

Ballymoney Nursery School - November 2021 Newsletter



I hope you all had a lovely half term with your children and got to explore the wonderful changes that are happening all around us in the outdoors. The children started the new part of the term by watching a performance from Mr Hullabaloo and they all thoroughly enjoyed it. We have a busy couple of months ahead of us as we continue to enjoy the nature in our outdoors, participate in raising awareness of local charities as well as looking after our environment. Before we know it, it will be time to start practising the Christmas songs!

Last term, there was a lot of children who unfortunately were unwell, for a variety of reasons such as tummy bugs, colds and infections. We as a team would like to thank you all for your constant communication with us and where necessary for having children tested with a PCR when they have shown symptoms. We would also like to thank again 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. This has helped ensure the safety of everyone within the Nursery school, in particular the individuals of our school community who are vulnerable.

Please remember to keep yourself and others safe by 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.

By communicating with each other and 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



We will be participating in the World Nursery Rhyme Week - week beginning 15th November 2021.

Did you know??? Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.

Nursery Rhymes are fantastic for developing children's early language and reading skills which is why we focus on them at school and encourage you to practise them at home. Young children have the capacity to learn and retain an enormous amount of information and by hearing nursery rhymes over and over they easily learn them off by heart. By teaching children nursery rhymes, we will help them acquire the following skills.

Language Development

Nursery rhymes help your child learn new words. They are easy for young children to remember and repeat as there are lots of rhythm and repetition. They introduce a child to new ways of using their voice as they can be loud or quiet, fast or slow and use a variety of inflections.

Early Reading Skills

Nursery Rhymes help young children understand the structure of a story as most rhymes will have a clear beginning, middle and end. In Jack and Jill they go up the hill, fetch a pail of water and then it all goes wrong. This is a whole story in just a few lines. It is also an old nursery rhyme so it will introduce your child to words they may not have heard before—pail for bucket and crown for head. This will help your child understand that there is more than one word for the same thing.

Physical Development

Children love acting out their favourite rhymes and they offer great opportunities to get them moving. Movements in action rhymes and songs will help develop a child's fine and gross motor skills as well as balance, coordination. They will also be developing the skills required to follow simple instructions.

Numeracy

Many rhymes will help your child become familiar with numbers and counting. Rhymes such as 'One, Two, Three, Four, Five—Once I Caught A Fish Alive' will help your child remember the order of numbers. Other rhymes can introduce important mathematical concepts such as size and order.

The nursery rhymes being focused on during this year's world nursery rhyme week are:- **Incy Wincy Spider, Sleeping Bunnies, Wind the Bobbin, Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes and Down in the Jungle.**

Videos to these Nursery rhymes can be found on the following link:-
<https://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com/free-nursery-rhyme-videos/>

Parental Partnership

Individual Parent/Carer consultations



Thank you to everyone who has accessed the online booking system for booking a parent/teacher consultation. We hope that you found the system easy to use. As we only have the one phone line in school, if you need to contact the school please email Mrs McKinney (prior to 11.30am) jmckinney102@c2kni.net or use Seesaw after this time. All absences can be reported online using the school website.

Getting Ready to Learn



Delighted to let you know that the home lending book bags will recommence on **Monday 8th November 2021**. To ensure the books and bag have three days to quarantine please return the bags to school on the Thursday after your child takes the bag home. To celebrate the love of books and reading we have, each week a member of staff will read a story to the children which will be videoed and uploaded to the class Seesaw accounts so that the children can enjoy it at home.

Monday 8th November – Thursday 11th November ... Mrs Trimmings and Mrs Muller's Morning Classes

Monday 15th – Thursday 18th November – Ms McCarron's and Mrs Muller's Afternoon Classes.

Monday 22nd November – Thursday 25th November ... Mrs Trimmings and Mrs Muller's Morning Classes

Monday 29th November – Thursday 2nd December – Ms McCarron's and Mrs Muller's Afternoon Classes.

Monday 6th – Thursday 9th December ... Mrs Trimmings and Mrs Muller's Morning Classes

Monday 13th – Thursday 16th December – Ms McCarron's and Mrs Muller's Afternoon Classes.

School Virtual Tour



We will soon be starting to film our school virtual tour and this year we thought it would be good to include a few clips of parents/carers sharing their views about the Nursery School. If you would like to take part in this, please get in touch with the school.

Cash for Clobber

As part of our Eco Schools Action Plan on Waste, we are participating in the **Cash for Clobber** scheme with Cookstown Textile Recyclers.

In your preparations for Christmas, why not have a clear out of some of the clothes, shoes, handbags and belts you no longer need, bag them and bring them to the school on **Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th November** and they will get picked up from the school on **Wednesday 10th November 2021!**



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.

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. For those of you who are paying per half term, the £20 can either be paid into our bank or via cash or cheque.

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.

Important Dates

Wednesday 17th November 2021 - Individual School Photographs (please note there will be no family photographs due to Covid-19 restrictions)



Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th November 2021 - Please bring your Cash for Clobber donations into school (ensure they are in bin bag/plastic bag and tied).

Friday 19th November 2021- Children In Need day - all children are encouraged to wear their pyjamas (please NO onsies) but to still wear shoes/trainers as opposed to slippers. (If children wish to they can bring £1 donation for the Children in Need Charity).



Best wishes

Yvonne Thompson

Principal