

Newsletter April 2018



The children had the opportunity to visit our Easter Hutch on Friday 23rd March 2018 prior to their Easter holidays. There they met the Easter Bunny and Chick who had a lovely surprise for them to take home.

NCN Kindness Week

We are still celebrating Kindness Week in the Preschool and would like to thank everyone for their donations to date. We will be donating these items to St. Clare's Hospitality Kitchen in Graiguecullen who provide free meals and/or food hampers to needy families in the area.

If you would still like to donate we would appreciate tea, coffee, peas and beans only.

An old Irish Blessing: May you always be blessed with walls for the wind, a roof for the rain, a warm cup of tea by the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all that your heart may desire

Dates to remember: Preschool Tours taking place during May Mid-Term

Rooms 1 & 2: Tuesday 8th May – Castlecomer Discovery Park
Leaving the school grounds at 9am sharp

Arriving back to the Service at 12pm approximately

Primary School is closed from Monday May 7th and re-opening on Monday May 14th

Rooms 3 & 4: Wednesday 9th May – Castlecomer Discovery Park

Leaving the school grounds at 9.30 am sharp

Arriving back to the Service at 12pm approximately

Letter and permission slip to follow next week

Latest News:

Reminder: Preschool opens at 9.00 am each morning

Website:

The website is now up and running. Please log on to www.graiguecullenpcc.ie for all the latest news on Preschool, Afterschool and Camps.

Absences/Illnesses

We would appreciate if you would ring the office on 059-91-37105 or text 085 1155646 to let us know if your child is unable to attend Preschool.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary:

Reminder:

Preschool will be closed on **Monday 7th to Monday 14th May 2018.**

Camp available for Afterschool Children. Enquire in the office to secure a place.

Sun Cream

We will be spending a lot of time outdoors over the coming weeks. Please make sure your child has sun cream on before coming to Preschool and brings a hat.

Spare Clothes

If your child has required a change of clothes and these have been provided by the service, we would appreciate if you could return them.

Newsletter

If you would like us to email you a copy of the newsletter, please give your email address to the office.

ROOM 1

ECCE Year 2

April was a fun packed month in Room 1 as the children were busy making Easter arts and crafts. They created their own Easter Egg Tree, they painted, glued and glittered small eggs and then hung them from a tree branch which they had painted. They went on an Easter Egg Hunt.

They also got to try on the Easter Bunny and Chick costumes in preparation for their visit, which the children enjoyed immensely as they got to meet both the Bunny and Chick in the Bunny's hutch. The children enjoyed making their own music and singing their favorite songs as they played their instruments.



The children have also been enjoying the outdoors,

playing in the playground, in the tree house and in the field playing with hoops, balls, skipping ropes, parachute and flying their kite. They went on a scavenger hunt looking to identify different areas of St Fiacc's Primary School, which will assist them with the transition to School in September.



They created an under the sea theme as they made sea creatures and the ocean. They played indoor and outdoor basketball and they practiced their fine manipulative skills as they cut, pasted, drew and made jigsaws. They created

their own puppet show using our puppet theatre. Throughout these experiences, the children displayed their enthusiasm and delight, as they were very focused and enjoyed each experience. When it comes to engaging in learning experiences which support their overall development the children in Room 1, are always very eager and willing to try new things.

Happy Birthday to Ruby & Caylan



ROOM 2

ECCE Year 2

This month the children have been enjoying outdoor play using various pieces of play equipment such as hula hoops, balls and the parachute. They have been exploring nature on our walks around the school and during their exploration they found some wooden beams. They decided to use these beams to walk along, practicing their balancing skills as they slowly made their way from one end to the other. The playground



provided the children with the opportunity to play imaginary games using the castle and



under the slide as a den. The climbing wall provided a sense of achievement for the children, as they endeavoured to find their way to the top and over onto the slide.



As well as meeting the Easter Bunny and Chick the children also carried out a science experiment with real hard-boiled eggs and food colouring. They were amazed to see how the eggs absorbed the different colours.



Happy Birthday to Aaron & Taylor



ROOM 3

Junior Preschool and ECCE Year 1



Welcome to Yusuf

Pirate Week

Following on from our Easter Egg Hunt, we encouraged the children to enrich their imagination through role play 'In the Pirate Cave'. We prepared props such as a treasure box, pirate hats and eye patches. To build on their vocabulary and communication skills we read a story called 'Shiver me Timbers'. The most important part of role play was group/ co-operative work which supported the children's social skills as they had the opportunity to use their imagination to play inside a big box while talking about their thoughts and ideas.



Dinosaurs

The children were busy gathering information from different sources to increase their knowledge about the world of dinosaurs. We encouraged them to enhance their cognitive skills through experimenting with water. The children had the opportunity to see how water freezes and how the ice made the dinosaurs extinct. The children also made dinosaur bones from salt dough and used the toy dinosaur's feet to make footprints.



Happy Birthday to Darragh & Eoin



ROOM 4

ECCE Year 1

Welcome back to all our children after the Easter Break. Before Easter the children all got a ticket to go visit our Easter Hutch where they met with the Bunny and Chick. The children had an opportunity to try on and play with the Bunny and Chick outfits beforehand to ensure they were comfortable about visiting the hutch and meeting the larger than life characters.



Outdoor play is of great benefit to children's holistic development and at every opportunity we have been going outside with our kite where each child attempted to get it to fly

and showed great determination with this. We have been playing with the outdoor equipment where the children can enhance their confidence in their own abilities and take risks such as climbing the climbing frame. We played games with rules such as What Time is it Mr Wolf and basketball.



Bathing the babies was a big interest in our room this month. We used the baby bath and towels to wash the babies and baby clothes and made our own clothes line in the room to hang the clothes to dry.



Some of the children have displayed a great interest in water play. To extend on this we made bubbles using a bottle and socks on the end. The children blew in through the top of the bottle and watched as the bubbles got bigger.


















Happy Birthday to Anna



Fun Page

Enjoy the great outdoors with this fun nature scavenger hunt. Encourage your child to find the different objects. Tick them off as you go along.

BACK YARD SCAVENGER HUNT

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 
ant | <input type="checkbox"/> 
brown leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> 
butterfly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 
clover | <input type="checkbox"/> 
cloud | <input type="checkbox"/> 
purple flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 
pinecone | <input type="checkbox"/> 
ladybug | <input type="checkbox"/> 
bird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 
grass | <input type="checkbox"/> 
green leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> 
yellow flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 
feather | <input type="checkbox"/> 
rock | <input type="checkbox"/> 
sticks |

Song Time

Emotion song

'If you're happy and you know it'

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands

If you're happy and you know it, and you really want to show it,

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

If you're sad and you know it, say boo hoo

If you're sad and you know it say boo hoo

If you're sad and you know it and you really want to show it

If you're sad and you know it say boo hoo.

If you're angry and you know it stamp your feet

If you're angry and you know it stamp your feet

If you're angry and you know it and you really want to show it,

If you're angry and you know it stamp your feet.



Upcoming dates: Preschool Closed Monday May 7th and re-opening on Monday May 14th, 2018.

Irish Dancing starting Wednesday 2nd May 2018 for Rooms 1 & 2 and every Wednesday until Graduation in June.

If you have any traditions or celebrations that you would like us to feature, then please let your child's keyworker know.