

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Congratulations

Everyone in MiniMind's would like to congratulate Ellie on graduating from her LINC. We are so proud of you, well done xx



Winners!!!

We ran our annual staff Halloween costume contest and were very pleased to give our winners Leone and Ellie a €50 voucher for The Marshes for their fantastic effort.



ORANGE ROOM

October has been a wonderfully busy and exciting month in the Orange Room! The children have been engaged in a wide range of autumn and Halloween-themed activities that supported their learning and development across all areas of the Aistear including Well-being, Identity and Belonging, Communicating, and Exploring and Thinking.

We began the month by celebrating Grandparents Day, which created such a warm and special atmosphere in the room. During circle time, we looked through the lovely photos you kindly sent in, and each child proudly shared their picture, talking about who was in it and what makes their grandparents special. These conversations helped build confidence and language skills, while also nurturing a strong sense of Identity and Belonging. Together, we created a beautiful collaborative poster filled with the children's photos and decorations. It was so heart-warming to see a few of our wonderful Nannies and Grandas visit. The children beamed with pride as they showed them around the room.

We celebrated Beep Beep Day, learning all about road safety. During circle time, we sang "Twinkle Twinkle Traffic Lights" and the "Safe Cross Code" song before putting our learning into practice with a walk around the estate. The children did a fantastic job staying safe, holding hands, and remembering the rules. We came back and played with our Beep Beep tuff tray. Activities like this build awareness, confidence, and independence, key elements of Well-being and Exploring and Thinking.

As the month went on, our theme of The Wonderful World of Autumn began to shine



through in everything we did. We learned "Autumn Leaves", which quickly became a favourite during circle time. The children loved joining in with the actions and rhythms, supporting their listening, memory, and language development. To extend our autumn learning, we explored a seasonal tuff tray filled with yellow, orange, and brown rice and pasta, leaves, wood, and mini decorations. The children scooped, poured, and sorted materials, chatting about textures, colours, and the changes they see in nature. This sensory experience supported exploration, curiosity, and early maths and science skills.

As Halloween approached, the excitement in the Orange Room grew even more. We created Splat Monsters, using blobs of paint and spoons to splat the colour across the page before



adding googly eyes once dry. Our Halloween playdough was another big hit, it was black with purple sparkles and hidden spiders! The children spent long periods rolling, squeezing, and creating pumpkins, monsters, and spooky shapes. We listened to "We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt," which inspired so much excitement and imagination. The children eagerly joined in with repeated phrases and actions, practising listening and communication skills. Following the story, we did apple pumpkin stamping, cutting apples in half, dipping them in orange paint, and stamping them onto paper before adding eyes and mouths. This festive art activity promoted creativity, fine motor control, and pattern recognition while celebrating the Halloween season.



We played with a spider web tuff tray, where the children used tweezers to rescue spiders from the web, a fun and challenging activity for fine motor control and coordination. Next came our cauldron bubble art, where we mixed paint and fairy liquid to make magical bubble prints. The children were fascinated watching the bubbles pop and leave colourful patterns, supporting both creativity and early science exploration.

We also carved our very own pumpkin, exploring its texture, smell, and what was inside.



This sparked wonderful curiosity and conversation. Later, we turned off the lights to play with glow stick water, watching how the colours changed and glowed in the dark, a sensory, magical experience that inspired awe and discovery. For our Halloween party, the children looked incredible in their costumes and loved trick-or-treating to the office before enjoying their goodies back in the room.

Our spooky sensory tray, filled with jelly spiders, eyeballs, and skeletons, brought lots of laughter and opportunities to practise fine motor skills using tweezers, and of course, there were a few brave tasters too!



We also celebrated Tazveer's 3rd Birthday this month, we hope he enjoyed his day.

October has truly been a month full of laughter, learning, and creativity. Through every story, song, and seasonal activity, the children have built their confidence, friendships, and curiosity about the world around them.

Lots of love,

Aoife and Leonne

YELLOW ROOM

Dear Families,

What a wonderfully busy and exciting month we've had in the Yellow Room! October was filled with creativity, exploration, celebration, and lots of learning through play, all reflecting the Aistear curriculum's focus on Well-being, Identity and Belonging, Communicating, and Exploring and Thinking.

To celebrate Grandparents' Day, the children poured their love and creativity into making beautiful handmade cards. As they carefully glued, painted, and decorated, they were not only expressing their feelings but also developing their ability to communicate thoughts and emotions through art. When some of our lovely grannies joined us for stories and chats, the room was full of warmth and connection, moments that strengthened each child's sense of identity and belonging within their family and community.

Beep Beep Day gave the children an opportunity to explore their world in a very practical way. During our walk around the local area, they observed traffic, discussed signs, and practised how to cross the road safely, learning through real-life experiences that promote both well-being and thinking skills. Back in the classroom, children created traffic lights and used toy cars dipped in paint to make tracks and patterns. This playful mark-making encouraged creative thinking, problem-solving, and communication, all key elements of Aistear's Exploring and Thinking and Communicating themes.



Autumn has been a source of endless curiosity this month. The children collected leaves, noticed their changing colours, and watched "helicopter seeds" twirl through the air, wonderful moments of exploration and discovery. Planting flowers and spring bulbs in our Well-being Garden invited conversations about growth, care, and responsibility, supporting their sense of well-being and belonging to the natural world. The children also engaged in nature-inspired sensory play, developing language, observation skills, and early scientific thinking as they explored textures, colours, and sounds found in nature.

Dream Day was inspired by one child's curiosity about sleepwalking, a perfect example of Aistear's emphasis on following children's interests. Everyone arrived in cosy pyjamas, bringing along their favourite teddies and blankets, ready to share bedtime stories and talk about routines that help us feel safe and rested. Through storytelling and imaginative play, the children were communicating ideas, building empathy, and developing emotional awareness, all while nurturing their well-being and sense of identity in a fun, comforting environment.

We ended the month with a spook-tacular Halloween celebration! The excitement was contagious as children carved pumpkins, went on a ghost hunt, painted spooky ghosts, and made splat monsters. Dressing up and pretending to be witches, superheroes, or friendly monsters gave children rich opportunities for imaginative play and communication, helping them to express themselves creatively and build confidence in their identities. Dancing, sharing stories, and enjoying treats together also fostered a strong sense of belonging and joyful well-being, a perfect way to close our busy month.



Thank you all for your continued support. We can't wait to see what exciting learning adventures November will bring as we continue to explore, imagine, and grow together through Aistear's play-based principles.

Warm wishes,
Iluta & Amanda

BLUE ROOM

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful and busy month it has been in the Blue Room! October was full of discovery, creativity, and celebrations as we explored Autumn, colours, nature, Halloween, and so much more. The children have grown in confidence, curiosity, and imagination, and we're so proud of all their achievements this month.

Autumn Adventures & Grandparents Day



We began the month celebrating Grandparents Day, which was filled with smiles, stories, and special family moments. This heartwarming day helped strengthen our sense of Identity and Belonging, as the children proudly shared memories and connections with their loved ones.

Following this, we explored the magic of Autumn, investigating seasonal textures, colours, and sounds. Through art, sensory play, and outdoor learning, the children observed the changes around them, expressing their ideas through painting, collage, and storytelling, aligning with our Aistear themes Exploring & Thinking, Communicating, Identity & Belonging.



Curious about Caterpillars and Bugs

An emergent interest in caterpillars quickly grew into a full fascination with insects! The children explored this topic through storytelling, art projects, and hands-on sensory experiences. We created bug-inspired crafts, observed insect visuals, and shared discussions about their habitats

and life cycles. Aistear Links: Exploring & Thinking - "Children make sense of the world through active exploration", Communicating - "Children share their discoveries and ideas with others"



Beep Beep Day

To support children's awareness of road safety, we enjoyed a walk around the estate for Beep Beep Day. The children practiced crossing safely, listening carefully, and recognising road signs. This real-world learning

experience supported their Well-being and understanding of community safety. Aistear Links: Well-being and Exploring & Thinking

Birthday Celebrations

We celebrated Cody's, Daisy's, and Amy's 4th birthdays with songs, cake, and party games! These joyful moments supported children's social confidence and a strong sense of belonging within our classroom community. Aistear Links: Identity & Belonging and Well-being

Halloween Magic

October wouldn't be complete without some spooky fun! The Blue Room transformed into a world of pumpkins, ghosts, and giggles as we celebrated Halloween in creative and sensory ways. The children engaged in:

- Potion Mixing & Gloop Play - experimenting with textures, pouring, and mixing
- Water & Playdough Stations - building fine motor skills through spooky-themed materials
- Fossil Making - pressing shells and dinosaurs into dough to explore cause and effect
- Art & Decoration - creating pumpkins, bats, and ghosts to decorate our classroom
- Songs & Storytelling - enjoying Halloween music and circle time tales



On Halloween Day, everyone arrived in fantastic costumes, from witches to clowns, pumpkins, and even Mary Poppins! We shared laughter, games, and a special visit from Dina Dinosaur the Vampire, who used his magic hat to read our minds. A big thank-you to Niamh, who turned her office into a mini trick-or-treat adventure! Aistear Links: Communicating - "Children use imagination and creativity to express themselves, Identity & Belonging - "Children feel part of a group that celebrates together".



Diwali - Festival of Lights

We also celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, where the children explored vibrant sensory materials and shimmering colours. This experience encouraged cultural awareness, appreciation of diversity, and joyful celebration through light and creativity. Aistear Links: Identity & Belonging and Communicating.



A Special Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Teacher Ellie, who graduated as our Inclusion Coordinator this month! We are so proud of her dedication to supporting inclusive learning for every child in the Blue Room. Warm regards, Anna, Ellie, Hannah, and Katie



GREEN ROOM

What a fun and busy month it has been in the Green Room! The children have been learning, exploring, and celebrating together, it's been such a joy to see their excitement each day.

👵👵 Grandparents Day 🥰

We started the month by celebrating Grandparents' Day. The children were so proud to invite their grandparents in for a lovely tea party. We shared stories, songs, and lots of giggles! This special day really supported Aistear's theme of Identity and Belonging, helping the children to feel proud of their families and build connections between home and MiniMinds.



🚗 Beep Beep Day 🚗

Next, we had Beep Beep Day, where the children went on walks in the morning and afternoon to learn about road safety. We talked about the different colours of the traffic lights and what they mean. The children really enjoyed spotting signs and crossings along the way! This activity linked to Exploring and Thinking and Well-being, helping children to learn about the world around them and how to stay safe.

🧸 Teddy Bear Picnic 🌸

Later in the month, we had a lovely Teddy Bear Picnic. Everyone brought in their favourite teddy from home and enjoyed snack time together. The children loved introducing their teddies to their friends and taking part in some imaginative play, a lovely way to support Communicating and Identity and Belonging.



🎆 Dilah 🎆

We also celebrated Dilah, an important cultural celebration for one of our children. We listened to a beautiful story about Dilah and made colourful pictures of fireworks. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about different traditions, linking to Exploring and Thinking and Identity and Belonging.

🎃 Halloween Party 🎃

To finish off the month, we had our Halloween Party! The children (and staff!) dressed



up in fantastic costumes and enjoyed dancing, singing, and exploring our spooky sensory trays. It was such a fun and creative day that supported Well-being and Communicating, giving the children a chance to express themselves and build confidence.

We're so proud of everything the children have done this month, they've shared, learned, and laughed so much together. We can't wait to see what exciting things November will bring!



Warm wishes,

The Green Room Team 😊 ❤️

RED ROOM

October has been such a busy and exciting month here! The children had lots of fun exploring new themes, celebrating special days, and enjoying all things Halloween.

♥ Grandparents' Day



We had a wonderful time celebrating Grandparents' Day this month. The children spoke about their grandparents and shared lovely stories about them. They also made special cards to take home, a lovely way to say "thank you" to all the wonderful grandparents in their lives.



This celebration linked beautifully to our Aistear theme of Identity and Belonging, as the children learned about the special people in their families and the important role they play.

🚦 Beep Beep Day

We also learned all about road safety how to cross the road safely, the meaning of traffic lights, and how we need to stop, look left and right before crossing. The children practiced these new skills on our big walk, proudly wearing their hi-vis vests and looking out for safe crossing points. They did such a great job remembering our road safety rules! This links to Aistear's theme Well Being as the children learned how to keep themselves safe whilst crossing the road 🚦



🎃 Halloween Fun!

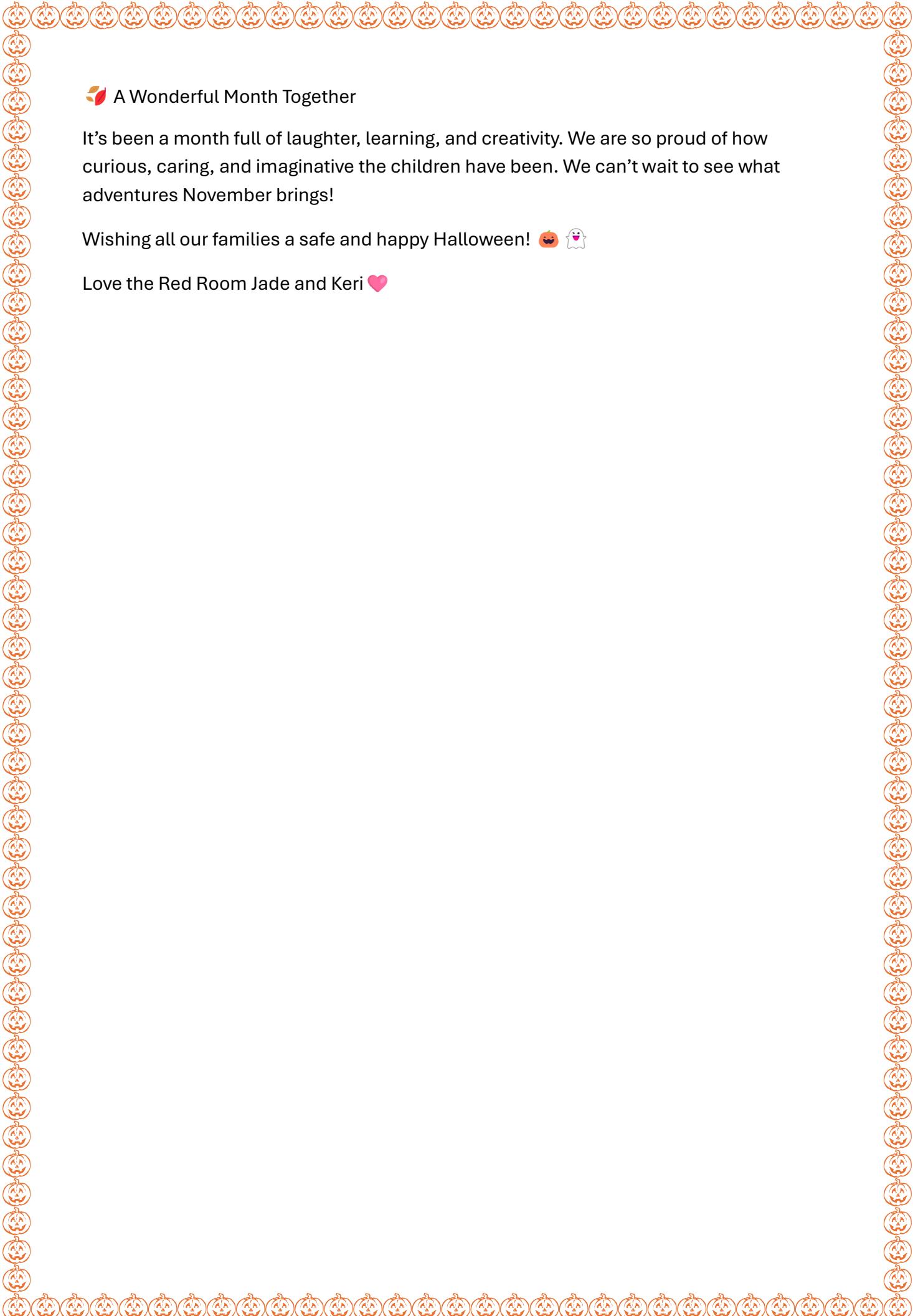
As October came to a close, our classroom transformed into a



spooky Halloween wonderland! The children were very busy creating Halloween crafts, including splat monsters, and exploring sensory trays filled with all sorts of creepy-crawly textures and surprises.



We finished the month with our Halloween Party, where everyone dressed up in amazing costumes, danced to spooky songs, and even got to trick-or-treat to Niamh's office! There were so many giggles and smiles as the children showed off their costumes and told spooky stories during circle time.



🍁 A Wonderful Month Together

It's been a month full of laughter, learning, and creativity. We are so proud of how curious, caring, and imaginative the children have been. We can't wait to see what adventures November brings!

Wishing all our families a safe and happy Halloween! 🎃👻

Love the Red Room Jade and Keri ❤️