

September Newsletter

Welcome back to a brand-new term! We are delighted to see all our returning families and extend a very warm welcome to our new children and staff members who have joined us this month.

More Precious Than Gold - Bake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Bake Sale in aid of *More Precious than Gold* for Childhood Cancer Ireland. Your generosity helped make the event a great success, and we are so grateful for your continued support.

Bia Blasta Nutrition Programme

We are excited to introduce Bia Blasta, our newly implemented Pre-school Nutrition Programme. This is a key funding programme under the Equal Start model, and it has been going really well so far. Both staff and children are adapting brilliantly, and we are looking forward to seeing the benefits it will bring.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Beep Beep Day (Road Safety Awareness) – Tuesday, 10th October

Halloween Dress-Up Day – Staff will also take part in a *dress-up competition*! Keep an eye on our Facebook page to cast your vote. 🧛

Mid-Term Break

Please note that MiniMind's Mid-Term break for ECCE only children is from 27th – 31st October. They will return on 3rd November.

Thank you for your continued support – we're looking forward to a fun-filled term ahead!

Birthday Celebrations

This month we celebrate the birthdays of **Shannon and Keri**

Happy Birthday from all of us at MiniMind's! 🎂 🎈

Thanks!

A huge thank you to all our team and families for your support over the past week. And thank you to all the girls for our lovely gift upon our return. It was all very much appreciated. Love Niamh and Stacey x



Green Room

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Green Room!

We're so happy to welcome all our families, and we're thrilled with how well the children have



settled into the classroom. They're doing brilliantly with the routines, and we are so proud of each and every one of them.



This month, we've been busy getting to know your children and exploring their interests. Through observation and play, we've discovered lots of exciting

emergent interests, which we're using to guide our activities, in line with the Aistear Curriculum Framework and their emergent interest.

Here are some of the wonderful interests that have emerged:

- Hairdressing: The children have loved role-playing in our pretend salon - brushing, styling, and creating fun hairstyles with each other!
- Autumn: Leaves, conkers, and changing colours have captured everyone's attention. We've started nature walks and autumn-themed crafts.
- Guards & Fire Station: Dramatic play has taken off with children pretending to



be Gardaí and firefighters - practicing teamwork, helping others, and learning about community helpers.

- Building Forts: Using cushions, blankets, and loose parts, the children are collaborating to build their own imaginative spaces.
- Water Play: Splashing, pouring, and experimenting with water has been a huge hit. It's helping support their sensory and fine motor development.
- Baby Dolls: Caring for babies has sparked lots of nurturing play, encouraging empathy and gentle communication among the children.



Outdoor Play Reminder

As the weather begins to change, we ask that all children come prepared for outdoor play with suitable clothes - including waterproof coats, wellies, and spare clothes. We love jumping in muddy puddles and exploring nature, rain or shine

We also encourage messy play - from paint to mud and everything in between - as it's a vital part of learning and sensory exploration.

We'd like to take a moment to wish Teacher Rebecca a speedy recovery. We will all miss her loads while she's away and are looking forward to welcoming her back soon to play with all her little buddies in the Green Room. Get well soon, Rebecca! 🌸



Meet the Green Room Team

Your child's key worker will be listed on the classroom door. If you ever need to contact us, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Our Green Room team includes:

Sarah-Louise, Rebecca, Ciara, Iluta and Aelwen

Thank you for your continued support, The Green Room Team

Blue Room

Dear Blue Room Families,

September has been such a joyful and exciting month in the Blue Room! From welcoming new friends to celebrating special birthdays, exploring themes, and diving into imaginative play, we have loved seeing the children grow, settle in, and shine. Here's a little peek at what we've been up to this month:

A Warm Welcome

We were delighted to begin our ECCE 2 year with such a wonderful start!

The returning and new children settled in beautifully and have quickly become part of our Blue Room family. We enjoyed playtime, circle time, and yummy brunches together, setting the stage for a fantastic year ahead.



Learning & Exploration Highlights

This month, our classroom has been filled with curiosity and creativity:

- Apple Adventures - Tasting, sorting, and learning all about apples.
- Builder's Playdough - Using real tools with playdough, sparking construction-themed role play.
- Dinosaurs & Dragons Sensory Table - A big favourite for roaring, stomping, and imaginative storytelling.
- Rainwater Play - Splishing, splashing, and puddle fun outdoors.
- Farmers' Market Role Play - Exploring fruits, vegetables, scales, money, and dressing up as farmers.
- Irish Language & Music - Learning "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" in Irish, with plenty of singing and moving.
- Construction Play - Building with loose parts, blocks, and connectors while practicing teamwork and problem-solving.
- Show & Tell Fridays - Building confidence as the children shared their special items and stories.



Birthday Celebrations

We had three very special birthdays this month!

Amber turned 4, and we celebrated with a princess dress-up party full of sparkle, cake, and laughter.

Niall turned 4, and we had fun celebrating together in class before his big party at home.

Olivia turned 4, and we loved celebrating her special day with lots of joy and fun in the Blue Room.

Happy Birthday to all our September stars!

Building Friendships & Family Connections

Our September theme was "Me, My Family, and My Friends."

We learned songs such as "I Am Special" and "Give Yourself a Bear Hug."

We began learning family members in Irish and practiced saying our own surnames as well as the names of our family members.

The children created beautiful pictures on this topic and proudly shared them with the class.

During circle time, we had lovely conversations about our families, helping us learn more about one another and strengthen our classroom community.



We were also thrilled to welcome many new friends to our Blue Room family this month:

Roman M., Roman A., Nathan, Cody, Daisy Mae, Scarlett, Amilia, and Conor.

We're so happy to have you all with us!

Linking Our Learning with Aistear

All of our September activities were carefully planned with the Aistear Updated Curriculum 2024 in mind. Through play, conversation, music, art, and exploration, the children developed across all four themes:

Well-being - Building confidence, celebrating birthdays, and enjoying outdoor play.

Identity and Belonging - Exploring Me, My Family, and My Friends, welcoming new classmates, and sharing stories about our loved ones.

Communicating - Singing songs, learning Irish words, practicing surnames, and engaging in Show and Tell.

Exploring and Thinking - Investigating apples, experimenting with water play, construction building, and sensory exploration.

By connecting our daily learning experiences with Aistear, we ensure that children are nurtured, challenged, and supported in their growth and development every day.

Looking Ahead

We're excited for October and all the fun it will bring, from autumn activities to more imaginative play and continued learning together.

Thank you, as always, for your support. It's a joy to share these precious moments with your children.

With warmth,

Anna, Hannah, Ellie and Katie

Yellow Room

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A very warm welcome back to all our Yellow Room families! We hope you had a wonderful summer. It has been such a joy to see how quickly the children have settled back into our routine – their smiles, laughter, and excitement have filled the room from day one.

The Floor is Lava!

This month, the children have been fascinated by the game “*The Floor is Lava!*” To build on this interest, we carried out a fun volcano experiment, watching with excitement as our “lava” bubbled and spilled over. The children also drew their own volcanoes and used red paper and blocks to transform our outdoor area into a lava zone! Leaping from block to block sparked plenty of laughter, but also encouraged problem-solving, balance, and teamwork – wonderful opportunities for developing their well-being, sense of belonging, and early scientific thinking.



All About Me, My Family & Friends

As part of our September theme “*All About Me and My Family*”, the children shared stories about who lives in their homes and created beautiful family portraits. Using paper plates, they made self-portraits with eyes, noses, mouths, and yarn hair. These activities supported their fine motor skills, while also giving them a chance to explore their own identity and celebrate what makes them unique.

Our family-themed songs with puppets added lots of joy and gave the children space to express themselves through language, rhythm, and play, supporting their communication and building stronger connections with their peers.

Happy 5th Birthday to Our Preschool!

This month was extra special as we celebrated our preschool’s 5th birthday! The children marked the occasion by making birthday pictures, enjoying cake, and having a little party with treats. These shared celebrations help strengthen the children’s sense of community and belonging, and gave them the chance to reflect on milestones in a meaningful way.



Bake Sale for Childhood Cancer

We also held a bake sale this month to support children with cancer. A heartfelt thank you to all our parents and families for your generosity and kindness – your support made the event so meaningful. The children's involvement gave them an opportunity to experience empathy, kindness, and the value of helping others, while also feeling connected to something bigger than themselves.

Birthday Wishes!

We also celebrated Lily's and Cillian's 4th birthdays. The children decorated festive crowns, sang songs, and shared cake and sweets – such a joyful time for everyone! These special celebrations help each child feel valued and recognised within the group, supporting their identity and sense of belonging.



We are so proud of how curious, creative, and confident the children have been this month. We can't wait to see where their interests lead us next.

Here's to another month filled with learning, laughter, and adventure!

With love,

Iluta & Amanda 



Orange Room

We've had such a busy and exciting month in the Orange Room, filled with creativity, discovery, and celebrations!

✦ All About Me – Exploring Identity and Belonging

At the start of the month, the children created their own self-portraits. Using mirrors, they observed themselves closely and recreated their features on paper, along with sharing thoughtful comments about what they saw. These portraits, now proudly displayed, supported the children in developing a positive sense of identity and belonging by recognising their own uniqueness and celebrating themselves as part of our Orange Room community.

🌸 Special Celebrations – Strengthening Friendships and Community



This month we celebrated MiniMinds' 5th birthday with cake, sweets, and a special artwork titled "Happy 5th Bee-day MiniMinds." Each child decorated a honeycomb shape and shared their favourite thing about MiniMinds, helping to foster a sense of community and shared joy. We also celebrated Teddy turning 3 – happy birthday Teddy! Moments like these encourage children to express themselves, develop

confidence, and feel part of something special.

🦋 Our Butterfly Journey – Exploring and Thinking

A big highlight this month has been our growing interest in butterflies. It all began when the children discovered one in our outdoor area. From there, The Very Hungry Caterpillar quickly became a class favourite. This sparked many playful and creative learning opportunities:

At circle time, we sang new songs such as "The Butterfly Song" and "5 Little Caterpillars," supporting language development and confidence in self-expression.



Through art activities, the children created colourful pompom caterpillars, symmetrical butterflies, and playdough butterflies. These activities nurtured creativity, imagination, fine motor skills, and early understanding of symmetry and pattern.

Our butterfly tuff tray provided rich sensory and imaginative play. With green rice, pompoms, cocoons, and butterflies, the children re-enacted the life cycle, practiced storytelling, and engaged in problem-solving with their peers.

All of these experiences encouraged curiosity, exploration, and creative thinking while also supporting social development through collaboration and conversation.



Bake Sale

On Thursday the 25th, we held our bake sale in support of children's cancer, and we are delighted to say it was a huge success. The children were very excited to take part, especially as they helped to bake delicious gingerbread men especially for the occasion. It was a wonderful event that not only raised funds for a great cause but also gave the children a chance to be involved in baking, sharing, and giving back. Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this special day .

Looking Ahead

It's been a wonderful month of learning and growth. The children have been developing their confidence, creativity, and friendships while exploring their world in meaningful ways. We can't wait to see where their interests and imaginations take us next month!

Lots of love,
Aoife and Leonne 

Red Room

Hello Everyone,

September has been such a busy and exciting month in the Red Room! We were delighted to welcome so many new friends, and it has been wonderful to see everyone settle in so well. From those very first days, the children showed courage, curiosity, and



kindness as they explored their new surroundings. We have already seen lots of special friendships beginning to blossom, which speaks directly to *Aistear's theme of Identity and Belonging*. When children feel safe and included, they can confidently explore, express themselves, and grow.

This month was full of fun, creativity, and new interests. Inspired by holiday adventures, aeroplanes became a huge topic of play. Through this play, the children were not only developing their language and communication skills but also strengthening problem-solving skills.

Cooking also captured our attention as we made our own homemade pizzas together. The children sprinkled toppings, and shared ideas about their favourite flavours. This hands-on activity was a rich way to explore sensory play, turn-taking, and making choices. It also encouraged conversations about food, health, and home life, tying closely to *Aistear's Well-being theme*. Best of all, the children loved tasting the results of their hard work! 🍕

We made the most of the last of the sunshine outdoors, running, climbing, and exploring outside. As the weather began to shift, the children noticed changes all around them, and loved to watch the Autumn leaves fall. Using real leaves, we created our very own autumn trees, combining creativity with nature connection. This seasonal project gave the children opportunities to observe, question, and express themselves through art, aligning beautifully with *Aistear's Exploring and Thinking* as well as *Communicating*. 🍂

September also brought us some very exciting visitors! Nyla, Shea's dog, came to visit, sparking endless conversations and joyful retellings of the experience. George



the monkey (our cuddly guest!) also made an appearance, supporting imaginative storytelling and role play. Encounters like these give children meaningful ways to express themselves, while also encouraging empathy and care, again connecting with Aistear's *Identity and Belonging* and *Well-being*.



One of the biggest highlights of the month was our fire truck visit. The children's excitement was incredible as they explored the truck. This sparked a lot of imaginative play where the children imagined themselves as real firefighters. The enthusiasm spilled into our classroom with role play, dressing up, "putting out fires," and working together as a team. This type of dramatic play fosters collaboration, imagination, and problem-solving, supporting Aistear's *Communicating* and *Exploring and Thinking* themes, while also building confidence and resilience.



Of course, September wouldn't have been complete without a very special celebration, Teacher Keri's birthday! The children enjoyed singing, sharing yummy buns, and celebrating together. Moments like these help to nurture a strong sense of community, showing the children how to value and celebrate one another.

It has been a month filled with joy, discovery, and connection. We are so proud of how the children have embraced every new opportunity and we can't wait to see what adventures October will bring.

With love,

The Red Room Team – Jade, Keri & Charline ❤️

