

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

MiniMind's Preschool will close for the Christmas Holidays on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm and will reopen for all ECCE, NCS and Afterschool Children on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026



As we come to the end of another wonderful year at MiniMinds, we want to say a heartfelt *thank you* to all our parents and families. Your trust, support, and partnership mean so much to us. As we close for the holidays, we hope this season brings you time to rest, reconnect, and enjoy precious moments together. Thank you for being such an important part of our MiniMinds community. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back soon.

With warmest wishes,  
The MiniMinds Team

# LOUTH ABC 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

## ⭐ Celebrating Partnership and Progress ⭐

Stacey and Rebecca from **MiniMind's Preschool** were delighted to attend the recent celebration marking 10 years of impact from the **Louth ABC Programme**.

We are incredibly proud to have worked alongside Louth ABC over the past few years, supporting children and families across the county through shared values of early intervention, collaboration, and meaningful community support. Events like this are a powerful reminder of the difference strong partnerships make, and we look forward to continuing this important work together in the years ahead.

The Louth ABC Programme plays a vital role in supporting children aged 0–12 and their families across County Louth through early intervention, education, health, and family support initiatives. By bringing services together and working in partnership with local providers, Louth ABC helps ensure children get the right support at the right time. It has been truly brilliant to celebrate so many years of progress, collaboration, and positive impact for families in our community, and to reflect on just how much has been achieved through this shared commitment to children's wellbeing and brighter futures.



# Happy Birthday Anna

This month we were delighted to celebrate a very special milestone for our much-valued Assistant Childcare Manager, Anna Silver, who recently celebrated her 50th birthday. To mark the occasion, we surprised Anna during our team meeting with a small celebration, complete with cake, laughter, and the chance for us all to come together and show our appreciation.

Anna plays an incredibly important role within our setting and is a constant source of support, guidance, and encouragement for both staff and children alike. Her dedication, professionalism, and caring nature shine through in everything she does, and her calm, approachable presence makes a real difference to our team every single day. Anna is always willing to go the extra mile, and her commitment to high-quality childcare does not go unnoticed.

Reaching 50 is a wonderful milestone, and we were so pleased to be able to celebrate it together as a team. It was a small gesture, but one filled with genuine gratitude and appreciation for all that Anna brings to our setting.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Anna for her continued hard work, loyalty, and positive impact. We wish her a year ahead filled with happiness, good health, and many more moments worth celebrating.

Happy 50th Birthday, Anna, and thank you for everything you do!



# BLUE ROOM

Dear Blue Room Families,

December has been a truly magical and memorable month in the Blue Room, filled with festive fun, creativity, celebrations, and lots of learning through play. The children have embraced the Christmas season with great excitement, and it has been wonderful to see their joy and enthusiasm each day.

## Christmas Creativity & Festive Fun

We officially began our Christmas theme, and the classroom has been buzzing with festive cheer ever since. One of our highlights was creating our classroom door display.



The children helped design our very own "MiniMinds Alone" door, inspired by Home Alone. They absolutely loved being involved in this creative project and took great pride in the finished result.

The children also enjoyed playing with Christmas tree beads, working hard on their Christmas cards, and engaging in lots of festive art and craft activities. These activities supported fine motor skills such as cutting, gluing, painting, and decorating. Our room was filled with Christmas music, carols, dancing, and singing as the children learned Christmas songs and poems



and listened to many lovely Christmas stories together



## Construction, Learning & Play

Throughout December, we focused on gathering developmental observations to support our planning of emergent activities. A strong interest in construction and creative building stood out across the room. To build on this interest, we introduced a special activity: "Build Santa's Chimney."

The children used blocks, connectors, and a variety of materials to problem-solve, collaborate, and create imaginative structures. Their teamwork and creativity truly shone.



## Stories, Sensory & Outdoor Play

Our story of the week was The Gruffalo's Child. Alongside this, we set up a sensory small-world table with Gruffalo figures. The children loved retelling the story, exploring textures, and engaging in imaginative play.

Outdoors, the children enjoyed our obstacle course, developing their gross motor skills through climbing, balancing, jumping, and running. There was lots of laughter and energy as they took on new physical challenges.

### Special Celebrations

December was full of very special moments!

We were delighted to welcome Santa Claus to the Blue Room. The children were so excited, and Santa was very kind, bringing sweet treats for everyone.



We celebrated teacher Anna's big birthday with a surprise party planned with the children. We played pass the parcel, enjoyed birthday cake, and shared lots of sweets and treats.

Our Erin also turned 4 in December.



These celebrations were wonderful opportunities for social development, turn-taking, and shared joy.

### Festive Treats & Cosy Moments

One of the children's favourite days was our Christmas Pyjamas Party. They came up with the idea of bringing in teddies and blankets, making the day extra cosy. We even created our own Mini Toy Show during circle time, enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows, built a gingerbread train, and watched funny moments from Home Alone. Kevin was a big hit!



As we wrap up the first half of our ECCE year, excitement continued to grow. We finished the term with Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas Dinner, and the children are very much looking forward to celebrating together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout this wonderful month. We wish you all a joyful and festive Christmas.

Warm wishes,

Anna, Ellie, Hannah & Katie

## RED ROOM

December has been an incredibly busy, joyful, and exciting month in the Red Room, filled with lots of fun, laughter, learning, and festive cheer. The children embraced the magic of the season and took part in a wide range of meaningful activities that supported their development across all areas of the Aistear curriculum.



One of the highlights of the month was creating Santa letters using Smyths Toys books. The children carefully explored the catalogues, selected toys that interested them, and thoughtfully cut and stuck the pictures onto their letters. This activity strongly supported the Aistear theme of Communicating, as children shared their ideas, preferences, and wishes with peers and educators. It also encouraged turn-taking and conversation while developing important fine motor skills, such as cutting, gluing, and hand-eye coordination 🎅

We enjoyed lots and lots of Christmas-themed art activities throughout the month, including painting, colouring, cutting, and gluing. The children explored a variety of materials, colours, and textures while creating festive artwork to decorate the room. These creative experiences supported Well-Being by allowing children to express themselves freely and confidently, as well as Exploring and Thinking, as they experimented, made choices, and developed problem-solving skills 🎄



Music played a big role in creating a festive atmosphere in the Red Room. We loved singing lots of Christmas songs together, which brought great excitement and joy to the group. Singing supported the Communicating theme through language development,



rhythm, and listening skills, while also promoting Well-Being by boosting confidence, encouraging participation, and fostering a strong sense of togetherness and happiness.

We were thrilled to welcome a very special visitor, Sparkle the Elf! The children were so excited to meet her, giving her big cuddles and proudly singing songs for her. This magical experience supported Identity and Belonging, as children shared their excitement, strengthened relationships with

one another, and felt a sense of being part of a warm, caring group 🎅



December wouldn't be complete without Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas Dinner. Everyone looked fantastic in their festive jumpers, and the dinner was absolutely delicious, a big thank you to Ciara for all her hard work. These shared celebrations supported Identity and Belonging and Well-Being, as children enjoyed familiar routines, special traditions, and a relaxed social mealtime with their peers 😊

We also celebrated a very special milestone this month as we marked Teacher Anna's 50th birthday. The children worked together to create a thoughtful and colourful poster to thank her for all her dedication and care in MiniMinds. This activity supported Identity and Belonging by fostering respect and appreciation, as well as Communicating, as children expressed kindness, gratitude, and positive emotions 🎁

To finish off a truly magical month, we had another exciting visit from Santa Claus. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting him, chatting with him, and receiving a lovely present. This special experience supported Identity and Belonging, Communicating, and Well-Being, as children shared excitement, asked questions, and created lasting festive memories 🎅 🎁



Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you all have a very happy, peaceful, and magical Christmas.

We look forward to making many more wonderful memories together in the New Year from everyone in the Red Room 🎄 ✨

# GREEN ROOM

Dear Parents and Guardians,

December has been a truly magical and joyful month here in the Green Room. Our focus this month was all about Christmas, celebrating the season through love, kindness, and togetherness.

## ❤️ Love, Kindness & Friendships

This month, we have really observed the children's friendships blossom. It has been wonderful to see them playing together, supporting one another, and building strong connections within the room. These experiences help children develop a sense of belonging, emotional security, and positive relationships with their peers.

## 🎨 Christmas Artwork

The children created amazing Christmas artwork, exploring colours, textures, and festive themes. Through art, they expressed their ideas and feelings, developed creativity, and engaged in problem-solving while proudly sharing their work with others

## 🎅 A Special Visitor

We were delighted to welcome Santa Claus to the Green Room. The children were full of excitement, and his visit added extra Christmas magic to our celebrations. This shared experience supported children's sense of community, cultural awareness, and opportunities to communicate their thoughts, questions, and excitement.

## 🎀 Christmas PJ Party

We had great fun at our Christmas PJ party, where the children came dressed in their pyjamas, made hot chocolate, and relaxed together while watching The Grinch. This cosy experience supported emotional well-being, social interaction, and language development through shared conversations and enjoyment.

## 🍽️ Christmas Dinner

We also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner together. Sharing meals encourages independence, social skills, and a sense of togetherness. A very special thank you to Ciara



in the kitchen for the beautiful dinner she prepared, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and staff.

### 🎄 Christmas Sensory Trays

The children engaged with a variety of Christmas-themed sensory trays, exploring different textures, materials, and festive objects. Through hands-on play, they used their senses to investigate, experiment, and make discoveries, supporting cognitive development, curiosity, and problem-solving skills. Sensory play also promotes calmness, focus, and emotional well-being, allowing children to learn through meaningful and enjoyable experiences.

### 🟡 Special Celebration

We were delighted to celebrate a very special milestone this month, Kyron becoming a big brother. The children enjoyed celebrating this happy news together, helping to foster empathy, respect for family life, and a strong sense of community and belonging.

### 🎁 Thank You & Christmas Wishes

We would like to thank all our parents and guardians for your continued support throughout the year. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in your child's learning and development. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break, please enjoy your time together, stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Warm regards,  
The Green Room Team 🎄 ✨



## ORANGE ROOM

December has been a wonderfully busy and festive month in the Orange Room, filled with creativity, excitement, and lots of Christmas cheer. The children embraced the festive spirit from the very beginning and took part in a wide range of meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences.

Throughout the month, the children worked together on our group display, "Santa Got Stuck in the Chimney." They showed great commitment and enthusiasm as they painted, decorated, and added details piece by piece. Despite a few absences along the way, the children remained motivated and proud as they watched their display come together. Completing this project supported Aistear: Identity and Belonging, as the children worked collaboratively, shared ideas, and celebrated a shared achievement.



Sensory and imaginative play was a strong focus this month. One of the children's favourite activities was the melted snowman tuff tray, where they explored "melted snow," carrots, coal, and other snowman parts. This activity sparked curiosity, problem-solving, and lots of laughter as the children tried to figure out how to "put the snowman back together." This linked closely with Aistear: Exploring and Thinking, encouraging reasoning, fine motor development, and imaginative thinking. The Grinch sensory tuff tray was also a firm favourite, providing rich sensory experiences and opportunities for language and social interaction.

The children also enjoyed a variety of festive art activities. They created paper Christmas trees by painting paper plates green, cutting them into sections, layering them, and adding colourful finger-dotted lights. We also made melted snowmen using a gloopy mixture of glue and shaving foam, carefully adding hats, eyes, noses, arms, and buttons. These activities supported Aistear: Wellbeing, helping to develop fine motor skills, creativity, patience, and confidence. Both art displays were proudly displayed outside the Orange Room for families to enjoy.

Circle time played a special role this month. Thank you to all families who sent in Christmas photos, the children absolutely loved seeing their families on the screen. We talked about traditions, favourite activities, and special moments at home, helping children make meaningful connections between home and preschool. We also introduced new festive songs, including "S-A-N-T-A," which the children sang with great enthusiasm, supporting Aistear: Communicating through language, listening, and confidence-building.

Festive excitement continued with the arrival of a very special classroom elf, who caused great excitement each day as the children eagerly waited to see where he might appear next. The



children also enjoyed baking chocolate buns for the Toy Show, helping to mix ingredients and decorate with marshmallows and Smarties, an activity that encouraged cooperation, turn-taking, and sensory exploration.

During our final week, the children made reindeer food using oats and glittery magic, each bringing a bag home along with a special spell for Christmas Eve. A highlight for everyone was our special visit from Santa, which filled the room with excitement and joy. The children were thrilled to receive a picture and a selection box and talked about the visit for days afterwards.

We also recorded our Christmas concert, where the children sang their favourite Christmas songs with confidence and pride. To celebrate all their hard work, we enjoyed



a cosy hot chocolate treat, followed by Christmas jumper day and a delicious Christmas dinner, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. These moments supported Aistear: Identity and Belonging and Wellbeing, creating positive memories and a strong sense of community.

December was a joyful and meaningful month in the Orange Room, full of learning through play, creativity, and celebration. We would like to thank all our families for your continued support throughout the year.

We want to wish Hollie a Happy Early Birthday as she will turn 3 over the Christmas holidays

We wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year!

Love Leonne and Aoife xxx



# YELLOW ROOM

This month in the Yellow Room we have been fully immersed in the magic and excitement of Christmas. The children have been full of enthusiasm and joy, and it has been lovely to see how much they have enjoyed taking part in a wide range of festive activities together. There has been lots of creativity, singing, laughter, and special moments shared as a group.

## Christmas Activities & Art



The children created lots of festive artwork throughout the month, including painting Christmas trees, stockings, Santa, and snowflakes. They enjoyed exploring different colours, textures, and materials while expressing their own ideas and creativity. We proudly displayed their snowflakes on our classroom Christmas tree, which the children were very excited to see each day.



These activities supported the Aistear themes of Communicating and Well-Being, as the children shared ideas, talked about what they were creating, and described their artwork to peers and educators.

Seeing their work displayed helped build confidence and a sense of achievement, while also supporting fine motor skills and creativity.



## Music & Songs

Music was a big part of our Christmas celebrations. The children loved singing festive songs such as *Jingle Bells* and *Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney*. They joined in with actions, repeated familiar words, and showed great enthusiasm during group singing time.

This supported the Aistear theme of Communicating, as children developed language skills, listening and attention, and confidence in joining group activities. Singing together also supported Well-Being, creating a positive and joyful atmosphere and encouraging children to connect and have fun together.

## Grinch Party & Tuff Tray Play

We had lots of excitement during Zach's Grinch party, which included a very special visitor, the Grinch! The children were thrilled by the surprise and enjoyed sharing the experience together. They also explored a tuff tray filled with coloured rice and shredded paper, searching for hidden pictures of the Grinch.



This activity supported Exploring and Thinking, as children used their senses, showed curiosity, and problem-solved while searching through the materials. It also supported Identity and Belonging, as the children engaged in shared play experiences, took turns, and enjoyed being part of a group celebration.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

We celebrated many birthdays this month, wishing a very happy 4th birthday to Evie, Alfie, Leo, Teo, and Daisy. The children enjoyed singing birthday songs and celebrating their friends' special days together.

Celebrating birthdays supports the Aistear theme of Identity and Belonging, helping children feel valued, recognised, and included within the classroom community. It also encourages kindness, friendship, and respect for one another.



### **Visit from Santa**



We were delighted to welcome a very special visitor, Santa!

The children enjoyed chatting with him, asking questions, having their photo taken, and receiving a yummy chocolate treat. There was lots of excitement and smiles throughout the visit.

This special experience supported Well-Being and Communicating, as children expressed excitement, shared their thoughts, and took part in conversations. It also created lasting memories and a sense of magic during the festive season.

### **Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Letters**

We also enjoyed a very special Christmas Jumper Day, where the children proudly wore their festive

jumpers and shared lots of excitement and smiles. The day was made even more special as the children sat together to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner, creating a lovely sense of togetherness and celebration. In addition, the children used Smyths catalogues to cut out pictures and create their own letters to Santa. They carefully chose toys, practised cutting and sticking, and talked about what they would like to ask Santa for. This activity supported fine motor skills, creativity, and communication, while also encouraging turn-taking and shared conversations, linking closely with the Aistear themes of Communicating, Well-Being, and Identity and Belonging.

We would like to thank all our families for your continued support throughout the year. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.

**Lots of love,**  
**Iluta & Amanda**  