

# Ballymoney Nursery School

## June 2021 Newsletter



I hope you all had a lovely bank holiday weekend and are safely enjoying the relaxing of some of the current restrictions. We are about to start what will be the busiest month of the school year. As well as participating in the fantastic Rugbugz sessions, all of the children will be preparing for and participating in Ballymoney Nursery School's first Sports Day; taking part in the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic and the first Graduation (pre school/target age children) that has been able to take place in the school will take place (last year's took place virtually).

It is with great sadness that I inform you officially that after many years of teaching Mrs McClelland will be retiring from teaching and Ballymoney Nursery School at the end of August 2021. During her time here over the past 22 years, Mrs McClelland has been fully committed to providing you and your children with outstanding pre-school education in a safe and stimulating environment and has been instrumental in the continued development of the nursery school and meeting the needs of all children in particular those with special educational needs. We are going to miss her greatly but wish her and her husband well in the next chapter of their lives. To mark Mrs McClelland's retirement, we would like to make a presentation to her at the end of June from Ballymoney Nursery School community so that it will be the children she has taught this year that get to take part in the presentation.

If you, or family and friends with connections to the nursery school would like to make a donation and/or sign the card for Mrs McClelland, please either get in touch with myself, make a bank transfer (please state retire beside it) or bring an envelope to school via the main door.

### Learning experiences within the Nursery School

#### Rugbugz

The children's first session of Rugbugz took place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May and every child thoroughly enjoyed it. The activities were very child friendly and fun whilst developing their gross motor skills. We are looking forward to the next three Thursdays for the rest of the sessions.

#### Minibeasts

Last month, all of the classes enjoyed exploring the outdoors and hunting for minibeasts. Our new displays outside helped them identify what they found. Our caterpillars have now emerged from their cocoons and most of them have now been released into the garden. The children enjoyed watching them fly away to freedom!



#### People who help us

Last month, we started focusing on the people who help us and those children will have first hand experience of. We learned about the food shop workers, doctors, nurses and dentists. We will be further developing

this by focusing on the various emergency services. We would ask that you help develop this at home by practising with your child what their address is. This will help them if they ever have to phone 999.

## Sun Safety

We will learn about the RNLI which will lead us into focusing on beach and sun safety. There are lots of links that can be found on the following website that you may like to access with your child to help reinforce this:- <https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/lower-primary> . We will be focusing on the fact that to remain safe in the sun; they should remain in the shade between 11am-3pm, wear a hat, suncream, covered shoulders and drink lots of water.

## Outdoor Learning and physical activity

The children have been enjoying learning in the outdoors and last month our District Inspector visited us and watched from afar some of the children accessing the many activities and areas of learning in the playground, She was very impressed with what she observed and could see that the children were engaging with the activities on offer and all areas of the curriculum were being covered.



We are delighted that this year we will be holding our first Sports Day. This will be a non competitive event where the children will participate in various activities that they will have practised in the lead up to the final event. The aim is to encourage the fun element of fitness and taking part in challenges as well as the opportunity to showcase their gross motor skills. The ultimate aim is for the children to complete the challenges and enjoy it -they are not competing against anyone else and therefore everyone will achieve success. All children will receive a certificate which will be placed in their profile and go home that day with their badge.

We would like to thank Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School as they have agreed to allow us to use their playground/grass area for the practises and the final Sports Day events. This will be a great experience for the children as they will be visiting and performing somewhere new. It will also benefit the children who will be moving to the Model in September as it will help them become familiar with the outdoor area. To maintain our current bubbles, each class has their own allocated slots to practise and there will be four Sports Day events.

Unfortunately, due to Covid we are unable to invite parents/carers to this event. We will however video aspects of it and share it on Seesaw so that you get to have an insight into what happened.

## Teddy Bear Picnic



This year the annual Teddy Bear's Picnic will be taking place within each bubble on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**. Again, I would like to thank Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School as they are allowing us to use their garden area to the left of their school for the children to have their picnic. Look out for photos of the Picnic on Facebook and Seesaw!

## Graduation



Last year we held our first Graduation which took place virtually. This year it will take place at school for the first time. This is a milestone for your child. They are ending their time at Nursery school and their first experience of education. Weather permitting, we are planning to have the 'ceremonies' take place at the stage area in the Secret Garden. To maintain our current bubbles, each class will have their own ceremony. Unfortunately, due to Covid we are unable to invite parents/carers to attend the Graduations. We

will take photos and video clips to help you feel part of the occasion. To ensure there is time for each child to have their 'official' photograph taken these will be taken prior to the Graduation. I will let you know the dates nearer the time. The graduations for Mrs Trimmings and Ms McCarron's classes will take place on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June** and Mrs McClelland's morning class will have theirs on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June**.

## Parental Partnership

### Sponsored bike ride

Thank you again to all of the sponsors of our children for the money raised for this year's Sponored Bike Ride. We are amazed and flabergasted to say that a total of £3007.00 was raised!!!! This is a phenominal amount and we are very grateful to you all. We have placed orders for new high quality items for the class home corners, programmable toys to develop the children's programming skills and spatial awareness as well as items to enhance the learning in the outdoors. We are hopeful that many of it will arrive before the summer holidays. We are pleased to say that the new visual displays and road signs for outside have arrived and have been used by the children in the playground and the pre pre garden area.



### Pre School - Primary Transition

Thank you again for completing the Google Form to inform us what Primary School your child would be attending. This has enabled us to get in touch with their schools and arrange a phone call conversation or arrange a meeting between the staff from both schools. The annual transition report will be completed on all pre school age children and this will be shared with both yourself and your child's Primary school.



The P1 teacher from St. Brigid's will be visiting the school on Friday and reading to the two morning classes and Ms McCarron's afternoon class. This will take place outside and she will be wearing a mask and seated 2 metres from the children. If the weather is not good, it will take place in the hall to ensure the social distancing. The aim of this is for the children transitioning there to meet their teacher and the rest of the children will enjoy hearing a story from someone new! If you would rather your child remain in the classroom and not hear the story, please let your child's teacher know.

At the moment, to my knowledge there are no plans for any of the other schools to have their P1 teacher visit us however the staff from some of the schools will be meeting with the nursery teachers to ensure there is a handover of information to help ease the transition. I will continue to be in touch if there are any updates.

### Getting Ready to Learn

The **Getting Ready to Learn** website has a **New Parent Login Section** of the website which is packed full of fun activities, resources and documents to help parents engage in home learning with their child.

Access to this new login area is available to you as parents as we participate in the *Getting ready to Learn* Programme.

Click on the following link to create a sign in [Creating a Sign In](#)

☛ The access code required for Parent Access is: **P401HkeQ890**

There is also a new [SEN Parent Area](#), which is organised across the four *Getting Ready to Learn* themes.

## Important Information

### 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 your child; maintain social distancing from other parents/carers and arrive at your allocated times and no more than five minutes before.

### Garden Centre Voucher

The children wrote letters to local garden centres asking for donations to help develop the school's gardens. We are pleased to say that Creative Gardens in Bushmills kindly donated us a £10 voucher.



### Dates for your diary...

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Rugbugz

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Mrs McClelland's Classes Sports Day

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Mrs Trimmings and Ms McCarron's Classes Sports Day

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 - Mrs McClelland's morning class and Ms McCarron's class Teddy Bear Picnic

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 - Mrs Trimmings and Mrs McClelland's afternoon class Teddy Bear Picnic

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Mrs Trimmings and Ms McCarron's classes graduations

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Mrs McClelland's morning class graduation



### Best Wishes

*Lower  
Trimming*

Principal