

PEACEPLUS

ASPIRE

END OF TERM SUMMARY FOR OUR PRESCHOOL SETTINGS

APRIL 2026

**ENJOY READING SOME OF THE MANY
INSPIRING STORIES FROM THE LAST TERM**

Little Friends Pre-School and St Mary's Nursery Unit, Banbridge

In March, children from Little Friends Pre-School and St Mary's Nursery in Banbridge came together for an active, fun-filled sports day at Banbridge Rugby Club. The children were introduced to simple rugby skills such as passing, alongside movement-based games including zig-zag running, ducking and dodging, all of which encouraged teamwork, confidence and excitement as they tried something new together.

Members of Banbridge Rugby Club and Feeney's Gaelic school generously gave up their time to coach and mentor the children, creating a warm, relaxed and welcoming environment. The day was well supported by parents and the wider community, with local businesses donating snacks for the children.

A parent from Little Friends said, "instilling the understanding of diversity is a very important thing to do at this age, it allows children to be more open to differences and highlight the importance that everyone is equal. Children are what shape the future and if they learn the right morals and values at this stage of life and are respectful to one another, it reduces discrimination in our society from an early age and as a result of that they will grow and learn from one another."



Iontas Childcare, Castleblayney and Naíscoil an Chéide, Keady

Iontas Childcare in Castleblayney and Naíscoil an Chéide in Keady came together in February for a multi-cultural morning celebrating inclusion, quality and shared learning. The children proudly shared their cultures by wearing traditional clothing, bringing photos of their homes, books from their home countries and special cultural items such as Matryoshka dolls and Ganjifa cards.

These activities sparked meaningful discussions about identity, similarities and differences, while parents enhanced the experience by sharing traditional foods from a wide range of countries.

The morning was further enriched by a lively performance of traditional Irish music and dance from local secondary school pupils. Practitioners placed children's participation at the heart of the session, carefully observing children's play, interests and emerging curiosities throughout the event and will plan future sessions based on these observations, ensuring that learning remains child-centred, inclusive and responsive.



Lisbellaw Community Nursery and St Ronan's Nursery School, Lisnaskea

Lisbellaw Nursery had a fantastic visit to St Ronan's Nursery School for a special St Patrick's Day celebration. The children enjoyed a festival of music, Irish dancing, singing and storytelling in the assembly hall.

The children were also treated to a brilliant performance by four Irish dancers in full costume and everyone joined in with the dancing and movement.

The children then divided into two groups to enjoy different activities. Some stayed in the nursery room, where they had a snack, made shamrock crafts, took part in creative play and spent time exploring outdoors. The other group remained in the assembly hall, enjoying music, movement games and themed sensory experiences.

It was a wonderful morning full of culture, creativity, connection and joy - supporting learning across the curriculum and strengthening relationships between the children.





PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Talks Podcast Series 2



The second series of the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Talks podcast began streaming on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcast and PEACEPLUS ASPIRE websites in March.

This series features engaging conversations with educational experts on Shared Education and practitioners from pre-school, primary and post-primary settings.

The second episode features Siobhán Fitzpatrick, former Early Years Chief Executive Officer, who shares invaluable insights into how Shared Education can shape young lives, strengthen communities, and foster inclusion.

The first and second series are available to watch and listen to [here](#).



PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Digital Upskilling Workshops

In March, Early Years launched a series of digital upskilling workshops called The Meeting Place to prepare pre-school settings for the new equipment arriving through the Tech2 Settings initiative.

These sessions focused on building confidence in how to prepare the digital environment and seamlessly connect laptops, projectors, TVs, and Bluetooth speakers.

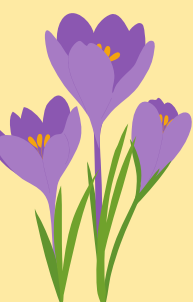
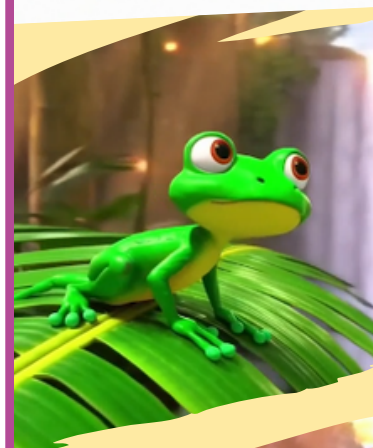
The sessions explored two primary modes of teaching: utilising the TV as an interactive "Window" for group focus and connecting partner settings via Teams, and using the projector as a "Stage" to create immersive floor and wall projections.

To demonstrate the potential of these tools, attendees were walked through an immersive 'Jungle Adventure' showing how combining visual projections with Bluetooth audio removes the barrier of sound and completely transforms a classroom into a magical jungle.



Digital Upskilling

PEACEPLUS ASPIRE



Trinity Nursey School, Bangor and Glenbrooke Nursery School, Newtownards

In March, the children at Trinity Nursey School warmly welcomed their friends from Glenbrook Nursey School for a day of child-led learning and fun. The session included a Jump, Jiggle and Jive session that gave the children a chance to dance, be active and enjoy spending time together in a structured and supportive environment.

Children also enjoyed a mix of indoor and outdoor play, allowing them to interact freely, be creative and share ideas as they played.

Speaking on the benefits of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, Rhonda Cameron, Principal of Glenbrook Nursey School said, "the project has enabled our children to develop in their confidence, communication and in their social and emotional wellbeing. Children have naturally developed friendships in a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere."



Learn 'n' Play Preschool and Stepping Stones Playgroup, Donegal

A shared celebration of culture and community took place in the Vestry in Letterkenny, bringing together Learn 'n' Play Preschool and Stepping Stones Playgroup.

Children proudly walked the red carpet in their traditional national dress, sparking curiosity and conversations about different cultures and celebrations. Parents supported the event with henna hand painting and face painting, while the local college, library, and a visiting musician provided Irish dancing, interactive storytelling, and multilingual music.

Through play and crafts, children created their own celebration flags, while the hall buzzed with laughter, language, and connection. The day was a true shared celebration of culture and community.



PEACEPLUS ASPIRE is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

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