



Issue 25



# Sandcastles News

May/June 2015

## A note from Cindy

During the month of May Sandcastles has celebrated it's 11th year, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for continuing to use Sandcastles for your childcare needs. We've got some wonderful memories from over the years and love to watch how the children grow, learn and become their own little independent person while they are with us. Believe it or not some of the children who started with us all those years ago are now at university!!

We have a good team of staff working in Sandcastles with the children providing them with lot's of fun learning activities and opportunities with all the different theme's they do. We've recently had some new members join us so I'd like to welcome Nicole, Rebecca, Kirby, Valerie and Danielle to the Sandcastles Team. I hope they settle in well and enjoy working alongside our existing staff and getting to know all the boys and girls.

I have heard on the grapevine that we have some boys and girls in Pre-School getting ready to Graduate on to Primary School. I would like to wish you all the very best as you move on to school, we'll miss all those little chatter boxes and smiley faces but we hope you have lots of fun during the summer holidays and enjoy your new adventure at school and don't forget to come back and show us how well you look in your new school uniforms.

Cindy xxx



## A note from Nikki & Joanne

**We're heading towards the end of school term and the children are starting to look forward to the summer holidays. Let's hope the weather starts to improve shortly so there can be a lot more outdoor activities able to be done! There are lots of interesting things happening around Nursery at the minute between Pirate and Mermaid activities, Music Sessions in Tiny Tots, Weather Children in Toddlers and Fantasy Pets in Afterschool's lots of fun and learning all round.**

Some children in Nursery in the last number of weeks have been unfortunate enough to have had conjunctivitis. This is a common childhood ailment that unfortunately is easily picked up between children. Can we just reassure parents

*that there are no problems with children attending nursery whilst they have this ailment but we do advise that it is treated in order that it clears up quickly from the room's. Furthermore should any parent wish to know how their child is doing during the day please don't ever hesitate to ring, and ask to speak to staff so you have peace of mind whilst at work.*

**For Tiny Tot's we've been talking with the Supervisors and staff about ways that we may change the hallway board information for parents, so there may be changes in the next few months but hopefully you'll find it a little more informative for yourselves.**

We are aware that a number of children have received their letters for acceptance into Primary School and Ballymoney Nursery, as some of you know we provide a drop off/collection service to some schools and the Nursery. It would be

*appreciated if those of you who think you may require to use this could you please let us know as soon as possible to enable us to start and organise what is required for the new term.*

*As we are nearing to the end of school terms, this also means that some children in Pre-School will be coming to the end of an era and moving on to school, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best, have lots of fun making new friends and of course not to forget to come back and visit us. Secondly to the parents your children have been a pleasure to look after and we wish them all the best in their new start at school.*

*Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter to find out what's happening and don't forget we're always about should you have any queries or questions.*

Nikki & Joanne



# Tiny Tots News

Hi Everyone,

Firstly can we say a big hello and welcome to Jason who has joined us in the Tiny Tots Room. All the best to Ivy and Leila who have moved on to the Toddler Room, we hope you both have lots of fun and adventures with your new friends.

Happy Birthday to:

1st

Clara Le

Eden

Clara La

2nd

Caitlin

3rd

Matthew

Lily

Erin

4th

James S

5th

James D

6th

Charlotte

Katy

7th

Adam

10th

Samantha

We hope you have all admired our lovely spring themed crafts on display in the room. **Our next theme is "Under The Sea". All of the children will get a chance** to make some interesting sea creatures, using lot of paints, glitter and glue. Messy, sticky fun for everyone.



The children have all enjoyed being able to get outside lately to enjoy the sunshine. Even those not yet on their feet like to get out in the fresh air and have a good look around at all that is going on. Outside play allows the children to run around more freely than indoors and enables them to develop their gross motor **skills as they play around the playground. On recent occasions we've been able** to get out a walk in the buggies and have visited the local park where the children had lots of fun.

As always the children have enjoyed messy play activities. This month we have been digging in the sand, drawing on the ground outside with the chalk and exploring the smells and textures of jelly in the paddling pool!!



We have been using the keyboard to make some lovely music lately. All of the children in both year 1 and 2 seem to really be enjoying listening to the music and showing off their individual dancing skills.

Can we just remind everyone to bring us in a bottle of sun-cream in the coming weeks for summer. Also some Sudo-Crem and Calpol for those sore bottoms and teething pains that occur from time to time in your little ones.

A big Happy Birthday to Clara Ledger, Eden and Clara Lamont who have all turned **a big 1 in May, and to Caitlin who's turning 2 in June. We** hope you all enjoyed celebrating this big milestone with friends and family.



Melissa, Andrea, Catherine, Lynsey, Rebecca

xxx

# Toddler News



June is nearly upon us and although the weather is perhaps not as warm and sunny as we would like, it has been great to be able to get outside more...dodging the showers. Our children really enjoy the outdoors and getting the freedom to run about in our playgrounds and garden. They also enjoy seeing and chatting to Gilbert as he cuts the grass and keeps the grounds clean and tidy. Thanks Gilbert for all your hard work.

We are finishing up our theme on weather and the children are now all budding weather men and women telling us each day what the weather is like. Our next theme over the next few months will focus on the seaside and holidays to tie in with the gorgeous sunny summer we are all going to enjoy in July and August. We will be enjoying creating many different scenes to do with the seaside. Hopefully, we will be creating our own seaside in our room for the children to enjoy. Look out to see our seaside come to life.



Happy birthday wishes go to Matthew, Lily and Erin who will celebrate their 3rd birthdays. A huge welcome also goes out to Ivy and Leila who have joined us from tiny tots. Girls you are very welcome to our room and to their families welcome to the rather crazy, noisy but fun world of toddlers.

Since the last newsletter we have had several toddlers who have successfully made the transition from nappies into pants. I am very, very proud of all these boys and girls as this is a very difficult milestone to master and you have all done extremely well.



If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to talk to me.

## Pre School News

**Ahoy there! I'm sure by now you have all been aware that our theme is *Pirate's & Mermaids* and it certainly is a popular one. We are learning a couple of new songs at the moment so you may hear a mixed up version of them.**

*I hope you all got your invites to our dressing up week, starting Monday 15th June. The dressing up clothes can be left at nursery so we can change into them after break. Costumes for the pirates can be as simple as stripey t-shirt and for mermaids a sparkly dress. Our menu for that week too will also be along with our Pirate/Mermaid theme.*

*We also felt that this fun week would tie in with some of our boys and girls*

*who are leaving us and anyone who will cut down over the summer holidays. We have 11 children for P1 this year so we wish them all the best of luck and a sad goodbye to Annie, Hope, Lucas, Rosie, Evie, Eva, Callum, Ben, Tomas, Cameron and James.*

*The next few weeks will be **busy getting photo's, certificates and all our bits and bob's finished up!!***

*Part of our daily routine is about having structured play sessions. This is where the children are encouraged to find an activity or toy and play for 10 minutes or so. With the older boys and girls this is good to help them prepare for school.*

*We also increase the amount of time we spend on circle **time to help your child's concentration.** You can help do this at home too be simple*

*things such as giving your child a book to read before meals or encouraging them to play with a toy/activity for a little longer.*

*Another wee note about **the summer....Here's hoping we get one!!** We have got new water bottles for all the children so on **hot days we won't get thirsty,** some people have already left in sun-cream for their children so just incase we get some nice hot days can everyone else please remember a bottle of sun-cream please.*

*There have been a few new staff in nursery but the main people in Pre-School are still myself, Barry and Victoria. As always if you need to speak to any of us we are always here.*

*Denise, Barry & Victoria  
xx*

*Jo Jo, Barry, Lynsey, Mandy, Eimear xxx*



# After School News

Hey Guys,

Well we are near the end of May and would you believe it's only 4 and a half weeks until the end of school. Whoooooohoooo!!

We in Afterschool's are looking forward to a couple of months off, No School, No Uniform, and best of all No Homeworks!! We had a great week off at Easter when we created our own hospital in the room. A & E and Triage included our doctors were definitely kept busy with all their patients, but I'm happy to report everyone made a full recovery! Check out some of the photo's. We also got out on a trip or two to the forest and the park, so we are definitely looking forward to more in the summer and plenty of FUN!!!



Have you come and checked out our pets this month? We have all been exchanging stories about our pet and how we play with them, plus we have been discussing what our Fantasy Pet would be could we choose ANYTHING!! Our board is full of PEGAUS', UNICORNS, RAINBOW SNAKES, DRAGONS and even a DINOSAUR or two, you name it, we have it (well pretending anyways)



And while we are all counting down the days to summer, we can't forget a few important days before then. We'd like to give a big Happy Birthday shout out to Charlotte (6), Katy (6), James (5), Samantha (10), Adam (7). We hope you all have fantastic birthday's with friends and family.

Well that's it from us guys, but you'll be hearing from us again soon enough and we'll keep you updated on all our summer plans!!



See you all later

*Heather, Emma & Eileen 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**

