

MAUREEN'S PRESCHOOL Halloween News



Our 29th Year of Preschool in Palmerstown started on 1st September 2016.

Maureen, Barbara, Samantha and Lyndsey would like to welcome all the children who are with us in Maureen's Preschool this year.



We would like to say “Cead Mile Failte”/Welcome to all the new children and their parent/carers. We would also like to welcome Lyndsey to our team. She is studying for her Level 8 in Maynooth.

Settling In!!

The children settled in very well this year (much less tears than most years!). Thanks to all parents/carers for your help, patience and courage in settling the children into the Preschool. It can sometimes be harder on the parent than the child. Please be absolutely assured that we will never allow a child to be upset for any length of time. If your child persists being upset, we will always give you or one of your contact names a call to collect your child – and then try again the following day until they settle. Believe me, they ALWAYS settle if both you and we are consistent in our approach. The children are getting to know each other, making friends and remembering names. They are starting to get into the routine and, though they don't know it, have actually started to work on our curriculum. They may say they “did nothing in Preschool” but you will hear them reciting, singing songs, using Irish vocabulary etc. as the year advances.



Road Safety:

We have been working with the children on road safety. We explained about Red for stop and Green for go.

Curriculum

We have actively started on our curriculum e.g. painting, sand, water, songs, rhymes, jigsaws, play dough and even a little “Gaeilge” already. Ask them the Irish for “Boy”, “Girl”, “Table” and “Teacher”. They may not know it yet but they soon will! They even wish us “Slán” on their way home. They are also working on their counting, not only in English but also in Irish.

We have been teaching the children about the Autumn Season and had a nature walk. We also are doing leaf paintings, leaf rubbings and discussing hedgehogs, squirrels, healthy food and about the enormous turnip. We grew a pumpkin in the garden this year. Next up is the Winter curriculum.



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At Halloween we had a fancy dress party, face painting, played duck apple and other Halloween games and held a disco.

During crafts, the children prepared pumpkins, made ghosts, painted fireworks and we did some baking of fairy cakes.

Our story time/songs leading up to Halloween included:

"Room on the Broom"

"Peter Pumpkin"

"We're Witches of Halloween"

"The little old lady who was not afraid of anything".



Halloween Rhymes We Learned

"Peter Pumpkin, I see you
Peeping through the window
Peeping through the window
At Halloween
At Halloween"

"A funny little woman
With a pointed hat
Knocked on my door
With a rat a tat tat
When I went to open it
She was not there
She was on a broomstick
Flying through the air"

Your child has started their yearly work book. They will bring this home at the end of the Preschool year. Please send in your photographs if you have not done so already. 3 formal observations of your child's development will be taken at different stages during the year. You will be asked to sign these and return them to the Preschool. These observations will be returned to you in the workbook at the end of the year. If there is any cause for concern, we will immediately alert you. If you have any concerns yourself about your child's development please contact the Preschool to discuss.

All of our staff are fully qualified at Fetac Level 6. As a preschool we like to support other students in their studies. Accordingly we generally have both trainee childcare workers and also transition year students in the Preschool for work experience, in addition to our normal staff (3 of whom are always rostered each day).

Deadline 10th November

Each year our Preschool supports The Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal to provide some Xmas joy for children in deprived countries. If you can support it, please donate a shoebox by 11th November.

Notices

Some children (and one of our teachers!) have food allergies. I would be grateful if you would avoid giving your child nuts/eggs etc. as part of their lunch. Please note that there is a 48 hour exclusion policy from the Preschool if your child has a tummy bug in order to avoid cross-contamination to the other children.