

June Newsletter

Important Information

MiniMinds will close on Friday 27th of June for a well-earned summer break, we will then reopen on the 14th of July.

The new ECCE term will start on August 27th

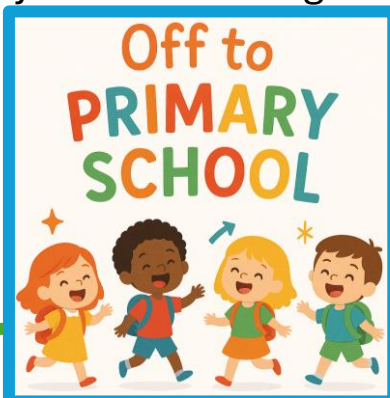
Congratulations

Everyone at MiniMinds want to wish our teachers Keri and Iluta the best of luck starting their bachelor's degrees in early childhood education. Well done girls on securing a place on your degree courses.

Goodbye Message To our Graduates

We are very sad but extremely happy to say goodbye to all our graduating children. Everyone here in MiniMinds wishes each of you the best when starting your next big adventure in primary school. We have loved having you all and would love to see you popping back in to see us in the future. Each of you are unique and special in your own individual ways and have such bright futures ahead of you. You will be greatly missed xxxxxx

We will
miss you



We will
miss you

Blue Room

Dear Parents and Families,

June brought us sunshine, celebrations, creativity, and some heartfelt goodbyes.



This month we celebrated Axel's graduation as he transitions to his next big adventure. We created a special display just for Axel, filled with pictures, kind messages from his friends and teachers, and lots of colourful art. We had a farewell party, made crispy buns, and shared lots of smiles (and a few happy tears). We're so proud of Axel and wish him the very best! By supporting children through change and celebrating their unique journey and links with our Aistear curriculum themes of well-being as well as

Identity and Belonging

We had a wonderful time celebrating Teacher Jade's birthday with a surprise song from the children and a piñata full of sweets! The children loved the excitement and joy of preparing and surprising their teacher, what a fun and festive day it was! In line with Aistear, through celebrations we use music and movement for expression, and strengthening relationships.



In June we had our annual Big Toddle Walk and it was a huge success! The children enjoyed walking together, showing great teamwork and community spirit. Engaging with the environment and understanding the world around them links in with Aistear's Exploring and Thinking.

We also celebrated our amazing dads and father figures by creating beautiful Father's Day artwork and learning a song. The children used markers, collage materials, and their own words to express their love. This promotes Aistear's Well-being and Identity & Belonging by expressing emotions and valuing family relationships.

This month, we also sent home the children's learning journals. We hope you enjoy looking through all the special moments, art, photos, and developmental milestones. These journals are a celebration of your child's growth and exploration throughout the year.



An exciting emergent interest in family pets has taken off! Children have been sharing photos and stories about their furry, feathery, and scaly friends. We created a pet corner where children could talk, draw, and role-play caring for animals. It's been lovely to see the children's empathy and storytelling grow through this interest.



Aistear Link to Identity & Belonging - Sharing personal experiences promotes the children's Identity and Belonging. Exploring & Thinking is seen as the children are developing curiosity and understanding.

Outdoor play was extra fun this month as we made our own lemonade, using real oranges, lemons, and lavender! The children explored scent, taste, and texture while mixing and experimenting. This sensory-rich activity sparked lots of curiosity and joyful conversation. This links with Aistear's Exploring & Thinking - Using natural materials for sensory exploration and creative learning.



Thank You & Happy Holidays!

As we wrap up for the summer, we want to say a big thank you to all of our wonderful Blue Room families. Your support, trust, and involvement mean the world to us. We wish you all a joyful, safe, and sunny holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back soon!

With warmest wishes, The Blue Room Team

Red Room

Hello to all our Red Room families and friends, June has been another fun filled month with lots of learning and exploring!



This month, we were excited to welcome our new class pet, Mr. Zig Zag, a goldfish. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking turns feeding him, and it was wonderful seeing how involved and caring they were. Having him as part of our class really added something special to our environment.

We also had a memorable experience this month with the big toddler walk around our community to raise money for charity. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore the world around them while learning about giving back and making a positive impact on others.

Amber brought her pet caterpillar to preschool to show her classmates. The children were curious and asked lots of questions about how it moved and what it ate. A few weeks later, Amber brought the same creature back, this time as a butterfly! The class was amazed to see the change and talked about how caterpillars grow and transform. This experience supported the children's understanding of life cycles and encouraged them to observe, question, and share ideas, promoting early scientific thinking and a sense of wonder. Thank you, Amber, for bringing them in.



All of these experiences are deeply rooted in Aistear, where we foster learning through play and real-world experiences. Through activities like caring for a pet and participating in charity events (The Big Toddler), children develop key skills that align with Aistear's themes of well-being, identity and belonging, communication, and exploration. These moments are just a small part of how we support the children in their journey of becoming confident, connected, and capable individuals."

We can hardly believe we're already at this stage, finishing up for the summer – time has flown by! It's been such a joy watching the children learn, grow, and develop their independence, as well as make lasting friendships. Being part of their journey has truly been a privilege. A big thank you to all the parents for their support and cooperation throughout the year. We hope you all have a fantastic summer!

Love Sarah Louise & Amanda xx

Yellow Room

Our final month in the Yellow Room was filled with fun, laughter, and a touch of nostalgia as we celebrated the theme of Graduation and Transition. We spent time talking about the exciting journey ahead, new schools, new friends, and new teachers, as we get ready to step into Primary School. It's a big step, and we've been supporting each other with lots of conversations, stories, and even role play to help everyone feel ready and excited.

We also looked back on our time at MiniMinds and reflected on all the special moments we've shared over the past few years. From first friendships and proud milestones to giggles during story time and messy play, each memory has helped shape a wonderful journey full of learning and love.

This month brought two major highlights that made our final weeks even more special.

The first was our Graduation Ceremony, a truly emotional and heartwarming event. The children sang their hearts out, beamed with pride in their caps and gowns, and celebrated this big milestone with friends, family, and teachers. It was a joyful day, and one we will remember for a long time. We hope all our families enjoys it and could see how much work our staff and children put into the preparation for the day.



Our second big event was our School Tour to the Imaginarium and what a day it was!

The children had an absolute blast exploring, pretending, and discovering new things through play. The excitement was contagious, and nobody wanted the day to end!





In addition to all the celebrating, we were so proud to take part in Barnardo's Big Toddle this month, a fun, sponsored walk that helped raise funds for a great cause. The children loved putting on their walking shoes, getting involved, and knowing they were helping others. It was a wonderful opportunity to come

together as a group and give back while having fun outdoors.

As we wrap up a truly special year, Rebecca and Keri would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you for your support, trust, and partnership throughout the year. It has been a joy and a privilege to be part of your child's early years. We are so proud of each and every one of them and the amazing progress they've made.

We hope the friendships, confidence, and happy memories made here will stay with your children as they begin this exciting new chapter.



We will miss you all dearly, please don't be strangers. Pop in and say hello anytime!

With love,

Rebecca and Keri

The Yellow Room 🧡

Orange Room

What a fun-filled and busy month we've had in the Orange Room!

As we reach the end of our preschool year, we've been making the most of our time together with exciting activities, outdoor adventures, and lots of learning through play.

We began the month with our Big Toddler Walk for Barnardos. This event was not only a great cause but also a meaningful learning experience, beautifully tying into the *Well-being* and *Identity & Belonging* themes of Aistear. The children showed pride in taking part, worked together with their peers, and developed a strong sense of community spirit.



One of the most special moments this month was our Preschool Graduation Day, a joyful celebration of the children's achievements throughout the year. The children worked so hard in preparation for this day, and it was heartwarming to see their creativity and enthusiasm shine through. They proudly showcased their learning through beautifully crafted displays and heartfelt performances of songs they had been practicing for weeks.

Our school tour to the Imaginarium Centre in Newry was another fantastic highlight. The children immersed themselves in imaginative play, explored creative spaces, and let their imaginations soar. This experience strongly supported the *Exploring & Thinking* and *Communicating* themes, as they asked questions, made discoveries, and interacted in a brand-new environment. 🚗



We've also embraced the sunny days with lots of outdoor play, exploring nature, spotting ladybirds, chasing butterflies, and engaging in sensory fun. These everyday



adventures help support *Exploring & Thinking*, allowing the children to learn through active, hands-on experiences in the world around them.

Lately, there's been lots of chatter about Big School. Through stories, role-play, and group discussions, the children have been sharing their thoughts, expressing their

feelings, and asking thoughtful questions. These meaningful conversations support both the *Well-being* and *Communicating* themes, helping each child feel more confident and prepared for the exciting changes ahead.

To all our parents, thank you for your trust, your support, and your encouragement throughout the year. Your involvement has been such an important part of making this year so positive and memorable. It's been a privilege to watch the Orange Room children grow, learn, and reach so many milestones.



And to our amazing preschoolers, we are so proud of everything you've achieved. You've blossomed in confidence, curiosity, and kindness. As you begin your new adventure, know that you'll be truly missed and that you'll always have a special place in the Orange Room. Keep being your wonderful selves, you're more than ready for what's next. ☀️



With all our love and best wishes,
Ellie & Lauren

Green Room

Dear Parents and Families,

June was a busy and exciting month in the Green Room as we welcomed the warmer weather and embraced new learning experiences together. The children were full of energy and curiosity, and we loved supporting them in every moment of play and discovery. These experiences reflect Aistear's emphasis on Well-being and Exploring and Thinking, as children develop confidence and positive dispositions towards learning.

We kicked off the month with our Big Toddler Walk, and what a fantastic time we had! The children proudly wore the masks they coloured themselves and dressed in their hi-viz vests for safety. We walked, laughed, and explored together, and all for a good cause! The children felt a sense of achievement and community participation, in line with Aistear's themes of Identity and Belonging and Well-being, as they developed a sense of pride and responsibility while contributing to a group activity.



Father's Day was a lovely opportunity for us to talk about the important people in our lives. During circle time, the children sang songs and shared thoughts about their dads and special grown-ups. They also got crafty and made handmade Father's Day badges, full of paint, glue and love! This creative expression supported Communicating through language, music, and symbolic representation, and Identity and Belonging, as children reflected on family and personal relationships.

With the sun shining, we made the most of outdoor play. One of the highlights was our sensory fruit tuff tray, filled with juicy oranges, lemons, and limes. The children explored pouring, mixing, and smelling, a feast for the senses! This open-ended activity supported Exploring and Thinking, as they engaged in sensory exploration and early scientific thinking. We also took our paintbrushes outside and created vibrant artwork on the fence. The children enjoyed choosing their own colours and experimenting with brushstrokes and patterns, which fostered creativity, problem-solving, and expression, key elements of Communicating and Exploring and Thinking.



As we approach the end of our time together, we've been gently discussing transitions with the children. During circle time, we reflected on all the fun we've had in the Green Room and talked about the exciting changes ahead, moving on to preschool rooms, meeting new friends, and forming new routines. These discussions are an important part of helping children feel prepared and supported, echoing Aistear's focus on Well-being and Identity and Belonging, ensuring children feel safe, valued, and secure during times of change.

Thank You

As the year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful families. Your support, kindness, and partnership have meant so much to us. We wish you all a joyful and relaxing summer, filled with sunshine, laughter, and special memories.

With love,

Iluta, Aoife, Hannah, Leonne, and Donna