

April 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to welcome you back after the Easter holidays and hope you all had a nice break.

We have some upcoming events that may be of interest.

#### Babysitting

We plan on hosting a babysitting evening on the last Friday of the month from 6-10pm to provide parents the opportunity to go to the cinema, avail of an early bird meal etc. The cost is €20 for a child or €25 per family. Children are invited to come in their pyjamas and enjoy a movie and some fun. If this would be something that would interest you, let us know. It is vital that you book in advance. It is even more vital that the children are collected by 10pm as the success of the scheme is that parents get a night out but the staff get home at a reasonable hour. All funds raised will be used to purchase the new equipment for the garden.

#### Quiz Night

Last June, some of our parents organised a quiz night for us. The money raised from this was put towards the building of toilets in ABCD's garden and the roof in the garden in Iona. Due to the success of the quiz night, some of our parents have kindly offered to organise another one. We are thinking of some evening in May, we will keep you posted!

#### Mad Hatters and Sports Day

This is our annual event for both children and parents. We will keep you informed of a date, it will be sunny day sometime in May. Get practicing!

#### Graduation

Graduation for the children heading off to big school will take place in June. Date to be confirmed.

#### Puppet Making

There is a fantastic puppet maker in ABCD. He has offered to run puppet making classes at no cost for any parents who would be interested in the art of puppet making. Anyone who would like to get involved, let me know.

#### **News**

#### Theatre

We are delighted to announce that we have taken on the theatre in ABCD. This will give us more space for the afterschool and preschool children. We will be putting in a new door which will provide us with direct access to the garden. We plan to cover half of the garden so that we can use it whatever the weather. We will also install a water play area, swing slide and mud kitchen. Oh and the hens are making a come back!

### Students

St Patricks College and Dublin City University have developed a four year degree in Early Childhood Education. We are delighted to have some of the students on their work placement in Iona and ABCD. They will be here until the end of the year. We have been asked to facilitate trainee primary school teachers in the making of a video in the benefits of outdoor play. The garden in ABCD will be featured in this and will be used as a promotional tool for the St Patricks teacher training course.

### Art Class

Simona has started up Art and Craft classes for children in Iona every Saturday morning from 10-11.30am and 11.45-1.15pm. To book call Simona 086 326 4537

### Knitters

Many thanks to all those who knitted for us. We hope that you will like the end product which will be on view on the ABCD fence.

### Summer Camp

We will be running a summer camp during July and August for full and half days.

### Enrolments for September 2016

Please return the application form if your child is staying on for next year or have siblings that are coming.

Our afterschool service is available to any children that may need it. We collect from the local schools.

### Ideas/Comments

As always we welcome any comments (good or bad) that would help us improve our service to you and most importantly your children.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa McNamara