



Sandcastles News

Issue 3

Summer 2011

Although the weather did not exactly stay sunny for us, everyone who participated in Hats and Shades Day 2011 on Wednesday 8th June had a really fun day. Children made lots of different summer related crafts and learnt the importance of wearing their hats and glasses in the SUN!!

An amazing total of £427.50 was raised and on behalf of Sandcastles and Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children thank you



For those families who have been at Sandcastles for over one year with the month June usually comes a letter addressing fees. I want to take this opportunity to inform parents that due to the uncertainty of the economy I am freezing our fees at the current rate. I fully understand that at present the financial climate is volatile and we appreciate you the parents for still using Sandcastles as your child care provider. While I have decided to freeze fees I want to reassure parents that this will not compromise on the quality of child care

you have come to expect from Sandcastles and we as a team continue to appreciate the privilege it is to care for your children.

On 24th May 2011 we celebrated our 7th anniversary with a bbq for all our staff and their families. It was a lovely informal evening where everyone got the chance to relax and chat and for those of us here from the start reminisce about the early days. I still find it difficult to believe that it has been seven years since we opened our doors.

Lots of exciting events have been happening in Sandcastles lately and it is lovely to have guest speakers and visitors in. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our special events.

Our Afterschool children are enjoying been mini Alan Titchmarsh's and our garden is looking really well. Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated plants for our garden project.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our families a truly Happy, restful Summer break full of sunshine and good memories.

Cindy x

From Nikki and Joanne

While writing this newsletter and looking out the window the **weather doesn't exactly** convince either of us that the summer is finally here. This is not to say that the children of Sandcastles are not taking advantage of the few and far between sunny days enjoying picnics and getting wet with our turtle sprinkler. Thank you for providing sun cream and we live in the hope that with more

sunny days over the coming months we will get to use it!!

We would like to thank everyone who so generously donated money to our hats and shades day, it was a great success and the children all enjoyed making hats and glasses.

We would also like to thank you the parents for your understanding when we had to

close the car park due to maintenance.

We also had fun holding a teddy bears picnic which was a great success and it was nice **to see everyone's favourite** teddy.

Finally we want to wish all our families a happy, SUNNY and safe Summer break.

Nikki and Joanne x





Happy Birthday to:

1st

Sarah, Lucy,
Faith, Zack,
Shannon, Toby

2nd

Aaron, Zachary,
Katie-Ellen

3rd

Adam F, Eoin

4th

Cameron, Andrew

5th

Con, Ethan

7th

Lachlan



Hello from the baby room. Can I take this chance to say a massive welcome to Toby, Shannon, Sarah and Calum to Sandcastles and indeed to our room. You are very welcome and already you have all settled in well to our wee family.

Our theme for the next couple of months is going to be Summer. It is nice to introduce painting and craft activities at a young age and we can see the benefits for the children. Although at first many of the children find it a little weird (their

Baby Room News

little faces say it all) they soon get to like it **and like 'creating' a mess** when painting.



This is a good one to one activity and gives us a special time to spend with each child. It also allows the children to experience different textures, allows

them to enhance their hand to eye co-ordination and ultimately gives them new experiences!!

We have noticed our favourite toys at the moment is our musical instruments. All the children enjoy making music and these type of toys **develops children's hand to eye** co-ordination, concentration span, grasping technique, muscle control, sharing and communicating techniques. All that from shaking a maracas!!!

Melissa x



Young Toddler News

these little ones or should I say big ones are getting on really well.

singing songs, and creating different animals and creatures.

Our favourite toys at the moment seem to be our trikes and bikes.



The boys and girls love to zoom around chasing each

other and is a great way to encourage social interaction, sharing, participation in physical activities which strengthens their muscles and the children learn to gain more control over their movement.

We also enjoyed our hats and shades day and our teddy bears picnic!! It was really good fun.

Alison x



Hi everyone we have been very busy in young toddlers lately and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Katie-Ellen to Sandcastles, Katie you have settled in well and have made lots of new friends. Also getting on well in our room is Naoise, Elsa, Mya and Olivia who have moved down from the baby room and while they are missing Emma, Mandy and Melissa they have all settled into our room and are making lots of new friends.

We have been very busy completing our nursery rhyme theme using many different materials to create our masterpieces which are displayed on our boards. The children especially love incy wincy Spider and if we put on the cd which plays the song the children all get to their feet and move and bop!! Its very cute to watch!!



But we are now moving on to our new theme of UNDER THE SEA. We have several Pop up story books about this theme and since the children really enjoy listening to these we thought they would also enjoy

Sadly Lee, Charlotte, Caitlyn, Oliver, Zac Scott and Katy have all left us to the bigger brighter lights of Toddlers. We are in and out **of Clare's room all day and**



Sandcastles prides itself on upholding its confidentiality policy at all times both during and outside nursery hours.

It is important for staff to maintain a professional childcare ethos and therefore we have urged staff to think twice before fostering online friendships with parents through social networking sties such as facebook.

We would ask that parents do not put our staff in a compromising position by requesting them as Friends and are not offended if staff do **not 'befriend' them.**



Toddler News



Hello from toddlers. What a busy couple of months we have had so lets get started and fill everyone in on the going-ons of toddler room. Firstly can we wish Hannah G a speedy recovery and hope she is back working in our room very soon. I know she is really missing all the children and all the craic!!!

Can I officially welcome Zac, Charlotte, Katy, Lee, Scott, Caitlyn, Oliver and Adam into our room, guys you are all very welcome and have settled



We have 12 boys and girls graduating from Pre-School and heading off on the next journey to Primary School. Good luck Alfie, Con, Heidi, Izzy, Zoe, Niamh, Niall, Jack, Taylor, Grace, Erin, and Ethan. It has been a real pleasure and privilege to be part of your early years education.



into our room so well. Well done goes to Adam F, Oliver, Noah, Emma, Annie, Lucas, Zac and Jamie who have master toileting!!!! This is always a major achievement in our room so well done to everyone!!!!

We have really enjoyed our theme over the last two months and we have learnt a lot about travelling and the modes of transport we can use. The children all loved doing this and especially

The summer has kind of **arrived and although we've** had some rainy days there has been the odd bit of sunshine between so, if you could ensure your child has their suncream and sun hat in we live in the hope that July and August will bring a heat wave. When the **weather is great it's great** to get out the sandals and **flip flops but they aren't** always the best for outdoor play so a pair of trainers in their bag would be appreciated.

Our last theme theme for May and June was about food, North West 200 and Fathers Day. I hope everyone liked their Fathers Day gifts and had a relaxing day.



loved the messy art activities. We also enjoy getting out in our own transport —our bikes and scooters. These are always good fun and we hope the good weather comes soon so we can use them lots outside (though we have been known to bring them inside).

We love to get messy in toddlers and we have enjoyed body painting, I do apologise if I have sent your children home looking like mini umpa lumpas!!
Clare x

Sandcastles will close on Friday 8th July @ 6pm
We will re-open on Monday 18th July @ 7.45am
We want to wish all our families a happy Summer break



Pre School News

For the North West we had visitor's in who take part in motor bike racing. Thank you to James and Mal for bringing in a bike, helmet and gloves. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and have been talking about it since, so I do apologise if I have given them the biker bug.

Our boards have been all **about food and we've been** trying a range of breads, fruits and vegetables for our meals and snacks. We also made fruit smoothies and milk shakes which were a big hit!!!

Our next big theme is in July and August which will be about OUR BODIES and we will also be discussing starting school with the

children who are off to P1 and 'big' nursery school!

This time of year also means some of our boys and girls are going to leave us to begin primary school in September. We will miss you loads but wish all 12 best of luck and fun in P1. Come back and visit us we would love to see you all in your uniforms in September and hear all about your classroom. Good luck to Con, Niamh, Jack, Niall, Heidi, Zoe, Erin, Taylor, Izzy, Alfie, Grace and Ethan.

Happy birthday wishes also go out to everyone celebrating over the next couple of months. Hope you have fun on your big day!!

Denise x

After School News

Hey guys! Well it's been a very busy time for us.

We have been very busy doing all sorts of gardening, including making vegetable beds, building green houses and all sorts of planting. Can I say a massive thank you to everyone who donated plants.

Everything survived the storms and I can report everything is growing well.

Our vegetables include potatoes, lettuces, cabbages, peas and various herbs and in our green house are all different types of flowers. We have **had great fun planting them and now we can't wait to try eating them.**

We have also been on trips to our local library and we are keeping up our recycling by taking all our rubbish to the recycling plant.

But first Summer is fast approaching and school is nearly over for another year and we are already busy planning a fun packed summer full of games, crafts and activities.

Heather x

SAVE THE DATE

Our photographs taken by cool for schools turned out so good that we will be offering a special family sitting night on Monday 21st November.

A small fee is paid for the sitting and Jude will take your family photos in the comfort of nursery surroundings.

More details and information leaflets will follow later in the year.



A perfect gift for Christmas!!



Hats and Shades Day 2011

