

Welcome to the February Newsletter

Welcome to our second newsletter of the New Year. As always, we hope we have helped to keep our families updated on all our latest news. It is hard to believe that we are entering the next month of 2022 already!



Toddler Room

Hi all,
Our toddlers have been busy doing lots of art and sensory activities. We have been playing with sand, sticking and gluing, painting and colouring. These activities help with your child's fine motor skills and imagination. They have been having lots of fun doing it.
Aisling and Shannen

February Facts and Festivals

'Earrach' is the Irish word for spring and 'Feabhra' is Irish for February.

February 1st - St Brigid's Day

St. Brigid's Day marks the first day of spring. St. Brigid is the female patron saint of Ireland. She is also known as Muire na nGael or Mary of the Gael which means Our Lady of the Irish. Making a St. Brigid's cross is one of the traditional rituals in Ireland to

celebrate the beginning of early spring. They are hung by the door and in the rafters to protect the house from fire and evil. According to tradition a new cross is made each St Brigid's Day, and the old one is burned to keep fire from the house. Some believe that keeping a cross in the ceiling or roof is a good way to preserve the home from fire which was always a major threat in houses with thatch and wood roofs.

February 1st - Chinese New Year
The Chinese New Year marks the start of the Year of the Tiger. People born in a year of the Tiger are predicted to be brave, competitive, unpredictable, and confident.

February 14th - Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate friendship, love and romance and in the modern tradition is celebrated by the exchange of cards and gifts of flowers or chocolates to one's sweetheart. It's also a common occasion for anonymous presents for a beloved from a 'secret admirer'!



Busy Bees

Hi all,
January in the busy bees room was all about readjusting back into crèche. We have had a couple of new faces join our group and it has been a pleasure welcoming them into the busy bee family. Please if your child has not already brought in a family photo for our family wall can you do so, it's nice for the children to see their family up on the wall. In February we will be busy with different sensory activities as well as doing some lovely valentine's art!!!
Sarah Jane



Supporting Unanticipated Transitions due to COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 Isolation Regulations, you may find that your child's primary carers are absent from work for a period. This may mean that a temporary staff member will take over the primary carer's role within your child's pod. Your child may also be required to stay at home for a brief time, and then return into us.

As with most unknown or unexpected changes in a child's life, these may cause unwanted stress, worry or varying levels of anxiety.

What you can do to help your child with new transitions

Honesty: If you have received information about changes within your child's usual day, communicate these changes with your child at a level that they can understand. This will allow your children to ask questions and come to conclusions, preparing themselves for the day ahead.

Routine: Keeping to your usual routine as best as possible while other changes are taking place. This will help your child to feel confident in processing new information such as having a new carer for the day.

Visual Aids: Showing your child a picture of the possible new staff member and telling them their name will help prepare your child to accept the change with more confidence and knowledge. There are pictures of all of our team members at <https://www.butterfliescreche.com/about>

Afterschool Club

Well as you can see we have had a great January and looking forward to the next one, although the evenings are getting a bit brighter we still need to wrap up, zip up and button up!
Sam



Pre-Montessori

Here is the first month of the year left behind, the month in which we learned to jump like kangaroos, to fly like king parrots and climb trees next to the koala bears, and to throw boomerangs far in the air and they will return, metaphorically speaking of course. But all this has brought us much closer to the concepts we have learned about Australia. The children were very happy to participate in all the proposed activities. In addition, the children chose their favourite Australian food, and with the help of Australian dollars they went shopping. An activity that brought us closer and taught us to work in a team was the project: Creating the Australian flag. We tried during the month to repeat the numbers from 1 to 6, and to learn 7, we hope we succeeded.

February is upon us, we have great plans for this month, namely, in the first week we will fly by imagination to China, because we want to celebrate the New Year with them, we will find out some curiosities about this holiday and its specifics.

Then with the speed of light we turn back to celebrate love, warmth, friendship, the importance of being kind to each other - all along with Valentines Day.

And in the last 2 weeks we will teleport to the North Pole and the South Pole, because we want to get acquainted with the polar bears but also with the Penguins.

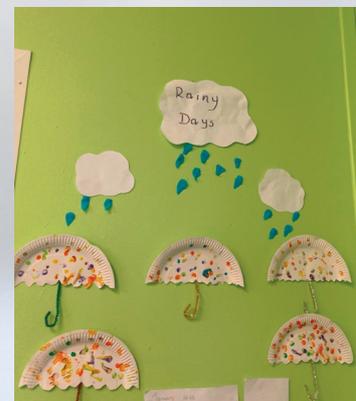
From the magic of numbers we move quickly to the number 8.

And what kind of love month without a shape - love heart. So are you parents ready for such a challenge? Did we intrigue you? Welcome to the ship of our teaching, we will gladly take you with us to sing, dance, to do a lot of art and craft and more, all this in an atmosphere of joy, fun, friendship and a lot of good cheer!

Regards,
Tatiana and Louise

Baby Room

Welcome back after the holidays and Happy New Year. We have seen many achievements in the children's development over the last few weeks. They have also shown a keen interest in exploring with different art activities and experimenting with different shapes and materials.
Maggie & Gillian



Montessori

Hi all,

Wow January flew by.

In January we learned all about the continent of Antarctica and its animals, and lots of different interesting facts. We also did polar bear art as well as loads of sensory play with ice, water, jelly and coloured ice.

As this week is Chinese New Year, we will learn all about this year's animal which is the tiger and lots of other facts of how Chinese New Year is celebrated. This week we will also learn all about the Asian continent. We are going to learn loads of different facts about the Asian culture. In the coming weeks we will do Valentine's Day art for Valentine's Day on Monday.

Also, this month we will learn all about the sun and how important the sun is for our planet Earth.

Thanks,

Montessori team,
Eleni and Maria



Modelling Kindness

Even very young children can start to understand kindness if others around them demonstrate kind and thoughtful behaviour.

Encourage children to

- Say please and thank you
- Give compliments to others
- Smile at others
- Share with their siblings or friends

Should children always share?

Young children shouldn't be pressured into sharing all of their belongings and children of all ages have a right to have things that are off limits to others. So before your child's friends come over to play, give him/her permission to put away any toys he's not willing to share. This will help your little one understand that he's not obligated to share everything he owns.

Any time you witness your child making an effort to share, give him a little positive feedback. But if your child is having a hard time sharing, don't punish or label him as "selfish" or "self-centred."

Name-calling and unwarranted punishments can destroy your child's self-esteem and make him more resistant to sharing.

Modelling behaviours, reading books, reiterating concepts, offering honest praise, and helping your child work out solutions to problems are all ways to teach him that sharing with others is not only fun, it's the right thing to do.

Building Work

Hi all,

There will be necessary structural building work taking place at the crèche from 21st February and it is expected to take approximately 2-3 weeks.

During this time, two Montessori rooms and one care room will be closed. For the week of 21/02 it is midterm, so ECCE classes will not be affected. **For the week of 28/02, there will be no Montessori or Pre-Montessori (ECCE) classes.** We hope to resume classes on 07/03 but we will keep you updated. We ask you to bear with us during this time and we assure you that as soon as it is safe to resume classes, we will. Thank you for your understanding. Sarah

Playschool

Well that was a quick January, let's say goodbye to Mr frost and all our runny noses, looking forward to February where we will be learning more colours and new nursery songs and don't forget our amazing art. Sam



Valentine's Picnic

Plan with your child and choose a place you both love to visit. Together you can prepare some snacks, pick a favourite book, and sing your most loved songs together!

Here is a quick Biscuit recipe:

Biscuit Dough

Prep: 5 mins, Cook: 15 mins

Ingredients:

250g butter, softened

140g caster sugar

One egg yolk

2 tsp vanilla extract

300 g plain flour

Method:

- Mix the butter and sugar in a large bowl, then add the egg yolk and vanilla extract and beat briefly to combine.
- Sift over the flour and stir until the mixture is well combined, you may have to get your hands involved too!
- Roll out dough and use biscuit cutters to shape, place on a baking tray and into the oven to bake.

Valentine Celebration Ideas

Write A love Letter to Your Child

Why not start a new simple tradition in your household? By writing your child a simple love letter you will be creating special memories and marking milestones to look back on. These letters will provide a platform for communication and expression, and will form simple but meaningful statements of love, pride, and unconditional commitment to your child for years to come!

Scavenger Hunt

Why not create your own scavenger hunt of things you and your children love? (Books, drawings, favourite toys, foods etc). Put on the wellies, grab the coats, and get outside to enjoy the excitement of exploration with your little ones!