

La Petite École Montessori



Classroom 14 News



Sea Mural created with children's help



The children's Nature Table



Autumnal Work

Welcome to our First Newsletter of 2023

Première Bulletin de 2023

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year. During the month of September, we enjoyed getting to know all of the children and they enjoyed exploring their new classroom and making new friends. The children brought pictures of themselves and their family and we used these to label their cubbies and hooks and also made table mats for snack time.

The children in both groups have settled in really well and are enjoying free play, adult led activities and lots of outdoor play.

Play & Learning

During each session, the children play freely and are invited to do many activities.

We have a focus for our activities which generally changes fortnightly; some of the work they do will be for group displays and some to be taken home.

Over the past two months the children have worked on the themes of: **The Sea; Autumn; Fire and Road Safety; and Halloween**

The Sea

At the beginning of the year one of the children asked to make Octopus coat hook name cards. This led us to our sea theme. The children helped to create a sea mural and we sang songs related to the sea: "Big Ship"; "Baby Beluga"; "Sailor went to Sea".

Autumn

For our Autumn theme we went for a nature walk and looked at trees and their seeds. We also matched the seeds to the trees.

We made autumn trees using scraps of brown fabric for the trunk/branches and leaves from outdoors.

We went out and walked through the crisp leaves on a dry autumn morning and collected sticks to make a stick pile after a windy day.

We visited the girls school Fairy Garden and made a plan to come back and collect apples from the tree there. Elijah's aunt brought in an apple grabber and we went back and collected apples. We made an apple cake which was so delicious that some of the children had seconds (and even thirds..... shh)!



Carved Pumpkin & Halloween Decorations

The children learned new Halloween songs and made skeletons. We will continue to learn more about skeletons after the mid-term.

Safety

We learned about fire safety and practised "stop! drop! and roll! as well as our fire drill. In October we continued to talk about being safe - especially now the evenings are getting dark. The children coloured people wearing high viz clothes using highlighters. They enjoyed this activity so much that we ended up with a very busy street. At PE made a road and practised stop and go.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Snack Time

Please let the school know if your child has an allergy to any foods or if there are any foods that you do not want your child to eat. The school follows a 'no nuts' or popcorn policy so please refrain from sending any 'nut' related products or popcorn to school.

We would also ask that all grapes, berries or tomatoes are cut/quartered as these can be choking hazards.

We encourage the children as much as possible to eat their healthy options first. Treats are reserved for Fridays and Special Days.

Clothing

Can you please make sure that your child brings a coat each day so that they can play outdoors.

Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes in their school bag in case of spills or accidents. All clothing should be labelled clearly with your child's name.

We also ask that your child(ren)'s clothing is easy for them to manage when toileting; this will help with their independence.

Please supply a fleece to be left in school for any extra cold mornings - especially Monday - when classrooms are cold after the weekend.

Illness

If your child has been sick, had diarrhoea or has a temperature, (37.8C or greater) we ask that they be kept at home for 48 hours to ensure that any bugs are not being passed on. Please telephone or email to let us know of their absence.

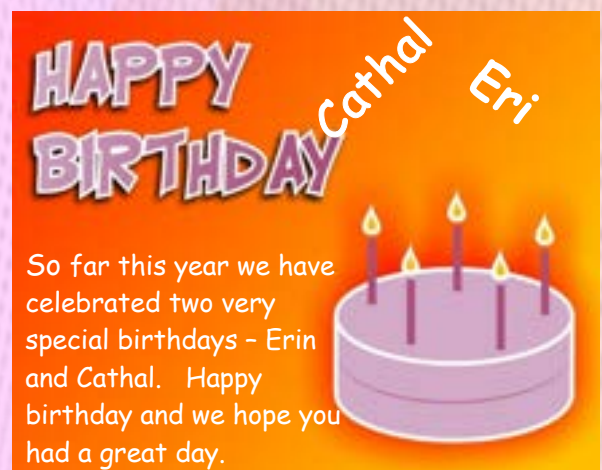
Accidents at Home

If your child has had an accident at home, please let us know so that we can keep an extra eye on them.

Medication

If your child is on antibiotics or any medication for example Calpol, please let your teacher know. Please also consider if they are well enough to come to school.

If your child has prescribed medication that requires to be given during the day you will need to complete a form with directions and consent.



So far this year we have celebrated two very special birthdays - Erin and Cathal. Happy birthday and we hope you had a great day.





Painting Stones



Painting stones is an activity suitable for all ages and allows children to be as creative as they want.

What you will need:

- Stones (flat and smooth)
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Cup of water

Optional

- Newspaper for the table
- Clear nail varnish
- Felt tip pens/markers



Wash and dry the stone, then paint it white all over. Allow to dry.

Then paint the stone in your chosen colour or design. Allow to dry completely before applying a second coat and/or varnish.

What is my child learning?

Painting is a relaxing sensory learning experience for children. It can be a great way for children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively.

Mark making with a paintbrush on a defined space gives children the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills, control skills and practice hand eye co-ordination.

Use open-ended questions to help stimulate and develop conversations. Examples might include: "I wonder what you could paint on the stone", "What colours did you use to paint your stone", or "What do you think will happen if we mix these two colours"

Suggestions to extend learning

1. Create a fairy garden using the painted stones. Put into a flowerpot or in a cleared area add soil, twigs, stones and flowers.
2. Create a story stone set – paint a stone to represent a key figure in your child's favourite book. For example The Gruffalo would have a mouse, a fox, an owl, a snake, a gruffalo, a nut and the woods.
3. Paint simple faces to help children discuss how they are feeling – happy, sad, angry, excited, sick or surprised.
4. Paint patterns, numbers, letters or shapes onto stones.

