

Ballymoney Nursery School October 2021 Newsletter



I would like to warmly welcome Mrs Jill McKinney who was successful at interview and is now our permanent Clerical Officer at Ballymoney Nursery School. Mrs McKinney will be based in the school every morning. If you have any uniform queries or want to let us know that your child is going to be absent from school please contact Mrs McKinney on the following email address:- jmckinney102@c2kni.net

We as a team would like to thank you sincerely for adhering to the measures in place to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 such as social distancing and the wearing of face coverings when dropping off and picking up. I would also like to encourage those that are not exempt from wearing face coverings to please wear them when in the school vicinity.

I would also like to personally thank the families who have been in touch with us to let us know about positive cases within their households and for taking the cautious approach for their children to isolate from Nursery school for 10 days. Thank you to the parents/carers who have had their children tested when they have shown symptoms. This has helped ensure the safety of everyone within the Nursery school, in particular the individuals of our school community who are vulnerable.

Through open communication between home and school and by being cautious we will help each other get through this year safely whilst enabling the children to have an amazing experience at Ballymoney Nursery School.

Learning within the Nursery School



The Great Outdoors

The children in all of our classes have been enjoying and thriving in exploring our outdoor areas. There is much learning and exploration and development of skills that takes place in each of our areas. Thank you to everyone who has brought wellies into school for their child. These will be stored in school and sent home before holidays such as half term. In order to keep children fully dry and warm in the outdoors, it would be beneficial if you could send them to Nursery school in a pair of **waterproof trousers** and a **waterproof coat with a hood**. These will go home at the end of each session with the children. We ask for waterproof trousers instead of all in ones as they enable the children to be more independent when accessing the toilet and are also quicker to put on and take off.

Developing independence

During your child's time at nursery, we will be helping them develop their independence. You can help with this by giving them the chance to practise putting on/off their coat, shoes and putting 'stuff' away when finished with it at home.

Cycle safety

The safety of your children is very important to us and we are delighted that our new bike helmets have arrived in school. These will be used when the children are using scooters, balance bikes, tricycles etc to give them an added level of protection.

Important Information

Absences

Please remember to get in touch with the school if your child is not going to be attending Nursery School. This can be done by either emailing Mrs McKinney, telephoning the school or using the absence reporting form on our school website:- <https://www.ballymoneynurseryschool.co.uk/parents/reporting-absence/>

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 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.

Parking



Parents/Carers are reminded **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. At present, we have one pupil who has their own disability badge and requires a space in our very small car park at the front of the Nursery School. Unfortunately, on a number of occasions they have been unable to get parked in the car park.

Please also note that staff members have different start times with various staff members starting work at 9am which may result in your car getting blocked in if you have parked in the school car park.

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.

School Fund

Thank you to everyone who has paid their school fund. It is £40 for the term and you can either pay the £40 now or £20 before half term and £20 after half term.

If you are paying by bank transfer please remember to add your child's name to it:-

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.

Parental Partnership

Individual Parent/Carer consultations

Due to Covid-19 our parent/teacher consultations will take place by telephone. This will be a 10 minute telephone call to discuss how your child has settled into Ballymoney Nursery School. The phone calls will begin the week beginning **Monday 1st November 2021**. **Please download the Schools NI App and you will receive a text message over the weekend to verify your account.** Once you verify it, you will receive notification in the coming days of the slots available. You can then choose which of the available slots suits you if you would like a phone consultation.

Seesaw



We hope that you have now all had the opportunity to log into your child's Seesaw account and get a small insight into their time at Nursery School. This year, we are using Seesaw to upload photos and comments to enable you to see your child's learning journey through their time at Nursery School. Thank you to all the parents/carers who have commented on the posts - this is reassuring for the staff involved in the rooms.

Getting Ready to Learn

This year we are continuing our participation in the Getting Ready to Learn Programme. This will involve your child having the opportunity to bring home book bags and activity packs throughout the course of the year. As part of the funding that we receive, we are obliged to carry out a parent survey at the beginning of the year. We would really appreciate it if you could complete the paper survey that will be sent home with your child on **Friday 8th October and ask that it is returned by Wednesday 13th October 2021**.



Upcoming half term holiday

The school will be closed to children from **Friday 22nd October -Friday 29th October 2021**. We hope you enjoy the time with your children and look forward to welcoming them back on **Monday 1st November 2021**. We are especially looking forward to the first day back as Mr Hullabaloo will be in school performing to each of the classes. Thank you to everyone who has paid their school fund contribution as this has paid for Mr Hullabaloo's visit. 😊

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Thompson'.

Principal