

Ballymoney Nursery School

April 2021 Newsletter



I hope you all had a lovely Easter break with your children. Last month, we were delighted to be reunited with your children at school and then to find out we wouldn't be reverting back to remote learning 😊 We are very proud of how well the children settled back into Nursery life and are now looking forward to the new term ahead.

Last month, the position of Building Supervisor was interviewed for and the successful candidate was Mr Noel Lamont. He will take up the position of Building Supervisor at Ballymoney Nursery School on Wednesday 28th April 2021 with Sharon McMillan's last day being Tuesday 27th April 2021.

Learning experiences within the Nursery School

World Book Day



Thank you to everyone who participated in the extreme reading challenge and shared their photos on Seesaw or Facebook. It was great to see the children enjoying reading a story in a variety of places.

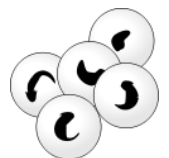
Road Safety Awareness

The last theme that was focused on during the remote learning at the beginning of February was Road Safety focusing on children crossing the road and cycling safely. We would encourage that you continue to focus on this at home and when you are out and about with your child.

Now, that all the classes are back both here and at the Primary School next door, I am aware that on a Friday afternoon there may be issues with parking and we will understand that you may be slightly late in picking up your child.

Pondlife

Last month, the children enjoyed visiting the pond that we share with Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School. There were lots of frogspawn that they enjoyed watching grow in the weeks leading to the Easter break as well as eating their snack on the picnic benches.



Outdoor Learning and physical activity

As part of our measures to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 each of the different areas outside along with the hall are timetabled to a different class on a weekly basis.

* The hall is now set up with various physical activity equipment helping develop the children's climbing, balancing, jumping and throwing skills. There is also a construction area that can be accessed.

*The secret garden has various areas to encourage exploration; a music wall, water wall, construction area, physical activity area as well as the covered outdoor classroom.

*The playground has the fixed physical activity equipment such as the climbing frames, construction area, water table, train and two enclosed areas that are used for creative activities and playing with small world toys. The scooters and bicycles are also used on the cycle track.

*The outside area to the left of the school has been developed this year for the pre pre school children. This a smaller enclosed area that encourages the children to explore; develop their physical skills such as running, jumping, balancing, crawling and pushing using various purpose bought and upcycled resources. There are also age appropriate tricycles in this area as well as a mud kitchen.

The children will continue to use these areas, please continue to ensure your children come **appropriately dressed for the outdoors; clothes that may get muddy, coat, gloves and if the weather is good please apply sun cream before they come to Nursery School.**

A reminder to the parents/carers whose children enter and leave via the main door. Please ensure your children do not touch the equipment that is out on the area to the left of the school as it won't be their bubble that is accessing it.

Mr Hullabaloo

We are excited to welcome Mr Hullabaloo back to the nursery on **Thursday 29th April 2021** (if restrictions permit this at that time). Due to the current situation, his show has been shortened so that each class can watch it separately in the hall to maintain the bubbles. The hall will be fogged between performances and we will ensure the children are seated at least 2m from where the show is being performed. If you would rather your child does not watch the show, please get in touch and let us know.



Parental Partnership

Board of Governors Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Representative on the Board of Governors. If you are interested in being a Governor of our school or would like to know more about what this entails please get in touch either by emailing, Facebook messaging or telephoning the school.



Getting Ready to Learn Top up

The resources (whiteboard, whiteboard pen and goo putty which can be used to help relieve stress as well as develop fine motor skills and strength) that were purchased with our Getting Ready to Learn top up money have arrived in school and will be sent home at the beginning of next week. These can be stored in the children's home learning bags. Please share photos with us of your children using the resources.

School Fund

We would like to thank those of you who have paid the **School Fund** for the year and remind those who are paying each term that £40 for this term (April-June) is now due.

Easter Hamper Raffle

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Easter Hamper Raffle. We are delighted that we raised £275 which we are going to use to buy a new iPad. Congratulations again to the four winners.



Cards

We would like to help you recycle any old cards you may have at home (Christmas, Easter, birthdays etc.)! If you have any you no longer wish to keep please bring them into school which will be used to help the children develop their cutting skills. The cards won't be used by the children until next week to enable time for them to quarantine.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone again who has donated resources for our outdoor areas. We would also like to especially thank Micah's daddy who has created us a wooden pump for the tricycles and bicycles and outdoor wooden scales.

Important Information



Sponsored Cycle

Our annual Sponsored Cycle will take place week beginning 26th April 2021 weather permitting. Each class will participate on different days to ensure the tricycles and bicycles are thoroughly cleaned down. The sponsor sheets will be sent home with the children on Wednesday.

Covid-19

If your child or anyone in your house is showing any signs of Covid-19, please ensure your child does not attend school for 10 days. The following main symptoms to look for are: -

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- loss of taste or smell

Please let us know if your child is off school due to self-isolating. If symptoms start at the weekend or a test has been confirmed as positive at the weekend please email me to let me know as I will be checking my emails daily.

Please also remember to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up you child; maintain social distancing from other parents/carers and arrive at your allocated times and no more than five minutes before.

Dates for your diary...



Wednesday 28th April 2021 - The portal will be updated to indicate where children have been allocated for their pre school/ Primary 1 year.

Thursday 29th April 2021 - **Mr Hullabaloo shows for each of the class** (*classes entering by the front door, please ensure you are prompt on this day to enable the hall to be set up for the show and that you don't miss the beginning of it*).

Week beginning 26th April 2021 (weather dependent) - Our Sponsored Cycle

Monday 3rd May 2021 - Bank Holiday -School Closed

Tuesday 4th May 2021 - School Development Day - School Closed to children

Best Wishes

Principal