

Ballymoney Nursery School / September 2021 Newsletter

Welcome



Welcome from our Principal Mrs Trimmings

We are delighted to have started the new school year and have enjoyed getting to meet you and your children at the induction sessions. Thank you to you for adhering to the routines we have in place by using the markings on the ground to keep distance from others and wearing face coverings. The early years of a child's life are very important as they provide the crucial building blocks they need for the rest of their lives. I am in the privileged position to be working with a wonderful team here at Ballymoney Nursery who all want to do the best that they can for your children to help give them the best start in their education journey. If you ever want to talk to any of us, please telephone the school.

I would like to warmly welcome Mrs Shona Muller who was successful at interview and is now a permanent full time Nursery Teacher at Ballymoney Nursery School. Unfortunately, Ms McCarron is currently not at work and we wish her well and look forward to welcoming her back in the near future. We have been fortunate to have an experienced Nursery teacher, Mrs Roberta Jarvis teaching Ms McCarron's class until her return to school. The successful candidate for the clerical post is currently going through pre-employment checks and will hopefully be taking up post soon. In the interim, please bear this in mind as there will be times that all school staff will be in class and may not be able to answer the telephone.

Our Newsletter

Our newsletter is produced to keep you informed of what's happening in the school. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about what you might like us to include in the Newsletter.

Learning within the Nursery School

Settling In



During September our priority is ensuring the smooth transition of all the children from home to school. We want all our children to settle happily, feel safe and secure and respond positively to the rules and routines. Some children may require a little more time and reassurance and it's important to be patient.

If your child is not yet toilet trained and there are no medical reasons for this to be the case, please find attached some links that may help you with this process. This will enable them to become independent and reduce the need for such close contact from staff.

[Top 10 potty training tips | ERIC](#)

[Toileting and autistic children \(autism.org.uk\)](http://autism.org.uk)

Below we've included the school's current "Golden Rules". These rules are in place to ensure that the Nursery remains a comfortable and happy place for all the children. Please ask and remind your child regularly about the rules.

The Golden Rules

We are kind and we help one another.
We share and take turns.
We say please and thank you.
We listen during story and quiet time.
We care for the toys and keep everything tidy.
We are all friends in nursery school.
We keep each other safe.



Daily Snack

In Ballymoney Nursery School we are committed to promoting healthy eating and feel it is imperative to maximise every opportunity to influence the children's eating habits. All staff are aware of any allergies that have been made known to the school and ensure that appropriate healthy foods are available to the children along with the option of milk or water. We are a **nut free zone** and would remind everyone to ensure that there are no nut products brought into school.

If you have not made us aware of any allergies, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

The Great Outdoors

We are very fortunate to have many outdoor areas that help develop the children's curiosity as well as covering the six areas of the Pre School Curriculum. We have the Playground, Secret Garden and the Front Garden. These along with the school hall are timetabled on a weekly basis to ensure that each class get a turn in each area whilst ensuring the resources are used by one bubble at a time. I know the resources in the front garden (situated to the left of the school) can be enticing for the children waiting to come to school however I would ask you to discourage them from touching them so that we can ensure there is no one from another bubble touching them.

Important Information

Completed personal information forms

Thank you to everyone who has already completed their children's personal information forms. If you haven't already completed them can you please do as soon as possible. This will ensure that we have appropriate contact details and whether photographs can be taken and displayed or not. We are also unable to set up your child's Seesaw account without your written consent.



It is extremely important that we hold **up-to-date contact details** for every child in the Nursery School. If your details/telephone numbers/email addresses have changed or contact details of emergency contacts, please inform the school at your earliest convenience.

Unwell children



In the event of your **child being ill, especially with a vomiting/diarrhoea bug**, please do not send him/her to school. The Public Health Agency advises that **48 hours is left** from the

last episode of illness before your child returns to school. In addition, if your child is on an **antibiotic they must not attend school until the course is completed.**

Covid-19

If your child is showing Covid-19 symptoms:-

If your child is showing any signs of Covid-19, **please ensure your child does not attend school and either gets a PCR test or remains at home for 10 days.** If your child has a PCR test and the result is negative then they can return to school. Please get in touch with the school to let us know what the result is.

The following main symptoms to look for are: -

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

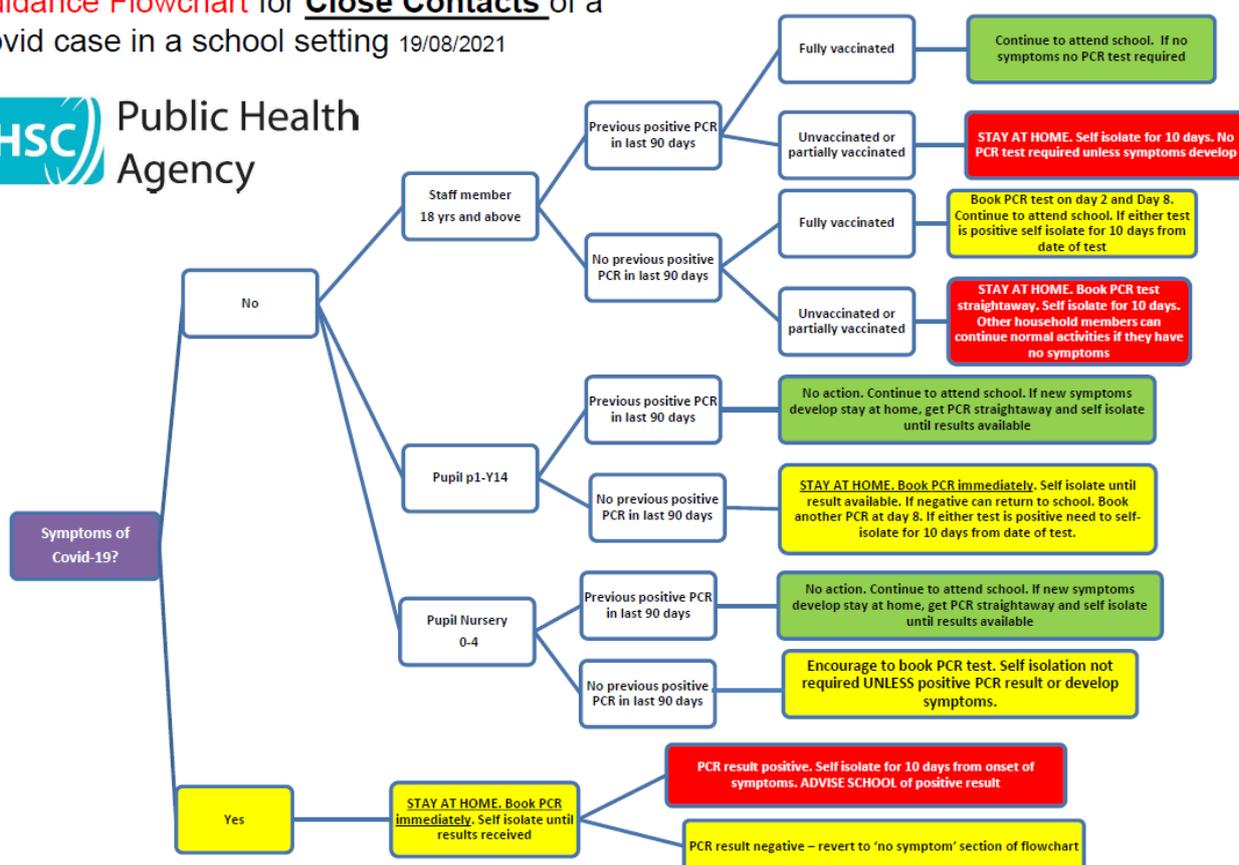
If symptoms start at the weekend or a test has been confirmed as positive at the weekend please email me to let me know as I will be checking my emails daily. This will enable me to begin the track and trace process.

If your child is identified as a close contact:-

The rules for close contacts have changed recently. The guidance from the PHA for close contacts can be found below and is also attached to this newsletter. If your child is identified as a close contact, does not have any symptoms of Covid-19 and has not had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days then you are strongly encouraged to book a PCR test. Self isolation is not required unless positive PCR result or develop symptoms.

If your child has no symptoms of Covid-19 and has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days then your child can continue to attend school. If new symptoms develop they then stay at home, get PCR straightaway and self isolate until results available.

Guidance Flowchart for Close Contacts of a Covid case in a school setting 19/08/2021



School Fund

School fund for this term will be £40. This money is used to purchase the daily snack, purchase resources for the children and pay for treats for the children throughout the year. We have just booked an Autumn performance from Mr Hullabaloo for all of the classes as well as his Christmas panto. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their donation, this can either be paid in full each term or £20 per half term. 😊

Due to the current situation we want to reduce the amount of actual cash handling within the school. Therefore, our preferred method of payment is now via direct payment into our school bank account. Our bank details are as follows: -

Ballymoney Nursery School -School Fund

Danske Bank Account No: 91100769

Sort Code: 95-02-37

Please indicate your child's name when completing this transfer.

If you are unable to pay direct into our bank account, please either bring a cheque or the correct money where possible into school in an envelope with your child's name on it and what it is for.

Parking



Parents are notified **NOT** to bring **cars** into the front of the Nursery School when leaving off and picking up children. This area is strictly for the use of staff, vehicles making deliveries to the school and for those parents/carers who have disability badges. If you have a disability badge, it will be necessary for us to make a photocopy which will be retained in school.

We know it can be busy especially with the Primary School traffic as well. **Please be mindful that it is illegal** to park on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates. Please consider the safety of all our children and others and refrain from parking on the zig zags.

Children's birthdays

Most children love to bring a cake into school for sharing on their **birthday**. If you would like to do this, please ensure it is an **unopened shop bought cake** and inform a member of staff the day before you intend to bring the cake so that we can plan our snack accordingly. Please ensure that there are no nuts / may contain nuts in the cake.



Labelling

Would all parents please ensure they have **sweatshirt(s)/coats clearly labelled** with name tags or indelible ink. There is a little label inside the pocket of the coat which can be marked. For those who wish, uniform is still available to buy from the school. T-shirts cost £8.50, sweatshirts £10 and coats are £20.



Child Protection

The safety of all our children is paramount to everything that we do. If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak with myself or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Hanna c/o Ballymoney Nursery School. If I am unavailable, please speak with Mrs Muller (Deputy Designated Officer for Child Protection) or any member of staff who will relay your message on to me.

Communication



Open door policy

Although our open door is currently closed, if you have **anything that you wish to discuss with regard to your child or the school**, please telephone and request a call back from the member of staff you wish to speak with. Time can then be made available to speak with you and if appropriate in a confidential manner.

Online communication - Facebook and Seesaw

Our Facebook page is used to promote the school and a sample of the learning activities that take place here. The closed Facebook group that has in the past been used for each school year will not be used this year as we are now using the Seesaw app.

We began using the Seesaw app and are continuing to use it this year as one of our main forms of communication. Each class will use this app to share photos and videos with you of your child during their time here at Nursery school. We will also share group photographs and videos with parents as well as using it to send electronic notes home such as reminders. You can also send a message to your child's class teacher if there is something they should know or if you have a question. Please note that these will only be answered during working hours, Monday-Friday 8.30-3.30pm and probably not during class times as the teacher will be working with the teacher.

A paper version of the QR code to your child's Seesaw account will be sent home on their first day of Nursery School (children who start on the 31st August will get their letter home on 7th September). We would advise that after you have downloaded the Seesaw App (this is free) and set up your child's account that you put the notifications on, this means you will get notified every time something has been shared on your child's Seesaw.

If you have any queries about setting up the app, please speak with either Mrs Muller or myself.

School Messaging App

Thank you to everyone who has consented to using the school messaging app. This app is linked to our school website and will be used to share important information, letters and documents with you. You will be sent the link to it in the near future. We are currently awaiting for all the permission forms to be returned before everyone gets access.

Dates school closed to pupils 2020-21

The below dates include holidays and the 5 development days and 5 baker days that staff take each year. Please note the school is now closed on Friday 18th March 2022 (this was omitted from the school handbook).



Friday 22nd October 2021 - Friday 29th October 2021
Tuesday 21st December 2021 (School closes at 12 noon)
Wednesday 22nd December 2021 - Thursday 6th January 2022
Monday 14th-Monday 21st February 2022
Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March 2022
Wednesday 13th April 2022 (School closes at 12 noon)
Thursday 14th - Monday 25th April 2022
Monday 2nd May 2022
Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd June 2022
Thursday 30th June 2022- Last day of term/School closes at 12 noon

Best wishes

*Lower
Handbook*

We have included a selection of rhymes and songs associated with this month's themes which we will be teaching the children.

I've got one head, one nose too
I've got one head, one nose too
One mouth and one chin and so have you
I've got two eyes, two ears too
Two arms, two legs and so have you
I've got two hands, two thumbs too
Four fingers on each hand and so have you.

Blow Your Nose

When your nose is feeling runny,
Please don't sniff.
Though you think it's very funny,
Please don't sniff.
Take a tissue, hold it flat,
Place it on your nose like that,
Blow a little, wipe it well,
Blow, blow, blow.

Tommy Thumb
Tommy Thumb, Tommy Thumb,
Where are you?
Here I am, here I am
How do you do?

Peter Pointer, Peter Pointer,
Where are you?
Here I am, here I am,
How do you do?

Toby Tall, Toby Tall,
Where are you?
Here I am, here I am,
How do you do?

Ruby Ring, Ruby Ring,
Where are you?
Here I am, here I am,
How do you do?

Baby Small, Baby Small,
Where are you?
Here I am, here I am,
How do you do?

If You're Happy and You Know It
If you're happy and you know it,
Clap your hands, (twice)
If you're happy and you know it,
And you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it,
Clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it
Stamp your feet

If you're happy and you know it
Nod your head

If you're happy and you know it
Do all three

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes. (twice)
And eyes and ears
And mouth and nose,
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes.

