



# Sandcastles News

## *A note from Cindy*

Over the summer months children and staff at Sandcastles have been very busy.

Learning about the world and environment around them is an extremely important area of development for children and one we enhance through interactive activities here at Sandcastles. Our garden project has been a great success with the children in after schools producing broad beans and potatoes which the

whole nursery enjoyed tasting as part of their lunch. In spite of the wet summer they even grew nasturtiums and sunflowers. Hopefully next year our garden will be bigger and better.

I was also very excited to hear about the butterflies which pre-school watched develop from caterpillars and then released into our garden

We have held several parties over the past few months and I have come to the conclusion that staff enjoy dressing up

as much as the children!!

It has been a brilliant summer, batteries have been re charged and now we are surging towards an awesome Autumn programme. Cindy x



## *From Nikki*

As some of you may be aware our manager Joanne Davidson is returning to work with myself in the office. I am sure you will all welcome her back and for those of you who have not met her I shall try to introduce her to everyone. On the same note Joanne Hall who has been my managerial partner over the last year and a half will resume her role as Toddler room Supervisor. I

would like to Thank Joanne for all her hard work and dedication, she has helped me in introducing a few changes within the office and nursery as a whole and I know I will miss her I.T. skills greatly. I hope she will take all the experiences she has gained from working in the office as positive and use them in later life.

As well as managerial changes during the next few months you will see other staff return from maternity leave as well as our cook leaving us to pursue another career. Lynn will be back in early October and takes on the role of Young Toddler supervisor and Lynsey Elliott returns to us as Nursery Assistant. In the kitchen, Angela will be leaving to look

after disadvantaged children and therefore Lynsey Scott has agreed to become our cook (I have tasted her cooking on several occasions and it is yummy).

I know this seems like a lot but it has all been arranged to cause as minimal disruption to the children and staff alike.

We look forward to the Autumn term and the changes it will bring with it.

Nikki xx

## *From Joanne (aka Jo Jo)*

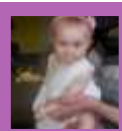
It is difficult to believe that the summer has come and gone again and we are heading into the autumn months. I have to admit I do love autumn; the colour of the leaves changing and the crisp windy days when you can wrap up with your scarf tightly tucked around your neck always is enjoyable. Autumn is undoubtedly a time of change and at Sandcastles over the incoming weeks several changes will be occurring.

As Joanne Davidson resumes her managerial position from extended maternity leave in early September I will be returning to my role as supervisor of the toddler room.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the parents for your support during my time as deputy manager. I **have gained so much from being 'behind the scenes' in the office but I am really looking forward to returning to the**

**'front line' and being hands on with the** children once more. At this time I would also like to thank all members of staff for their support and understanding during this time and hope I haven't been too difficult to work with!!! 😊

Jo Jo x



# Baby Room News



Happy Birthday to:

1st

Calum, RJ, Alfie

2nd

Kaska, Kimberley,  
Annie, Katie,  
Rosabelle,  
Caroline, Matthew

3rd

Chloe, Jack

4th

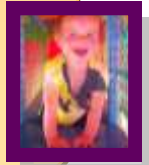
Jamie, Lucy,  
Rachel

5th

Alfie

6th

Caitlin, Tyler



Hello everyone, in young toddlers we have been very busy. We would like to welcome Faith and Sarah from the baby room and Emma who is joining Sandcastles for the first time. All three girls have settled in well to our wee room. Lucas, Alexa, Zak and Aaron have reached the age of 2 and are now in Toddlers. It was a pleasure watching you all grow during your time in young toddlers.



We have loved getting outside (inbetween the showers) and getting lots of fresh air and running about avoiding the wasps!!

Our theme for craft at the minute is based on Disney. Always a popular topic, Mickey and gang can be spotted all

We would like to begin by formally welcoming Hope, Ava, RJ, Ethan, Alfie and Lucas to our room.

Congratulations goes to Faith and Sarah who have taken the big step into young toddler-hood and are ready to learn, grow and explore with all their new friends. I have been down to see them and they are having a blast!!

Over the summer months we had been looking at holidays and all the children loved painting with their hands and feet. They also really

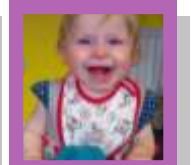
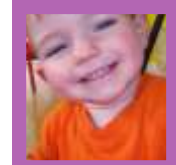
enjoyed all the water play and especially getting us soaked!! Lol

The pirate and princess party was great fun though im not sure what the children thought of Mandy and me dressed up!!

With more and more of our little ones pulling themselves up onto their feet our new favourite toys are the fifi ball pool and the mini slide. These pieces of equipment have many benefits including strengthening muscles,

help co-ordination, gain control over movement, balance

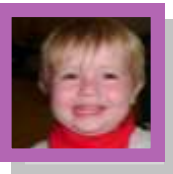
control and grasping and holding. Even at this young age it also helps social development as the children all play together and begins to give them an understanding of taking turns!! Melissa x



## Young Toddler News

over our room on the boards. Our craft activities have included hand and foot prints, colouring in with crayons and painting bright and colourful pictures. All the children really enjoy craft activities; it gives them freedom to express how they are feeling, and develops their pincer grip and hand to eye co-ordination. Really it is a chance to get messy while having fun!!!!

We have noticed that when our children see the musical instrument box they get very excited!! They have become our favourite toys while music



produced may not sound altogether harmonious the smiles and excitement on the **children's face says its all!!!**

During circle time we have been introducing different

types of flashcards. The Children all enjoy looking at the pictures and shouting out the different names and sounds of the animals or objects.

At the beginning of October Lynn will be resuming her role as supervisor and I just want to say a massive thank you to all the parents who have supported me during my time as supervisor. I have loved every second of leading the **young toddler room but don't worry I'm not going anywhere**

I will be staying as nursery assistant to help Lynn with all the young toddlers.

On a sad note we must bid good bye to Michelle as she heads for pastures new.

Michelle you have been a great support in Young toddlers and staff and children alike will miss her.

Alison xx



Wishing Emma and Willie all the best as they await the arrival of their little one!!





# Toddler News



Hello from the toddler room.

Firstly we want to say goodbye to Isaac, Adam S, Adam F, Annie and Jamie Mc who have all moved on to pre-school. Thanks for the memories guys. Hello also goes to Zak, Alexa, Lucas B and Aaron who have all joined us from young toddlers. You are very welcome to our noisy room!!!

Annie and Eimear showed the children how to make coconut cookies which the children loved helping with. Weighing out flour and sugar and rolling out and cutting out the

cookies. However the best part was definitely the eating of the cookies!!!!

We love being outside on the bikes and tricycles and playing with balls and hula hoops though much of the time is spent trying to get the balls from next doors garden.

As a special treat during the summer we went to Coffee Capital for milk and pancakes.

Cromore Castles were very kind and gave us use of their play trailer. Everyone

thoroughly enjoyed this and we got some lovely photos from the day.

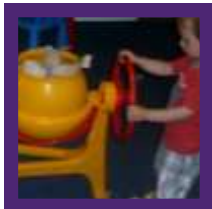
From September 12th Jo Jo will be returning to toddlers as supervisor and I will be stepping into my nursery assistant position once more.

Thank you for all your support over the past 9 months.

Clare x



**We will be holding a Disney Party at mid term in October Nursery will be transformed & all children can come dressed as a disney character or bring a disney teddy More details to follow**



# Pre School News

To Denise and James  
Wishing you all the best on your Wedding Day



In pre-school we have had many changes over the summer. Several of our boys and girls have gone to school. Many have come back to visit in their uniform and its amazing how much more grown up they look in shirts and ties.

New faces joining Pre-School are Adam F, Adam Sc, Isaac, Annie and Addi. Guys you are all welcome into our room and I hope you enjoy your time with us.

One of the most exciting things we did over the summer occurred when Postman Joe delivered a small box inside of which was a container with five tiny caterpillars. We the children learnt about the lifecycle of a butterfly and

watch them transform before releasing them into our garden. This activity was thoroughly enjoyed by all pre-schoolers including staff!!

In pre-school we aim to make children independent for when they go take the next step to school. We build self esteem and confidence through games and play and encourage social interaction with their peers. We also discuss important topics during circle time and learn the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, months of the year and different types of weather!!! (Granted its mostly about rain)

We have recently started a new theme about our five

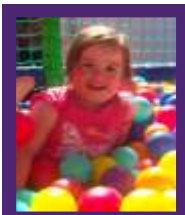
senses which already is turning out to be good fun.

The children are busy investigating how our senses work and Lesley Anne has already got the children participating in making our very own scented garden which can be found under our window in the room.

We are looking forward to the next few months

Denise x

Michelle has had a beautiful baby girl named Leah Michelle. Both are doing well



# After School News

Hey Everyone!! Well what a busy summer it has been. We had several children join us for the holidays, to Ben, Josh, Samantha, Lachlan and Esther it was a blast having you join us and take part in all the activities over July and August.

During the summer we spent the sunny days outside in the garden, grew our own veg, took trips to the park and library and coffee shop and a Pirates Picnic Adventure at Leslie Hill Farm. When we were in the room our theme was based on Around the World. We learnt all about the different continents and the children all loved learning about different countries. We even contacted Jackie in Australia who kindly sent us a package from Australia filled with flags, balloons and pictures. We finished the summer with an Around the world party and I have to say everyone dressed for the occasion. We tried food from all around the world including lamingtons, beef jerky, spring rolls, samosas, and pretzels.

Now we have started back to School we have had to say farewell to Ben, Josh, Samantha and Esther in the meantime but we welcome Taylor, Ethan, Leah, Erin, Alfie and Samantha D who are all joining us for the first time.

Heather xx



## 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!!

