

Newsletter May 2018



Castlecomer Discovery Park.

The children and staff had great fun in Castlecomer Discovery Park for our annual Preschool tours. The weather didn't deter the excitement during the time we were there. Rooms 1 & 2 enjoyed the Woodland Adventure Walk, the Fairy & Elf village and the playground, whilst rooms 3 & 4 explored the Fairy & Elf village and the playground the following day. To add to their adventure the children had a picnic in the woods.



Sports Week: W/B: 28th May 2018

Bike Week/Beep Beep Day: W/B: 5th June 2018

Open Day/Ice Cream Funday: June 16th 10am-2pm

Graduation Days:

Rooms 1 & 2: Friday 22nd June 2018 in St. Fiacc's Hall (Bingo Hall) at 10.30 am

Room 3: Tuesday June 26th in Room 3

Room 4: Wednesday June 27th in Room 4

Parents of children in Rooms 3 & 4 to return to Preschool at 11.30 am to see their child receiving their end of year certificate.



Latest News:

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.

Big Toddle Envelopes:

If any child has not returned their Big Toddle envelope can they please return them.

Thank you!

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 4th June 2018**

Sun Cream

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

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

May was an educational, adventurous and fun month in Preschool Room 1. The children began the first of their ongoing Irish Dance Lessons. As the lessons have progressed the children's flexibility, range of motion, physical strength and stamina have increased. Their muscle tone, posture,



balance and coordination have also improved. As dancing is an aerobic form of exercise the children's overall cardiovascular health should also improve.

While engaged in their weekly lessons the children's social skills are

also improving as they learn how to work as part of a team and develop a greater sense of trust and cooperation between themselves.

The children went on their School Tour to Castlecomer Adventure Park, which they enjoyed immensely.



They went in search of Fairies in the Fairy Village, they tested their balance, coordination and spatial awareness while they maneuvered and worked their way through the adventure course and as they played in the playground.



Following the tour, to expand on the children's emerging interest in all things nature related, the children have been

exploring outdoors to see what they could find. They collected, leaves, buds, daisies, dandelions, grass, twigs and seedlings from trees.



When they went indoors they created a nature table and they also pasted the buds, seedlings, flowers and grass onto sheets of paper which were then laminated to preserve them. The children completed puzzles depicting the life cycle of various plants and grasses, further enriching their knowledge and experience of nature.

Happy Birthday to Meja



ROOM 2

ECCE Year 2



Welcome to Azrah

The children in Room 2 have been extremely busy this month. We started with Kindness Week. The children were invited to bring items of food that will be donated to St Clare's Hospitality Kitchen. Throughout the week we talked about how we can be kind to others and ourselves, through small group discussions, pretend play and our emotion story books.



During our discussions the children said that superheroes helps others, so we decided to have a superhero day. The children made masks and came to Preschool dressed in their favourite costume and enjoyed pretending to be superheroes for the day.



During the Easter holidays some of the children told us that



they had been to the beach. This provided us with our theme of Under the Sea. We looked at



different animals that can be seen at the seaside. We made fish suncatchers, created an Under the Sea display consisting of fish, crabs, octopus and seaweed. We incorporated sand play where the children made sandcastles and went fishing in our water play activity.



In preparation for our Preschool trip we talked about going on a bus and the importance of being safe. The children enjoyed our pretend play



"Wheels on the bus", putting their seatbelts on and going on a journey. We read stories from Simon and Friends about a trip to the farm and created our own road safety Stop and Go signs, traffic lights and zebra crossing.

Happy Birthday to Katie



ROOM 3

Junior Preschool and ECCE Year 1

This month we played with magic paint, sensory rice and pasta with different structures and smells which were designed to encourage the children to learn about the variable structure of each.



It was fascinating and encouraging for us to watch the children



overcome their prejudices against unknown materials. We included a variety of tubes, funnels and scoops into their play which also supports the development of early mathematical concepts of volume comparison.



Our school tour was a great opportunity to remind ourselves of the safety rules that apply when going on a trip. Preparations for the journey gave our



children the opportunity to practice putting on a hi-vis jacket, reminding them of the need to fasten their seat belts while on the bus and knowing that when we are outside we must stay with our group. A school tour is the moment when children learn to take responsibility for themselves and to deal with transitions and changes in their immediate environment, setting risk limits and making decisions. Our trip was a time of great joy as the children displayed excellent climbing, skipping, sliding, running, and jumping skills all of which stimulates the holistic development of the child.

The children's interest in the underwater world came about when a fish tank with two fish was loaned to us from another room. Thanks to their observations of living creatures, they had the opportunity to learn about the natural conditions of fish life and how to care for them. This glimpse of the underwater world encouraged the children to produce through art their version of octopus and jellyfish and supported the development of their manual skills.



Happy Birthday to Arianna



ROOM 4

ECCE Year 1

This month we went on our Preschool Tour to Castlecomer Discovery Park. We prepared in the room beforehand as we moved the chairs together and pretended to get on and off a bus. Everyone practiced putting on their seat belts and waving goodbye to their parents. The children also decided on lots of different songs to sing.

On the day of our Preschool Tour everyone put on their high visibility jackets and got on the bus with confidence. We got to the Discovery Park and went to search for elves and fairies in the village, where we also had our picnic.



Afterwards the children had the opportunity to challenge and enhance their physical skill in the playground. Outdoor play has been of big interest in our room and to extend on this we have been bringing out lots of different equipment such as sacks, eggs and spoons, bean bags and hoola hoops and the children have been part taking in a variety of different races in preparation for our upcoming Sports Day.



We took out the binoculars and went on a nature walk where we looked at lots of different bugs and the birds in the trees.



Happy Birthday to Callum, Hannah, Conor & Wiktor



Photo Gallery

You will find more photos of our trip to Castlecomer Discovery Park on our website.

