



Sandcastles News

Issue 6

Winter 2012

A Note From Cindy

Well welcome back to everyone after **the Christmas break, isn't it hard to believe** we are in February already, my how time flies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our **Christmas party, I'm sure you'll agree with me when I say the children's singing was brilliant and everyone had a great time, especially meeting Santa Claus in the Grotto. Can't wait to do it all again this year.**

I would like to welcome to the Sandcastles Team, Jenny, Victoria, Emma, Rebecca and Ashleigh who have recently come to work for us since the new year, they have all settled well into Nursery routine and the children

have really taken to them all in their rooms.

The children have all been busy this last month with new themes and the artwork round the nursery looks great such budding little artists we have in our midst and I hope everyone enjoyed receiving their special Valentines gifts, specially made for you, by your little ones.

I've seen the Pre-School children have been busy looking after the little birds outside since we came back from **the holidays. They've been making** bird feeders and have been keeping an eye on them in the trees from their room upstairs and keeping check when

out in the playground at playtime, they are all so excited that so many birds have been eating the seeds they put out for them.

We look forward to 1st March which brings us World Book Day, please keep an eye out with each of the rooms as to what stories and activities will be happening around this time.

As we soar towards our third month of 2012 I would like to take this opportunity to personally wish all our Sandcastle families a belated but truly blessed 2012.

May this year bring much joy and happiness to all of you.

Cindy
xxx



From Nikki & Joanne

We'd like to start by saying a huge thank to everyone for coming to the Christmas sing-a-long that the children put on for you all at the end of December, we had mums and dads, aunts and uncles, **gran-ny's and grandad's, I'm sure you'll agree that they all did incredibly well remembering all their words and songs for you.** And the excitement of Santa coming along to with presents for them all.

Can we also wish everyone a very **Happy New Year and just can't** believe that we are into February already with spring on the way.

As you may have noticed recently there are a few new faces about the building in most of our rooms. We have now completed all our interviews and police checks on new staff in order to cover girls who are off on maternity leave or away visiting the rest of the world over the next few months.

We hope you will come to know these members of staff the same as you all know Clare, Hannah, Lesley-Anne, Emma and our other girls within Sandcastles.

The new members of staff have all been in for a few weeks now and we hope you will forgive them if they do not know all the names and faces just yet but they will over time, the children have all given them a warm introduction to **Sandcastles and we'd like to give** them a warm welcome to our team.

As well as this unfortunately we have had a lot of common illnesses within the building since returning from the holidays mainly thanks to our cold miserable weather so would appreciate it if parents could refresh themselves with our infection control policy so as to eliminate the continual cycle of unwell kiddies. As a reassurance for all our parents the girls in each of the rooms have been in overdrive in

recent weeks with extra special cuddles for all the kiddies especially those who have been feeling a little under the weather.

On a brighter note we have watched all the children enjoying getting stuck into lots of different craft activities as they make things for there new themes which are being displayed on all the boards in **each room, so don't forget to look** at all their hard work and admire the bright colourful things they have all been making.

We have included a summary of the holidays for the coming year for everyone at the end of this **newsletter for your reference and don't** forget should you have any queries about anything just speak with either of us at any time. Enjoy reading through the rest of the newsletter to find out what all the children are up to for the next few months.

Nikki & Joanne xx

Baby Room News



Happy Birthday to:

1st

Hope, Eva, Annie,
Eion

2nd

Mollie, Elsa, Olivia,
Alex, Naoise, Emma

3rd

Caitlin, Harley, Oli-
ver, Austin,

4th

Evie

5th

Taylor,

6th

Rossanna,

9th

Matthew



Hi everyone we would like to say a huge warm welcome to James, Joe, Annie & Eoin who have come to join us in the baby room. We hope you have lots of fun with us in the coming months.

This month you will see our boards have changed and the **baby's have been incredibly busy painting for craft, why not stop and have a look at our boards around and outside the room where you'll see we're off to the Zoo, have a look at the Gorillas, Penguins, Elephants (we will be singing**

Nelly the elephant), Giraffes, Tigers and especially our Seals with our special birthdays on them.

We'd like to say Happy 1st Birthday to Annie & Eoin in January and then to Hope & Eva during February.

Our favourite toy in the baby room at the moment is the Tomy Discovery Tent, the babies have loads of fun playing peek-a-boo while crawling in and out of the tent and then using the activities in it such as putting the different balls in the tubes and turning the shakers. These are all

good for developing their sensory and motor skills.

You may also have noticed we have a new member of staff in our room covering Emma while she is off on her maternity leave. **So we'd like to welcome**

Victoria to our baby room team who has settled well into working with us already and we hope she enjoys her time with us over the coming months.

From Mellissa and Team xxx



Young Toddler News



Hi, we would like to say goodbye and best wishes to Caroline and Matthew who have made the step up to the next room. We wish you both luck in the Toddler Room and are sure you will both have great fun. While we say goodbye we also say hello and welcome to Lucas and Calum who have joined us from the Baby Room, as well as Ciran and Alivia who have joined our family at Sandcastles. We would like to wish you all a happy time in your Young Toddler Room and hope you enjoy your adventures with us.

Our theme for February and March is Transport. This will encourage our children to rec-



ognize different ways of travelling by Boat, Airplane, Train or Car. We have decorated our boats and other cut outs by using different materials for sticky pictures and also a variety of painting materials such as patterned rollers for the cars, pasta, bottle tops and sponge balls for the trains. We had great fun getting messy and exploring new ways of decorating.

Then we have romantic Valentines Day we made lollipop butterflies and a lovely card specially for you from your little valentines, so hope you all enjoyed them.

We have lots of birthday celebrations this months in Young Toddlers so can we just wish Happy Birthday to Mollie, Elsa, Olivia, Alex, Naoise and

Emma, hope you all have a wonderful day from all your friends in Young Toddlers xx

The past few months we have all really enjoyed our different stories at story time, playing with the big building blocks, the dolls and getting to play outside during the few milder days that we have **had, the children's favourite toy to play with outside are the footballs!!**

From Lynn and Team xxx



Toddler News

A very belated Happy New Year to all

our families in Toddlers. January always brings with it a variety of changes and in the Toddler Room this is no different. Hannah has sent everyone a postcard from France telling us about her adventures and Clare has landed safely in New Zealand.

In their absence I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ashleigh who has joined our team, we hope you enjoy your time in Toddlers with us.

For our new theme in the

coming months we have decided to go around the world in one year visiting 1 or 2 continents every couple of months. During January and February we have been learning about the continent of Asia, making flags from countries such as Japan, Bangladesh & Pakistan, Thailand and Jordan. We also have created animals synonymous with Asia such as Peacocks and Pandas.

And in the year of the dragon created our very own Chinese dragons. We will also be making Diwali lights to symbolize the festival of lights.

Since returning from our Christmas holidays we have **introduced a 'clean up song'** to encourage the children to

tidy up and put away the toys at the end of each play session. This has proved to be a huge hit.

We have also been introducing new play sessions such as musical games & imaginative role play, the most popular being our journeys on Sandcastles Airlines. All these activities encourage the children to think of new scenarios, use their imagination and engage in new ways with their peers.

Birthdays for Jan & Feb are Oliver, Austin, Harley and Caitlyn. Happy 3rd Birthday to you all

From JoJo and Team xx



Pre-School News



This is our first newsletter for 2012 and already January has gone! Everyone has settled back in again and we are all back into the swing of things.

We had great news in January which was the birth of Lesley-**Anne's wee baby**

boy called Max. They called in to see us last **week and he's is lovely and** Leslie-Anne is doing really well. As Leslie-Anne and Michelle are both off on maternity leave we now have Jenny in our Pre-school room, she has settled in really well and the kids are getting to know her well now. We would also like to welcome Ethan & Jack to Pre-school who have moved up from Toddlers and a final welcome to Cormac who has joined us at Sandcastles.

We would like to wish Evie a Happy 4th birthday too. She had her party on the 28th and I hear it was great fun. There are a few more birthdays for Febru-

ary & March so Many Happy Returns to Aislinn, Gemma and Marcus.

During the month of February we have been busy making bird feeders and wee treats for all the winter birds. We have a board up with how and what we did



and there is also a few pictures so make sure to stop and have a wee look.

You will have got your lovely **Valentine's day craft by now** and hopefully your wee buns were tasty (if you got to eat them!!). There will be more craft to go home soon **for Mother's day (18th March)**. We hope you will have a nice day especially as it will be a long weekend off.

In March our new theme is

going to be about make believe and fairy tales, so if your child has any favourite stories they can bring them in for our story time. We may also have a party day where we can dress up but I will keep you all posted on when it will be.

As always if there are any questions or queries you have please feel free to speak to myself or Jenny and we will try to help as much as we can.

Denise & Jenny xx



Congratulations to Leslie-Anne who had a bouncing baby boy called Max Both mum and baby are doing well



After School News

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

Well it's back to school in the new term and back to work. And we have been busy exploring Space and travelling to distant planets. We have been building rockets and U.F.O's



out of shapes as well as learning about Astronauts and how they live in space! Did you know people made pictures out of the stars? We had some fun doing this to you can see them on our board out in the hallway. Do you know what Aurora Borealis is? We do, why

don't you get the children to tell you what they've been finding out and learning about Space!

We would like to wish Matthew a Happy 9th Birthday, Rossanna Happy 6th Birthday, Taylor Happy 5th Birthday and Gabriel Happy 6th Birthday.

We hope you all have a lovely day xx

Recently we have introduced a number of different things to do on a Friday to help us relax and **get ready for the weekend after a hard weeks work at school and of course no homework's!!!** The children have had a mixture of fun activities including fun on the Wii playing games, DVD afternoons with a picnic and popcorn, Sand, Water, Sticky Activities, Gloop and Painting.

Well that is all for the Winter see you in the Spring as we get ready for Easter Holidays coming.

Heather and Lesley xxx



2012 Holiday Dates

St. Patrick's Day: Monday 19th March

Easter Holidays: Good Friday 6th April

Easter Monday 9th April

Easter Tuesday 10th April

May Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May

July Holidays: Monday 9th July – Friday 13th July (inclusive)

Christmas Holidays: Monday 24th – Wednesday 2nd (inclusive)

These have been set as our main closure times throughout the year, however may be subject to change, if so parents will be notified immediately by management

