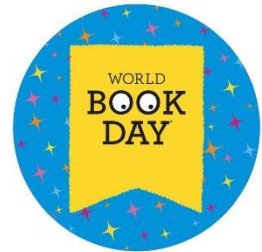


# February Newsletter

## Important Dates

### 6<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day - Children can dress up as their favourite book characters



### 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March

MiniMinds will be closing at 4:45pm on these dates to accommodate staff training



### 14<sup>th</sup> March

Green Day – Children wear green to celebrate St. Patricks Day

### 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March

Miniminds will be closed for St Patricks Day and staff training



### 11<sup>th</sup> April

Visit from the Easter Bunny

### 14<sup>th</sup> April – 25<sup>th</sup> April

All ECCE only children (those who just do ECCE 3 hours per day) are off for easter break



### 21<sup>st</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> April

All children will be off as Miniminds will be closed for Easter



### 13<sup>th</sup> June

Preschool graduation – Miniminds will close at 1pm

### 27<sup>th</sup> June

Preschool finishes – All graduating children will say their final farewells to Miniminds on this day



# Blue Room

Dear Parents,

Happy February! It has been an exciting month filled with love, kindness, creativity, and learning.

## Love and Kindness

This February, our main theme was love and kindness. We explored this through heartfelt classroom conversations where the children shared their ideas about love. Their answers reflected the importance of family, spending time with loved ones, and having fun together. It was truly heartwarming to see how they express affection and care for others.



The children learned several songs that celebrated love, including “Skidamarink-a-Dink a Dink, If You Love Me and You Know It, and the Barney Song. These songs helped reinforce the theme of love in a fun and engaging way.

Our favourite story this month was The Love Monster and Guess How Much / Love You,



both of which reinforced the warmth of love. The children also participated in an art project titled “You and Me Belong Together”, which



inspired us to decorate our classroom door for Valentine's Day. We had a grand door opening on Friday, February 14th, with a special celebration that included turning on the lights and hosting a romantic dinner and party with chocolate strawberries. The children created prints and collages, which made the door even more beautiful!

## Transport Fun

Another exciting theme this month was transport.

The children are big fans of transportation toys, and this month we saw everything from trains and



construction vehicles to cars of all sizes and outdoor ride-on toys. To make the play

even more fun, we added some of our favourite Paw Patrol figures to our transportation playtime, sparking endless imaginative adventures.

### **Art and Creativity**

As always, art plays an essential role in our routine, and this month we saw incredible creativity from the children. They created beautiful artwork for our displays and learning journals. It is clear that our little artists have amazing imaginations.



### **Celebrations**

This month, we celebrated two special birthdays - Elsie and Leah turned 3! We wish them both a very happy birthday and are grateful to have them in our class.



We also celebrated Fat Thursday, a Polish holiday where we all got to try some yummy doughnuts. We also want to

congratulate all the children who have successfully completed their toilet training in the past month.

### **Linking to Aistear and Siolta**

Our work this month ties in beautifully with the Aistear curriculum, particularly the themes of Exploring and Thinking and Identity and Belonging. Through our love and kindness theme, we encouraged social development and emotional literacy, helping the children understand their feelings and the importance of kindness and connection. The transport theme supported the children's understanding of the world around them and sparked curiosity about different modes of transportation.

In line with the Siolta standards, we've focused on promoting Quality and Context in our learning environment. The children's art activities and play based learning have encouraged creativity, critical thinking, and the development of fine motor skills.

Thank you for your continued support in making this a wonderful learning environment for our little ones.

Warm regards, Team of the Blue Room. Anna, Aoife and Leonne.



# Green Room

Hello to all of our green room families and friends, February has been another very busy month in the green room 💚

## Our Pets

We had a range of different exciting emerging interests, where our children really enjoyed showing their friends pictures of them and their dogs at home. This initiated a really lovely discussion during circle time, linking to our Aistear theme of Communicating. To expand on this interest, we had a very special visit from teacher Naomi's dog Murphy, all of the children were so excited to meet him 🐕. We also had another special visit from Shea's turtle Spike, the children got to pet Spike, and we discovered that his shell is very hard 🐢. This links to our Aistear theme Identity and Belonging within the environment 💚



## Valentines Day

The Green room also celebrated Valentines Day, we worked extremely hard on decorating our Valentines Door for the competition, which relates to the theme of wellbeing within Aistear where each child used their own initiative in creating their own beautiful additions to the door. We also made very special cards for our loved ones 🧡 Lastly, the children had lots of fun playing with a variety of sensory Valentines Tuff Trays



## Disney Theme

The children were also showing an interest in Disney characters, to expand on this we had a Disney Themed Day, the children got to wear their favourite Disney clothes, take in their Disney toys and we got to watch a Disney movie, this was lots of fun.

## Transport

This month was Transport month, the children carried out lots of



activities, these included learning about our twinkle “twinkle traffic light”, making our own fire trucks and lots more.



## Welcome

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new friend to the green room

Adriana, we are so happy to have you in our Green Room family 💚

## Birthdays

Finally, we had lots of special birthdays this. Month, we celebrated Donnacha's, Frankie, Hugo, Vedran and Alvins

Happy Birthday Boys!

## Fat Thursday

Last but not least we celebrated Fat Thursday, which is originally celebrated in Poland, the children



really enjoyed the yummy donuts  
See you all next month



Love Iluta, Jade and Naomi x



# Red Room

This month's theme was Transport. It was a very busy month as we also celebrated Valentines Day and Fat Thursday.

## Valentines Day

We celebrated Valentines Day by decorating our classroom with beautiful arts and crafts which the children made. We enjoyed discussing Valentines Day and why we celebrate this day, we all enjoyed talking about feeling loved and those who love us. The children made some lovely sensory trays and had a Valentines ball on the Friday. Sensory trays are a great way for children to explore textures and engage their senses while celebrating the theme of love. We also made some delicious buns.



## Transport

At circle time we all talked about and why we need transportation. We discussed with the children how they got to school and what different types of transport they have been on. Encouraging children to ask questions and explore their surroundings fosters critical thinking. We made cool pictures of transport and put them up on our display wall. We also made a brilliant transport tuff tray, we made a car wash and washed the small cars. Zach told all his friends he travelled on an airplane to Disneyland.

## Doctor Doctor!

Doctor role playing has been a great emerging interest this month in the room. The children made a doctor's surgery and took turns making watch other better. We all really enjoyed this as a group.

## Gardening

On one of the days this month we had a visit from Tina who helped us plant flowers for Spring. We have all been enjoying watching them grow every day in our well-being garden. The act of planting flowers in a well-being garden aligns beautifully with Aistear curriculum's theme of well-being. Gardening has numerous benefits for mental and emotional health. It encourages mindfulness, allowing us to immerse ourselves in the present moment as we nurture plants. This process can also foster a sense of accomplishment and purpose as we watch our efforts bloom into vibrant flowers.

### **Fat Thursday**

We celebrated Fat Thursday, Leo and Teos mam came in for a lovely visit to read us a



story in Polish. Fat Thursday is a significant cultural event that can help children understand and appreciate their cultural heritage. By participating in this celebration, children can explore their own identities and the identities of others, fostering a sense of belonging to their community and culture.

### **Birthdays**

This month we also celebrated Zach's birthday. Happy Birthday Zach from all your friends in the red room.

We look forward to all the fun that is to come in March.

Love Sarah-Louise and Amanda



# Orange Room

February was a month filled with lots of love, kindness and teamwork.

The children worked very hard and put lots of effort into our tree of love, which is displayed on our classroom door. The children had the opportunity to express themselves fully through art and show how creative they can be, leaving their special mark. Our tree of love turned out perfect and the children were so proud of their work, which supports their confidence and allows them to feel valued and respected.



Continuing on with the theme of love, we were all very busy crafting some creative and thoughtful Valentines pieces for our loved ones. We also read so interesting books which reminded the children of the importance of showing kindness and love to others.

This month's theme was transportation. We done lots of fun activities around this. We sang many

songs and engaged in imaginative role play e.g. we went on a train to Dublin and an airplane to Australia to see Teacher Sinead. This engaging roleplay allowed the children to develop their imaginative skills, take turns in different roles while working as part of a team and creating fun friendships.

Even though this was quite a cold month, we wrapped up and braved the cold and wind to enjoy our outside time.





Our outside time is very important to us as it supports the children's wellbeing and provides opportunities for exploring and thinking. We hope March brings us some brighter and warmer weather so we can continue to prepare our wellbeing garden for Springtime.

This month we all got to celebrate Conor and Yusuf birthdays where all their friends wished them the best day.



Thanks, as always to all our families, Laura and Ellie xx

# Yellow Room

Hello again to all the Yellow Room families and friends! February brought a lot of fun to the Yellow Room. This month's theme was transport, and we had so much fun exploring this theme through a variety of activities.

We also celebrated Valentine's Day by creating our wonderful "Love is in the Air" door display, where the children made hot air balloons. These activities linked closely with the

Identity and Belonging theme of Aistear, as the children worked together to contribute to a group project, strengthening their sense of belonging and connection with their peers. We

also made a love potion with flowers and hearts, explored Valentine's junk art, created Valentine's cards, and so much

more. These creative activities supported

Exploration, as children engaged with different materials and techniques to express their ideas and emotions. Additionally, we shared a lovely Valentine's breakfast, which tied in with Well-being, fostering a sense of care and community.



Transport was the ongoing theme throughout the month. The children loved singing "Wheels on the Bus," which connected with the Communication theme as they



practiced their language skills through song. They also made their own bus with chairs, fostering Exploration as they worked together to create something imaginative. We explored using paint-covered pages and rolling wheels over them to see the tracks they would make,



further supporting Exploration and Thinking, as the children experimented and observed the cause and effect of their actions.

This month, we had a special fluffy visitor, Murphy, a dog owned by teacher Naomi. Everyone adored Murphy and gave him lots of attention, connecting with the Well-being theme as the children practiced empathy and kindness by interacting with the animal.

We also celebrated our friend Jace's 4th birthday, which gave the children an opportunity to practice Identity and Belonging, as they celebrated and acknowledged each other's milestones.



The Yellow Room cannot wait to see what fun March brings, and we look forward to continuing our exploration.

Love, Rebecca and Keri xxx

# Valentine's Door Competition

The MiniMinds team and children were all feeling the love this month as each were given the opportunity to take part in our fun Valentine's door competition.

The brief was that it had to be around the theme of Valentines and to be child-led, meaning minimum contribution from the teachers.

Pictures of the five room doors were posted on our public Facebook page as well as our private parents Facebook group. People were asked to vote for one of the wonderful displays our children created. Here is a reminder of all the fantastic displays.





The participation on our online voting was amazing, therefore we decided to have two separate winners, one from the public vote and one from the parent's page vote.

And the winner from the parent's page is..... **The Green Room**



And the winner from the public page is.... **The Blue Room**

