

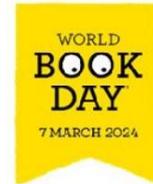
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Dates

World Book Day –

Children can dress up in their favourite character

5th March



International Women's Day

8th March



Mother's Day

15th March



Green Day – Children and staff dress in green

13th March



ECCE children off – those who attend 9-12 or 1-4 each day

16th March



St Patricks Day- Whole building closed

17th March



Easter Bunny Visit

27th March



ECCE (those who attend 9-12 or 1-4 each day) off for easter

30th March - 10th April



Congratulations

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ciara, our wonderful Green Room teacher, on receiving the keys to her new home! This is such an exciting milestone, and we are all delighted for her and her family as they begin this new chapter. Moving into a new home is a special achievement, and we wish Ciara many years of happiness, comfort, and lovely memories ahead. From all of us, congratulations and best wishes as you settle into your new home



Well Done!!!

A big well done to all of our staff who successfully completed their First Aid and Manual Handling training this month. We are very proud of the team's continued commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all the children in our care. Ongoing training ensures that our staff are confident, prepared, and equipped with the skills needed to promote health, safety, and wellbeing throughout our setting. Thank you to everyone for your dedication and professionalism.



Yellow Room

Hi everyone,

It's that time of the month again, our February newsletter is here! We have had another very busy, exciting, and adventure-filled month in preschool. As always, the children's emergent interests guided our learning, leading us down some wonderful and very creative paths!

Lip Balm Making

With the colder weather, some of the girls began bringing lip balms to preschool and sharing them with their friends. This sparked lots of conversations about why we use lip balm, how it helps protect our lips, and the different types we have at home.

The children decided we should try making our own! Using Vaseline and a drop of juice concentrate for colour and scent, everyone mixed and created their own special lip balm. The children were so proud to take their little jars home to show you. Through this experience, the children were developing their well-being by learning to care for their bodies, communicating as they shared ideas and experiences, and



exploring and thinking while experimenting and mixing ingredients.

Pancake Fun

Leo started “making pancakes” in our mud kitchen and told us his mommy makes pancakes at home. Soon everyone joined in! To build on this interest, we made real pancakes together.

The children took turns pouring, measuring, and mixing ingredients. There was great teamwork and patience — and of course, the best part was the taste test! This activity supported identity and belonging as children shared home experiences, while also encouraging



exploring and thinking through early maths and science skills, and communication through cooperation and turn-taking.

♥ Love, Feelings & Friendship

February was all about love, kindness, and friendship. We talked about the people who are special to us and how we show we care. Activities included making beautiful Valentine's cards, sensory play with rice and heart-shaped pasta, heart-themed art with paint and glitter, our special "Red Day," and creating delicious apple heart-shaped chocolate lollipops. These experiences helped children to express their emotions, strengthen friendships, and develop a strong sense of well-being, identity and belonging, and communication through creative play and shared experiences.



🎂 Birthdays



A big happy 4th birthday to Zach and Leah! We made party hats, sang songs, and enjoyed some delicious cake together.

Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see what new adventures March will bring!

Love,
Iluta and Amanda

Blue Room

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful and busy month we have had in the Blue ECCE 2 Room! Our days have been filled with celebration, creativity, imagination, and meaningful learning experiences, all thoughtfully linked to the Aistear curriculum framework through the themes of Well-being, Identity & Belonging, Communicating, and Exploring & Thinking.

The last few weeks were full of fun, creativity, and learning through our emergent activities. Our imaginative ice cream shop and tea party encouraged wonderful role play. These experiences supported Communicating and Identity & Belonging, as the children negotiated roles, practised turn taking, built friendships, and developed their social language skills.



St. Brigid's Day



We learned about St. Brigid's Day, discussing its meaning and traditions in an age-appropriate way. The children created beautiful pictures of St. Brigid's crosses and prepared ribbons, which were hung outside to be blessed. Recently, we used these ribbons to make special bracelets, adding a meaningful and creative touch to the activity. This experience supported:

- Identity & Belonging by exploring Irish culture and traditions
- Well-being by developing pride and connection
- Communicating by sharing ideas and learning new vocabulary It was a joyful time of cultural exploration and creativity.

Feelings & Emotions



This month, our classroom focus has been learning about feelings. We are helping the children recognise, name, and express emotions through stories, play, art, and sensory experiences.

Through stories and group discussions, the children explored emotions such as happiness, sadness, excitement, and



frustration. We emphasised that all feelings are okay and that talking about them helps us feel understood and supported. This strongly links with Well-being in Aistear, promoting emotional literacy and resilience.

One of our favourite stories was Goldilocks and the Three Bears. To bring the story to life, we created a sensory table inspired by the characters and settings. This hands-on exploration supported:

- Exploring & Thinking by investigating textures and materials
- Communicating by retelling and sequencing the story
- Identity & Belonging by sharing ideas

and cooperating with peers

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Our Valentine's activities were full of love, kindness, and friendship. The children created beautiful artwork and cards using a variety of materials, developing fine motor skills and creativity. We also enjoyed:

- A Valentine's sensory table with festive colours and textures
- Songs and stories about friendship and feelings
- A special friendship map, connecting children's photos to their best friends

These activities supported Communicating and Identity & Belonging, helping the children understand friendship, empathy, and kindness. Our Valentine's Day party was a lovely celebration filled with art, sensory play, role play, and party games. Thank you to everyone who wore red and helped make the day special!

When We Were Babies

Our emergent interest was the theme of growth and change and we supported it by talking about the time when the children were babies. The children were so excited to share their baby photos and stories they have heard from you at home.

To extend this interest, we set up a baby role-play area with dolls, bottles, nappies, and prams. The children showed wonderful care, empathy, and imagination while looking after the "babies." This learning supported:



- Identity & Belonging by understanding personal history and family connections
- Well-being by developing empathy and nurturing skills
- Communicating by storytelling and sharing experiences

Fat Thursday & Pancake Tuesday

We also celebrated Fat Thursday, observed in some countries before Lent. A big thank you to Sylwia, Ryan's mum, for the delicious doughnuts, they were enjoyed by everyone! The following Tuesday, we also really enjoyed our pancake making experience for Pancake Tuesday. This cultural celebration supported Identity & Belonging, recognising and respecting the diverse traditions within our classroom community.



Special Celebration



Nathan and Conor turned **5** this month.

Happy Birthday! Su gimtadienu!

We hope you both had a fantastic celebration.

Pyjama Day

We were delighted to take part in Pyjama Day this year, helping to raise money through Early Childhood Ireland's annual fundraising initiative. Thanks to the generosity and support of our families and children, we contributed towards this year's chosen charity, LauraLynn Children's Hospice. The day was filled with cosy pyjamas, fun activities, and a wonderful sense of community, all while supporting an incredibly important cause that provides care and support to children and families across Ireland.



Midterm Break

To all our ECCE children, we hope you had a wonderful and relaxing midterm break. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for more fun and learning!

Kind regards,

Anna, Ellie, Hannah and Jenna

Orange Room

Throughout February, the children in the Orange Room enjoyed a wide range of meaningful, playful and engaging learning experiences focusing on our monthly theme, “Hearts and Hugs – caring for each other and our emotions.” Supporting their learning and development across all four themes of Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

🌸 Valentine's Activities

During the days coming up to Valentine's, the children enjoyed a range of fun and meaningful activities focused on friendship, love and kindness. We began with a group discussion about what Valentine's Day means, who we care about and how we can show love to others. The children shared thoughtful ideas and demonstrated a lovely understanding of caring and friendship.

The children explored 2 of our Valentine's tuff trays. One was filled with red rice, sparkles, petals, cups, crystals, and spoons. The other was a cupcake tufftray filled with pink rice, crystals, petals, bun cases, and spoons. These activities encouraged lots of sensory exploration, scooping and pouring, as well as imaginative and role play.



Inspired by The Love Monster story, the children created their own love monsters by spreading paint and glitter with forks and, once dry, adding googly eyes and hearts. We also learned a new Valentine's song, “Skidamarink-a-dink”, which quickly became a favourite, with the children confidently joining in with the actions. The children also enjoyed making love potions using pink water, flowers, petals, tubes and pipettes, supporting fine motor skills and turn-taking. The children created rose paintings using paint inside water-filled zip bags, squeezing and moving the paint to make beautiful patterns. To finish the celebrations, the children made Valentine's cards for their loved ones by choosing their own card colours, stamping heart shapes with paint and adding their photographs when the paint had dried. We

also enjoyed a Red Day party, where everyone wore red and shared a lovely celebration together. All of the above links to our Aistear curriculum:

- Identity and Belonging: celebrating friendships, family connections and feeling part of our group.
- Communicating: sharing ideas during discussions, singing songs, listening to stories and engaging in role play.

- Exploring and Thinking: experimenting with colours, textures and materials, problem solving and creative expression.

😊 Emotions

During circle time, the children talked about different emotions and practised facial expressions in the mirror. At our faces tuff tray, the children carefully used pipettes to drop coloured water onto cotton pads showing different expressions. Another tuff tray supported the children to match colours to feelings in a fun and hands-on way.

🇬🇧 Celebrations this month

This month in the Orange Room, the children enjoyed learning about and taking part in a variety of special celebrations, helping them to develop an understanding of different cultures, traditions and shared experiences. We celebrated Fat Thursday, a Polish holiday, where the children enjoyed tasting delicious doughnuts together 🍩. We also marked Chinese New Year, as one of our families celebrates this special time. The children learned about different traditions and discovered that it is the Year of the Horse. They enjoyed exploring our lantern tuff tray, where they filled and decorated lanterns using rice and crystals 🏮. For Pancake Tuesday, the children helped to make pancakes and enjoyed tasting them. Afterwards, they created playdough pancakes, rolling, shaping and decorating their own creations 🥞. We finished the month with a cosy Pyjama Day along with our teddy bear show and tell. The children loved showing off their furry friends 🧸. We also celebrated Alvin's 4th birthday, we hope he enjoyed his special day 🎂. Aistear links:

- Identity and Belonging: learning about family traditions and respecting different cultures.
- Communicating: asking questions and sharing ideas during group discussions. Wellbeing: working together, enjoying shared celebrations and routines.
- Exploring and Thinking: problem-solving, early maths and sensory exploration through cooking and playdough.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support and cooperation
Aoife and Leonne



Red Room

Dear Red Room Families,

What an exciting and love-filled month we have had! February was packed with celebrations, creativity, laughter, and wonderful learning experiences guided by Aistear. Here's a look at what we've been up to this month in the Red Room...

♥ Red Day & Valentine's Celebrations 📧

Our Red Day was full of colour, friendship, and



kindness. The children proudly wore red and enjoyed a special Valentine's celebration together. We had lovely discussions about the people we love and why they are special to us. The children



created beautiful Valentine's cards using different art materials, developing fine motor skills and expressing their thoughts and feelings.

These experiences supported Identity and Belonging and Communicating, as children shared ideas, stories, and kindness with one another ♥

🥞 Pancake Tuesday Fun 🍷

Pancake Tuesday was a big hit! The children explored how pancakes are made, learning about ingredients and watching how they change during cooking.

They enjoyed tasting pancakes with chocolate and marshmallows, lots of happy smiles all around! 😊

Our learning continued through imaginative play as the children set up their own pancake shop using playdough. They took orders, served customers, and worked together, building social skills and confidence.



This supported Exploring and Thinking, Communicating, and Well-being.

🍩 Fat Thursday Treats 🍩

We celebrated Fat Thursday by tasting a variety of donuts. The children explored different flavours and textures and chatted about their favourites.

This sensory experience encouraged confidence in trying new foods and supported language development as they described what they tasted.





🎵 Pyjama Day & Dance Parties 🎵

Our cosy Pyjama Day brought lots of comfort and fun! The children loved showing off their jammies and talking about bedtime routines.

We also enjoyed energetic dance parties throughout the day. Dancing helped develop coordination, confidence, and self-expression while strengthening friendships 🏃 🎶

🐪 Camel Curiosity & Creative Play 🎨

After Jade returned from her holiday, Keri kindly shared photos of her riding a camel to the children. This sparked lots of excitement and curiosity in the room!

The children asked questions, shared ideas, and created their own camels through art and construction activities. It was wonderful to see their imagination come alive. This interest-based learning supported Exploring and Thinking, as the children built knowledge together through discussion and creativity 🐪 ✨

💖 A Month Full Of Love & Learning

February has been filled with kindness, creativity, celebration, and connection. Through play and shared experiences, the children continue to grow in confidence, independence, and friendship every day.

🏠 Congratulations, Rian! 🎉

Rian is moving into his new home! We're so excited for him as he starts this amazing new chapter. May your home be filled with laughter, fun, and wonderful memories! ✨

☀️ Welcome To The Red Room, Amelia! ☀️

We're so excited to have you join our Red Room family! 🎨 ✨ Get ready for fun, learning, and lots of new adventures with your friends. We can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll create and explore with us! ❤️

🎂 February Birthdays 🎉

We had lots of special celebrations this month!

- 🎂 Mason & Vedran turned 3
- 🎂 Seth, Dakoda, Donnacha & Hugo turned 4

Each child was celebrated and made to feel extra special. Birthday celebrations help build confidence and strengthen our sense of community within the Red Room. Happy Birthday again to all our February stars!



Green Room

This month in the Green Room, we had a wonderfully busy and exciting time filled with learning, creativity, and fun! The children have been busy exploring, creating, singing, and celebrating, and it has been a joy to see their enthusiasm and engagement throughout the month.

💖 Valentine's Day Celebrations

We celebrated Valentine's Day by learning some new songs, which the children proudly sang and recorded on video to share with their parents. They thoroughly enjoyed performing and showcasing their wonderful singing skills. The children also created beautiful and imaginative artwork to bring home for the special people they love. In addition, we took part in creative play using our Valentine's-themed tuff trays, which encouraged imagination, cooperation, and fine motor development.



🥞 Pancake Tuesday

Pancake Tuesday was a delicious highlight of the month! The children loved helping with the preparation, mixing ingredients, and watching the pancakes cook. Best of all, they enjoyed tasting their yummy creations. This activity provided a fantastic opportunity to explore early maths skills, following instructions, and learning about food and healthy choices, all while having lots of fun!



☁️ Weather and Storms

February brought plenty of stormy and wet weather, which sparked great curiosity among the children. This led to lots of discussions, weather-themed songs, stories, and creative arts and crafts. The children were very enthusiastic and eager to learn, turning the changing weather into a fun and meaningful learning experience.

👕 National Pyjama Day



Our school was full of colour, comfort, and smiles as all the children and teachers dressed up in their pyjamas to celebrate National Pyjama Day. The atmosphere throughout the day was full of excitement, fun, and a wonderful sense of

togetherness. In addition to enjoying a cosy day, we also supported an important fundraising effort by sending home envelopes to raise money for LauraLynn Children's Hospice. This very worthy cause provides vital care and support to children with life-limiting conditions and their families across Ireland. We sincerely thank all our families for their generosity and support. Every contribution, big or small, truly makes a difference.



Birthday Celebrations

Two of our Green Room children celebrated birthdays this month. A very big Happy Birthday to Croia and Lilah-Mae! 🎂 🎈 We hope you both had a wonderful day celebrating with your friends.

Thank You

It has been a fantastic month full of learning, creativity, laughter, and smiles. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to another exciting month ahead in the Green Room!

Lots of Love,

Sarah Louise, Rebecca, Aelwen, Ciara and Iluta xx