



Sandcastles News

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A note from Cindy

Summer time has finally arrived for us all, the lovely weather we've had recently has been fantastic. The staff have been able to take the children outdoors and enjoy the playground and garden area's, all the activities normally done indoors have been taken outside for the children. So as well as having the bicycles and scooters out to play on, they have also enjoyed story time and book corners on the blankets, toys on the picnic tables, the painting easels and their absolute favourite the chalk. The playground always gets beautifully decorated when the chalk comes out as I'm sure you've noticed at pick up times in the evenings.

One of the other activities which has been very popular on the sunny days is the paddling pool, where all the age groups have taken it in turns to be outside enjoying the water play. If you watch the TV screen in the foyer I'm sure you'll soon be seeing lots of pictures of the children enjoying the outdoors.

We hope everyone has had a lovely break over the July closure we take I know the girls within each of the rooms were looking forward to a nice holiday week to relax. I'm sure you'll agree with me when I say they deserved a lovely break with the amount of work they put in throughout the year to keep their rooms running on a daily basis. Providing the children with a safe and secure environment to enjoy all their daily activities takes a lot of team effort and work behind the scenes and I have to say we are lucky to have a great team of staff who carry this out together.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to the new children and their families who have started Sandcastles in the last number of weeks, Tiny Tots have had some new babies, Pre-School have some new friends and Afterschools have some friends back to visit for the summer holidays, we hope everyone settles well, has lots of fun and welcome to the Sandcastles family.

Cindy xxx

A note from Nikki & Joanne

Welcome back to everyone after the summer break, the staff have been making the most of the lovely days we've been having before the holidays and since we came back to get the children outside in the good weather. Not to mention a few walks to Megaw Park as well when they can.

Could we please remind parents to bring in a bottle of sun-cream for the remainder of the summer, we have a bottle of spare sun-cream in Nursery however we have a number of children with sensitive skin and we find it is better for each child to have their own sun-cream brought in from home so skin irritation is not caused.

We were really pleased May from Cool For School Photography came back this year to take the children's photographs I'm sure you'll agree they were lovely. Sandcastles got a new group staff photograph done which is

now up in the hallway on the way to Afterschool's. Watch out for the staff photo board outside the office which is going to be updated in the coming weeks too. Our Parent information Board across from the office will be being updated as well in the next month, where holidays, room information, policies and other relevant information can be found.

We would like to inform all our parents that our Designated Child Protection Officers for Sandcastles Day Nursery are Nikki Stubbs-Carton and Joanne Davidson. All our staff have recently attended courses and renewed their child protection certificates and fire training.

All our new staff members have settled well into Sandcastles working throughout the different rooms and the children have taken really well to everyone as they have been gradually introduced into the rooms.

Afterschool's had a lot of excitement to start the summer off as Norman from Coleraine Pet Shop came along to help with their

Pet Theme. He brought along his Parrot Alfie who was a big hit with everyone, not to mention some other friends but we'll let you read about that in our Afterschool's section to find out who else visited that day.

All the staff, children, Cindy and ourselves would like to wish Catherine in the Tiny Tot's Room all the best as she finishes with us for a few weeks to get married to Jordan on Thursday 30th July.

Also from our Tiny Tots Room Andrea will be heading off on Maternity Leave at the end of August, we wish her and Alan all the best as they wait the arrival of their new addition.

Tiny Tot's are having a busy couple of months with staff events lot's of excitement for the summer!!

Nikki & Joanne

Tiny Tots News

Hi Everyone,

We would like to welcome Rafe, Zara, Jason, James, Georgia and Oscar to Tiny Tot's, I'm sure we will all have great fun getting to know each other and make new friends while learning and exploring new things around us.

Happy Birthday to:

1st

Jason

2nd

Cara

Nicole

3rd

Maria

Callum

Ellie

Sarah Cr

4th

7th

Isaac

8th

Addi

10th

Caitlin

What did you all think of our Under the Sea Craft? Didn't the children make some lovely creatures and displays that we're bright and colourful. We all had great fun getting our hands and feet painted and also doing lots of messing decorating with the glitter!! Our next theme is 'Around The World' I'm sure we will have great fun exploring the different countries. Watch out for the boards changing in the coming weeks and what we've been doing with the children.



The children have all loved getting outside in the sunny weather over the last few weeks. We've loved our trips down the garden. The older children especially love getting on the slide and using the ride on cars, which helps them develop their leg muscles and co-ordination skills. The younger children who are not yet up on their feet love crawling about and exploring all the different textures that being outside brings, helping to develop their senses.

When we're inside the children love playing with the blow-up beach balls, the ride on cars, the sensory baskets and balls. Our younger babies absolutely love our door bouncing Tigger, helping to strengthen up those little legs as they bounce away.

Our sensory baskets are a great way for the children to explore, learning different textures, shapes, sizes, experiencing working together and sharing. The sensory baskets have a mixture of different items in them which are easy for you at home to make as well and the children love them.

One of our Sensory baskets has kitchen items, small pans, whisks, wooden spoons, colanders and spoons. Another basket has bath sponges, toothbrushes, bottle brushes, glove dusters, microfibre clothes, textured balls, tennis balls, light up balls. It can also include musical instruments, all creating different sensory experiences for the children.



We've been able to have the paddling pools out recently too and the children both young and older age groups love splashing and making bubbles in the water. Can we remind everyone to bring some sun-cream and a sun hat along to Nursery as we love to get outside to play in the sun.

Happy Birthday to Jason who will turn a Big 1 in July and to Cara and Nicole who will be 2 throughout July and August. Happy Birthday everyone have fun celebrating with your friends and families.

Melissa, Andrea, Catherine, Lynsey, Rebecca, Nicole & Kirby

xxx



Toddler News

The summer has finally reached Ballymoney and we have been enjoying the glorious weather by getting outside and filling our lungs with good old Ballymoney air. The children have really enjoyed the freedom of getting outside and exploring the great outdoors. We are very blessed to have such a wide outdoor space that all age groups can get out and mingle together. This allows children to interact with children of different ages and abilities and therefore aids their social development.

Children often learn by imitation and interacting with pre-school children lets toddlers watch and learn new skills such as peddling on a tricycle or using the scooter. Being outside allows the children to release energy, use their muscles in new and dynamic ways and build confidence and self-esteem.

We have been very fortunate that the weather has been warm enough to use the sprinklers and paddling pool which the children have absolutely loved. Photos to follow soon in the hallway! If at all possible can a swimsuit/trunks be left in nursery to use over the next few months when hopefully we will be using the pools more to keep cool.

Over the summer months the numbers in the room can fluctuate slightly as people go on summer breaks or have little family days. If you know that your child will not be attending nursery on a certain day or week could you please let me know by phoning that day before 10.30am or leaving a message with the girls the evening before so that we can facilitate planning and/or ordering lunches.

Sun-cream and hats will be stored in nursery for use during the summer, however please do not hesitate to ask for it if you require it for home over the weekends or holiday days.

Happy birthday to Maria who turned 3 recently, and to Callum, Ellie and Sarah Croxford who will be celebrating their 3rd birthdays over the summer months. We hope everyone has a fun filled birthday and enjoys celebrating

Jo Jo, Barry, Lynsey, Mandy, Eimear, Valerie, Danielle xxx

Pre School News

The Summer is here and we are all feeling refreshed after our week off hope you all had a lovely break. So far the weather has been good to us and we have used our sun-cream a few times. If you haven't left any in yet it would be appreciated if you could so we have a bottle for everyone in Pre-School.

Your child's name is put on it and we can keep it at nursery or send it home if you need it. While the weather has been so lovely we have also had our water bottles in use again and we try to encourage your child to drink as much as they can through the day.

Some of the coat pegs have moved as we have a couple of our boys and girls that have finished for the summer and they might move again.....sorry!!!

Over the Summer we will say Good-bye to some of our friends as they get ready to move on to P1. Lucas, Rosie, Ben, Eva, Tomas, Cameron, Hope, Calum, Evie, Annie, James and John we wish you all the luck with your big new adventure. Don't forget to call back with us to show us how well you all look in your new school uniforms.

As we say good bye we also say Hello to a couple of new boys and girls starting Sandcastles and some children moving up from the Toddler Room. Welcome to John, Josh, Zach, Cerys, Patrick, here's to lots of fun and learning with our new friends.

The Summer is pretty chilled out in our room, playing out, water fights, paddling pool, ice pops on hot days, fun in the garden making the most of our sunny days. At times we take our toys all outside to play with or out come the scooters and bicycles.

We still do lots of arts and crafts and our next theme is....Dinosaurs, so watch out on the boards in the room and the hall walls to see what we're going to be making, colouring and learning about.

We also do our daily learning activities at circle time saying our days of the week, months of the year, counting, colours and having our favourite stories read to us.

We have re-invented the home corner again after the pirate boat which the children love, we've put up wall paper, have a fridge, cooker, sink, washing machine, microwave and store cupboards which the children absolutely love to play with daily making the dinner and washing the clothes and playing house.

Denise, Barry & Victoria



After School News

Hey folks,

Well the summer is finally here and we in Afterschools are very glad to see it. We have been spending loads of time down the garden playing all sorts of games from tig, stuck in the mud to frisbee and rounder's.

Our theme this summer is "Summer and Fun" so we are trying to pack our summer full of activities including making rock candy, bouncy balls, launching space rockets into space and baking plenty of treats to keep us fueled.

We'd like to welcome a few familiar faces back for the summer, Esther, Rachel, Ethan, Elsa, and Nico. We'd also like to give a hearty welcome to Thomas into our ranks and hope you have lots of fun with us. We also have to say good-bye to Ross, we hope you pop in soon for a visit!

We've kicked off the summer with a very special visitor Norman from Coleraine Pet Shop who brought some very interesting pets to see us, which brought our pets theme to an end. We seen a tortoise, a milk snake, a bearded dragon to name a few everyone was mesmerized and thoroughly enjoyed it. We have brought back loom bands with a bang, busy looming away on the days we have to stay inside. We have also been learning how to make friendship bracelets so come and check them out.

Like I say we have loads of activities planned and if you want to help us out, we are in need of jam jars, corks and plastic bottles. If you have any about at home that are not in use we would appreciate them and be able to put them to good use.

As if the summer isn't call enough for celebration we have some birthday's to give a shout out too!!
Happy Birthday to Isaac (7), Addi (8) and Caitlin (10) Have a fantastic birthday guys and have fun celebrating.

Well that's all from us folks. Keep checking in to hear all of our latest tales and what we're getting up too.

See you all later

Heather, Emma & Eileen xx



*Wishing Catherine and Jordon
all the best for their wedding and
the beginning of their
married life together*



*Wishing Andrea and Alan
every blessing as they
await their new arrival.*