

# Ballymoney Nursery School December 2021 Newsletter



## Thank you



I would like to thank you again for your support in adhering to our rules of - wearing a face covering and maintaining 2 metre distance when dropping off and collecting your child and not stopping to have a chat with other parents in the school vicinity especially in light of the current situation. A reminder to the parents who drop off children at the main door, please remember to remain with your child and hand them over in person at the door.

Thank you to everyone who has been selling tickets for our Christmas raffle. If everyone can return their forms and money by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021** this will give us a week to try and sell any numbers that haven't been sold.

## Learning within the Nursery School

Last month, all of the children enjoyed taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week. Hopefully, they have been practising some of them at home with you! They also started practising for their Christmas performances which will be shared on Seesaw with you all before the end of term - so please make sure your Seesaw account is active so you don't miss out! If you need your password reissued please get in touch with Mrs McKinney - [jmkinney102@c2kni.net](mailto:jmkinney102@c2kni.net)

The children enjoyed coming to school in their pyjamas in aid of Children In Need. Thank you for your kind donations in helping us raise £105 for this UK based charity.



## Parental Partnership

### Big Bedtime Read Bags



We are pleased that we were finally able to start the home lending book bags at the end of last month. These will be issued on a fortnightly basis with each class. Each bag contains 4 books and gives you and your child the opportunity to share in the reading of a book together. This can be a nice activity to do before bedtime, but it can be shared at anytime.

In the baseline Getting Ready to learn survey, some parents were wanting to know how and when their children should be beginning to read. When reading the story with your child, ask them to talk about the pictures, about what they think is happening -this will help develop your child's reading skills of understanding what is happening in the pictures. If you read the story more than once, you could ask your child to say what happens next.

## Christmas

We are fast approaching the festive season and are busy busy in Nursery. The children will be taking part in the usual Christmas activities: - Christmas craft, performances, Christmas jumper day, parties as well as our first Christmas Panto in Nursery!!

## Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**, all the children are invited to come to Nursery School in a festive jumper (or trousers etc) in aid of Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. If they wish to, the children are invited to bring £1 donation into Nursery which will go towards the charity.



## Christmas Parties

Our Christmas parties will be held this year on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021**. Children can come to school in their party clothes (don't worry there will be no paint or exploring in the outdoors on this day!)



## Posting letters to Santa

We will be talking to the children about writing letters and helping them "write" their own letters to Santa. This year, the children will be walking to the postbox at the end of the school entrance to post their letters to Santa. Hopefully, he will receive them in time to send a reply which will arrive at the Christmas parties 😊



## Christmas Cards

I am aware that some of you may want your child to send cards to other children in the class. Unfortunately, due to GDPR we are unable to give out class lists of children's names to help you with this. If you do wish us to give out cards on your behalf please leave them into school by **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021** and they will be given out when the children are leaving school on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**. Alternatively, your child could send one card to the class which the teacher will read out and display.

## Christmas Panto!

We welcome Mr Hullabaloo back to Ballymoney Nursery School on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**. He will be performing a pantomime for each of the classes.



## Ballymoney Food Bank Collection

As well as the fun we are having, we are also aware that there are many people who may not be looking forward to Christmas; those that are currently living on the breadline and having to seek support from food banks to keep themselves and their families going. Therefore, as a school, **throughout the month of December (until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021)** we will be holding a collection for donations for the Ballymoney Food Bank. Whilst no one in the school expects anything, we would ask that if you were considering buying any staff member a small token this Christmas that instead you provide a small donation to our food bank collection. If you would like to donate something, please drop it in any weekday at drop off or pick up times.

Items the Ballymoney food bank are particularly needing are:-

*As we are leading up to Christmas also items such as:-*

- *Bottles of Shloer*
- *Selection boxes*
- *Mince pies*
- *Boxes of biscuits, tinned sweets*

*Tinned fruit  
Tinned vegetables  
Tea bags  
Coffee  
Dried pasta  
Bags of rice  
UHT milk  
Bottles of diluting juice  
Toiletries  
Nappies (size 5 and 6)*

## Eco Schools



We have been busy with Eco Schools over the past few weeks especially with implementing our Waste Action Plan. Our new brown bin has arrived which means we can now recycle our food waste and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that is being released into the atmosphere.

Our new water butts have arrived which will help us reuse water when playing in the outdoor areas and looking after the plants.

We also participated in a Cash for Clobber collection and your donations of clobber weighed a total of 300kg!! Thank you so much for participating in this and we will hold another one at the end of the school year to help us all 'clear out' before the summer holidays begin.

In the New Year we are going to start a 'Preloved uniform shop'. If you have any old uniform items that you no longer have need of, please consider leaving them into the Nursery School. Further details will follow in the January newsletter.

## Important Information

### Unwell children



Thank you to everyone who has been conscientious and cautious and kept their child home if they have been feeling 'under the weather'. 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 either gets a PCR test or 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.

## Pre School Admissions for 2022-23

**Application forms** for admission to the **Nursery School** in **September 2022** will be available to complete online at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) from **noon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.



Forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

Children born on or between **2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019** are eligible to apply for admission to a funded pre-school place.

Children born on or between **2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020** are eligible to apply for admission to a penultimate (underage) place. These are allocated if there are still any funded places available after target age (pre school) children are admitted.

Please note, that all our current pre pre school children need to reapply to attend here for their pre school year.

Thank you to everyone who gave their consent for their child to be included in school's virtual tour. They have been a credit to you and I am pleased to say the video is now complete and is being edited before being shared online which will hopefully be later this week - it will be on Youtube and then shared on Facebook and our school website.

### Dates for your diary

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021** - Christmas Jumper day in aid of Northern Ireland Children's Hospice

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021** - Resilient Rhythms session for each class

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021** - Christmas parties (children can dress up in their party clothes)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021** - Christmas Panto in school for each class / Last day to drop off items for the Foodbank collection

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at 12pm** - School closes for the Christmas holidays

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022** - Nursery School reopens to all children 😊

*I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season where you may get to spend it with your nearest and dearest.*

Take care and best wishes



Principal

We wish you a  
peaceful and healthy  
Christmas and New  
Year.



**BALLYMONEY**  
NURSERY SCHOOL