

NAÍScoil DHOIRE

October – June

Daily Timetable

08.45 – 08.55am: Preparation for the Day

Staff will open all play activities, prepare items for snack and set up the outdoor play area for the day ahead.

08.55am: Meet and Greet.

A staff member meets the children and their parents at the nursery door each morning and says “Maidin Mhaith” to everyone as they come in. We encourage the children to find their name card showing their symbol during Term 1, their symbol and initial letter during Term 2 and their name during Term 3. We also encourage the children to use the phonetic sound for the first letter of their name. Parents are welcome to come into the classroom to settle their children to play if they wish.

08.55 – 10.35am: Learning Through Play (planned and structured).

This time is allocated to allow the children to experience “free play.” This play is planned and structured to cover the six areas of the Pre-School Curriculum.

The staff’s aim is to engage the children in as much discussion and activity as possible allowing them to develop to their full potential in all six curricular areas and to develop an understanding of and early use of the Irish language.

A healthy snack consisting of milk or water and toast/muffin/yogurt/crackers and cheese/fruit is available for the children to avail of for 30 minutes during free play time.

During good weather, an open door, free choice play policy also operates for a period of this time during which children can choose for themselves if they would like to engage in indoor or outdoor play activities.

Small group activities are also completed during this time period which focuses on promoting a range of skills including language, mathematical and social development.

We operate a “Lending Library” once a week. The children each choose a book/play pack to take home to share with their parents/family until the following week.

10.35 – 10.45am: Tidy Up Time & Independent Reading Time.

At this time the children help the adults to tidy up the activities that they have played with. This helps them to become more independent, responsible and confident. They are encouraged to do this by following the adults’ example and being praised and rewarded for their efforts through receiving a marble in the marble box. When the marble box is full, the class are rewarded with a class treat/dvd/park play/class trip. When they have finished tidying up, the children are encouraged to choose and to read a book independently. Two very eager class helpers are then chosen to collect the books again.

10.45 – 11.00am: Song & Group Time.

During this time, the children learn new songs and rhymes and revise previous songs which can be found in the monthly newsletter. They also have the opportunity to observe and record the weather on a daily basis on the weather chart from Term 2 onwards.



NAÍScoil DHOIRE

October – June

Daily Timetable

11.00 – 11.15am: Story Time.

The children have the opportunity to settle down to listen to a story in a smaller group of 13 as the children find it easier to concentrate in smaller groups. Stories are planned around the monthly themes and the children's own experiences, interests or spontaneous events that have recently occurred. The children are given the opportunity to share their thoughts and views on the story, whilst also developing their listening skills, communication skills, thinking skills, expanding their vocabulary and building their confidence to help them to feel able to contribute during group sessions. Where possible, staff and students sit amongst the children at group time to help them to concentrate, to reduce any distractions and to help them to feel secure and supported.

(Following this the younger children receive their reward stars and brush their teeth.)

11.15 – 11.50am: Outdoor Play.

All children participate in an outdoor play session during which they can develop their gross and fine motor skills on a daily basis outdoors through the use of equipment such as climbing frame, slide, tricycles, scooters, balancing equipment, balls, bats, beanbags, hoops, etc. They also have the opportunity to engage in role play, building music, art, quiet, sand, water and gardening activities.

11.50 – 12.05pm: Preparation for Dinner & Music Activities.

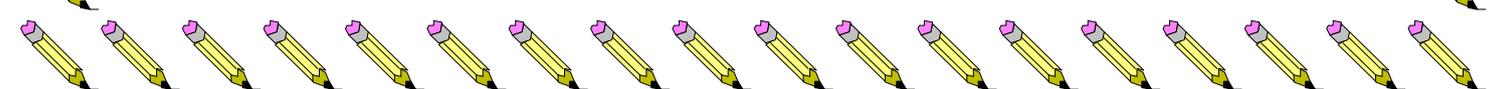
This is one of the many occasions where the children's personal, social and emotional development can be focused on in terms of personal hygiene e.g. discussing hygiene when using the toilet, flushing, washing their hands with soap, drying with paper towels and disposing of them appropriately. Waiting and taking turns is another area which we focus on at this time. The children are then encouraged to collect their dinner mat, cutlery and drink for dinner and to set the table appropriately.

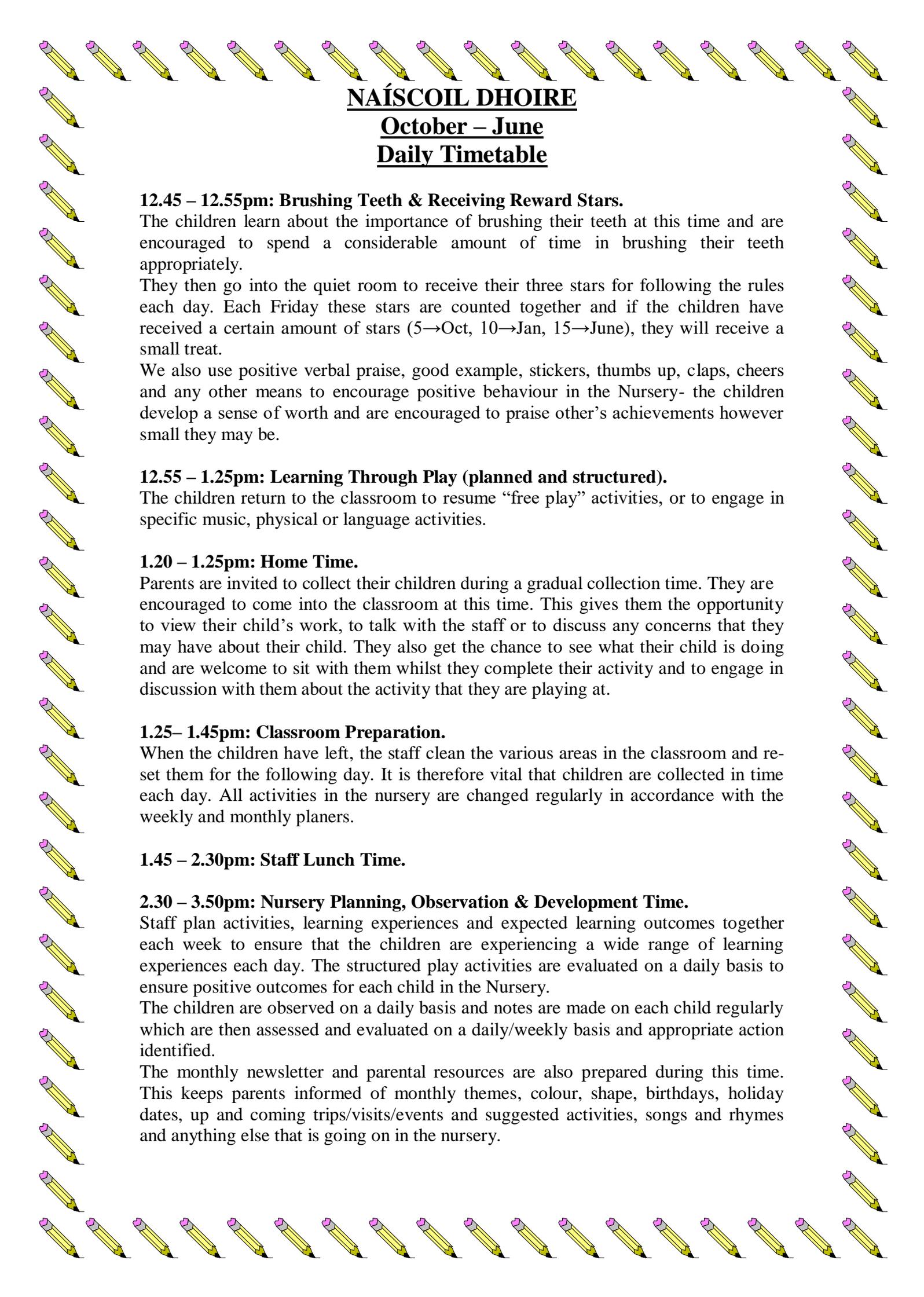
While small groups are preparing for dinner, the remainder of the children use musical instruments to investigate different sounds and to sing their songs alongside instruments and/or C.Ds.

12.05 – 12.45pm: Dinner Time.

Social interaction, healthy eating awareness and food appreciation is developed at this time. The children sit together at a table with their peers and with adults. We say the prayer together and then wait to see what dinner we have today. The children are encouraged to choose how many and how much of each food item they would like. Each child is encouraged to try every food item. The children are encouraged to behave appropriately at the table and to socialise with their peers as well as with staff. They learn to enjoy their food and to try new tastes and textures through copying the staff and their peers' example and responding to positive praise.

Another two class helpers are chosen to give out plates/collect the dinner mats when dinner has finished. They all love this responsibility and are all eager to take part. The children receive stickers and lots of praise for their good efforts at eating their dinner.





NAÍScoil DHOIRE

October – June

Daily Timetable

12.45 – 12.55pm: Brushing Teeth & Receiving Reward Stars.

The children learn about the importance of brushing their teeth at this time and are encouraged to spend a considerable amount of time in brushing their teeth appropriately.

They then go into the quiet room to receive their three stars for following the rules each day. Each Friday these stars are counted together and if the children have received a certain amount of stars (5→Oct, 10→Jan, 15→June), they will receive a small treat.

We also use positive verbal praise, good example, stickers, thumbs up, claps, cheers and any other means to encourage positive behaviour in the Nursery- the children develop a sense of worth and are encouraged to praise other's achievements however small they may be.

12.55 – 1.25pm: Learning Through Play (planned and structured).

The children return to the classroom to resume “free play” activities, or to engage in specific music, physical or language activities.

1.20 – 1.25pm: Home Time.

Parents are invited to collect their children during a gradual collection time. They are encouraged to come into the classroom at this time. This gives them the opportunity to view their child's work, to talk with the staff or to discuss any concerns that they may have about their child. They also get the chance to see what their child is doing and are welcome to sit with them whilst they complete their activity and to engage in discussion with them about the activity that they are playing at.

1.25– 1.45pm: Classroom Preparation.

When the children have left, the staff clean the various areas in the classroom and re-set them for the following day. It is therefore vital that children are collected in time each day. All activities in the nursery are changed regularly in accordance with the weekly and monthly planners.

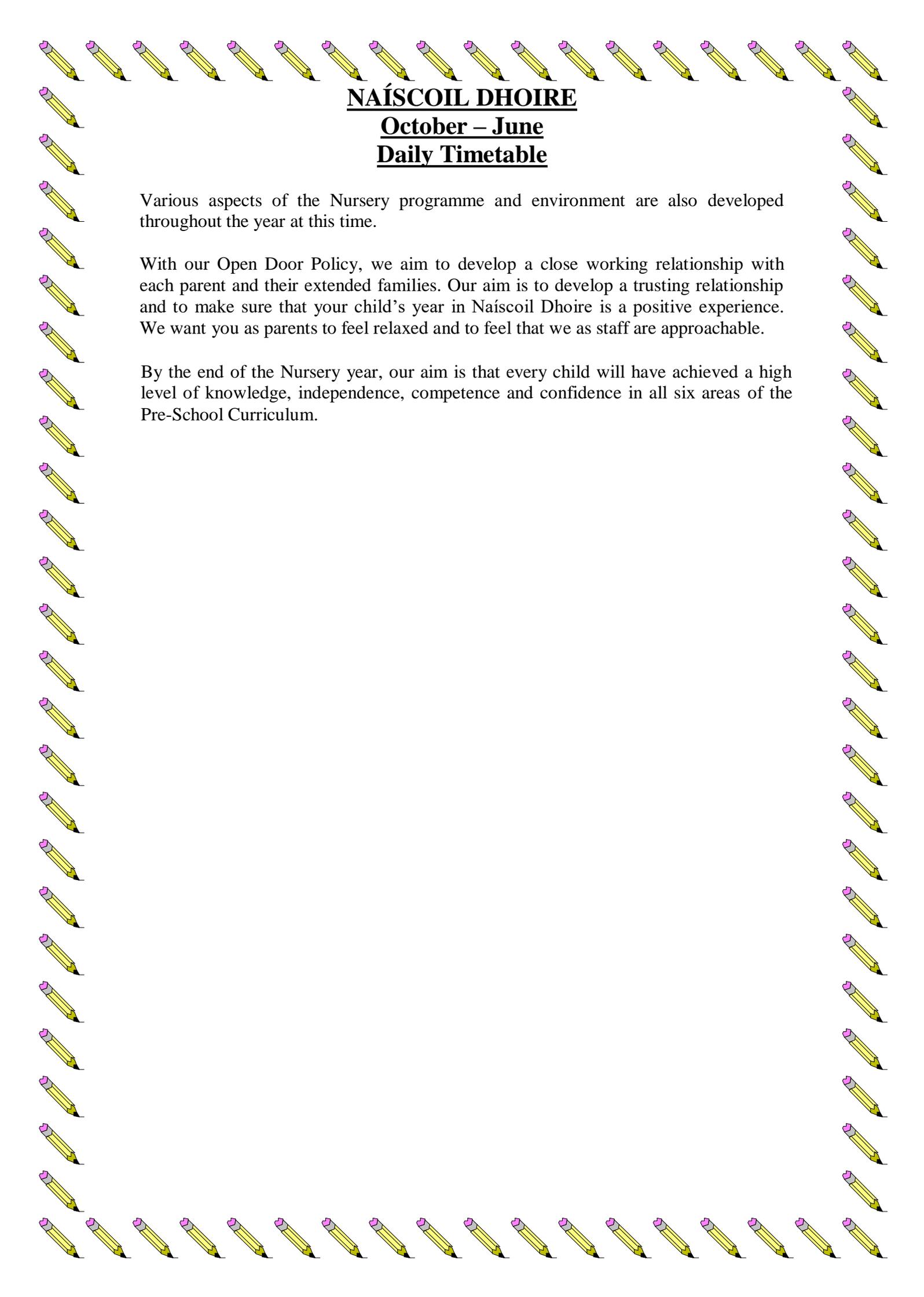
1.45 – 2.30pm: Staff Lunch Time.

2.30 – 3.50pm: Nursery Planning, Observation & Development Time.

Staff plan activities, learning experiences and expected learning outcomes together each week to ensure that the children are experiencing a wide range of learning experiences each day. The structured play activities are evaluated on a daily basis to ensure positive outcomes for each child in the Nursery.

The children are observed on a daily basis and notes are made on each child regularly which are then assessed and evaluated on a daily/weekly basis and appropriate action identified.

The monthly newsletter and parental resources are also prepared during this time. This keeps parents informed of monthly themes, colour, shape, birthdays, holiday dates, up and coming trips/visits/events and suggested activities, songs and rhymes and anything else that is going on in the nursery.



NAÍScoil DHOIRE

October – June

Daily Timetable

Various aspects of the Nursery programme and environment are also developed throughout the year at this time.

With our Open Door Policy, we aim to develop a close working relationship with each parent and their extended families. Our aim is to develop a trusting relationship and to make sure that your child's year in Naíscoil Dhoire is a positive experience. We want you as parents to feel relaxed and to feel that we as staff are approachable.

By the end of the Nursery year, our aim is that every child will have achieved a high level of knowledge, independence, competence and confidence in all six areas of the Pre-School Curriculum.