy fun together ;-)

Big Happy Birthday Wishes to Chloe who celebrates her 1st Birthday and to Ivy, Joe and Leila who all celebrate their 2nd Birthdays. We hope you all have lovely special birthdays with family and friends.

Keep a watch out now for all the new theme craft going up on the boards over the next few weeks and feel free to have a look and see if you can find your little one's work of art too.



Melissa, Andrea, Catherine, Lynsey

& Annie xxx

# Toddler News



During March, April and May our theme is focusing on the Weather and our boards will soon have some bright and handmade craft reflecting this theme. Two of our favourite songs tying into the weather theme is Mr Sun and I f All The Rain Drops. Why not ask your child to sing these songs to you.

Talking of the weather apparently we are now in spring and the weather is supposedly getting better (although as I write this piece the rain isn't taking time to come down and I am yet to be convinced of warmer weather) I would ask that you would start to send in sun cream and a summer hat that can remain in nursery over the next few months. If you supplied sun cream last year we are unable to use it as we have been advised that sun cream has a shelf life of 12 months.

In toddlers we are very lucky to have a playground literally right outside our back door and we try to get out as much as possible even if it's only for ten or fifteen minutes. Outdoor play has many benefits for a toddler and will not only give them the freedom to release



some energy, but will strengthen their muscles, encourage them to move in new and different ways, help them engage in activities that will enable their hand to eye co-ordination to develop and with the use of our trikes they will learn a new skill of riding a trike using the pedals.



We have recently had to say farewell to Molly who is staying at home with mummy and helping her with their latest addition. We hope to see you soon Molly.

We have also welcomed Darragh, Pixi, Charlie and Joe into toddlers recently and I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome each child and their family into the chaos of our fabulous toddler room. I have to say each one has settled in really well and are already part of the gang.

Happy 3rd Birthday to Molly, Patrick and Connlith, have a fantastic time with friends and family as you celebrate your Special Day.

## Pre School News

Jo Jo & Team xxx

Hi Everyone, The last few months have been very busy and Easter came up on us so quickly this year. I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and went easy on the chocolate!!

Happy Birthday to Evie and Rosie who have both turned a big 4. Hope you girls had a lovely birthday.

We have lots of exciting things to look forward to over the next few months **like....New Themes,** changing our Home Corner, The North West 200, Summer Holidays and much, much more.

All the boys and girls are very settled in Pre-School **now so it's time we start to further your child's independence.** We are trying to encourage them to do simple self-help

tasks such as putting on and off their own coats and shoes, getting a tissue and taking care of their belongings. This can be achieved both here at nursery and with your help at home too, their so proud of themselves when they achieve a small task.

All the children have their own pegs and boxes but space is limited and things can be easily misplaced if very big, so it would be appreciated if any toys, dolls etc that are brought in are small things and not too many please.

As well as encouraging independence we are working very hard on using our manners. Just by encouraging a simple please and thank you and waiting for others to finish talking before they end up talking all at once!! This can be

encouraged at home too and we always give praise for good manners. Lunch time is something we are working at too, we give help and sit with the children to encourage them to eat and chat as a group but we are trying to encourage some of the older ones to eat their own dinner and within a time frame too as this will help when P1 comes round.

It may sound a lot but this time of year is when we start preparing for P1, **although we aren't talking about it too much yet it's good to start work on the basics.**

Thanks for your help and support and working along with us to help your child grow and learn.

Denise, Barry & Victoria  
xx



# After School News

Hey Everyone,

**Well Spring is finally here, and so are the Easter Holidays.... Whoop Whoop!!! How many Easter Eggs have you guys got so far?? We in Afterschool's have been making the most of the days off, even with the bad weather.**



**We have been chilling out with a few treats, it is the holidays after all! We've been busy crafting, creating & baking too nom nom nom. We are having an Easter Egg Hunt, so keep a keen eye out for where they may be and if you find one you can keep the treat for yourself!**

After we come back from a few days off we are changing our theme to PETS! Have you a pet at home? We are going to be talking about what pets we have at home and what we do with them. We will even be talking about what imaginary pets we would like to own and what we would do with those! **I'm thinking a dragon.....then we could have dragon races!!**

**We'd like to give a massive shout out to the Birthday Boys and Birthday Girls, Gabriel (9), Aislinn (7), Jack (6), Sarah (5) so Happy Birthday to all of you, hope you all enjoy your celebrations with friends and family.**



**Well that's all from us folks, you'll be hearing from us soon, feel free to pop in for a visit or when you in have a look at the display boards to see what we've all been learning about and crafting.**



*Heather and Team xx*



Suncream and Hats  
**Weather is hopefully on it's way so please remember in the coming weeks to bring a bottle of Sun-Cream in and a Hat to protect your little one's while outside**



**BANK HOLIDAY**

**Sandcastles  
Will Be Closed  
Monday 4th May**

**B A B Y**

Many Congratulations to all our parents who have recently had new additions to their families

&

Best Wishes to all our expectant parents in the coming weeks