

# Ballymoney Nursery School - January 2022 Newsletter



## Happy New Year

Welcome to our January newsletter and welcome back to Ballymoney Nursery School after the festive season. I hope you have all managed to spend some time with your loved ones. All of our staff would like to sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness at Christmas. Your kindness was very much appreciated by everyone and we were completely overwhelmed by the very kind donations we received to give to the Ballymoney Food Bank.

## Safeguarding our children

### Covid-19

As you will undoubtedly be aware the number of people testing positive for Covid-19 in Northern Ireland is at an all-time high. In light of this, we would like to remind you of the measures we have in place to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 and would like to remind you that:-

- Only one adult is to accompany a child to Nursery School.
- All adults are to wear a mask on the approach to the school and when dropping their children off and picking them up.
- When outside the school, please use the ground markings to socially distance from other families and don't congregate and chat outside with others.
- Both entrance doors will be open from 8.55am.
- Book bags are to be returned to school on a THURSDAY to enable them to quarantine for 72 hours before they are issued to the next class on the following Monday.
- As a school, we are continuing to facilitate four bubbles with all resources being cleaned and fogged between morning and afternoon sessions.

Although the guidance for children under 5 has changed, we would like to thank everyone who has been in touch to let us know that due to positive cases in the household, their Nursery child will be isolating at home.

Please let us know if your child is off school due to testing positive. 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.

## Learning experiences within the Nursery School

### Christmas

We were very busy last month with our preparations for Christmas. The children enjoyed writing their letters to Santa and then walking to the post box at the end of our path to post them. We were very fortunate Santa received them in time to send his replies along to our Christmas parties! All the children enjoyed their Christmas party, learning the different games that were played, dancing and of course not forgetting the party food! The children worked hard practising their songs for their performances that were uploaded to Seesaw and we hope you enjoyed watching your child perform. We had a real treat with Mr Hullabaloo coming along to the Nursery and performing his magical Christmas show for each of the four classes.



### Resilient Rhythms

In December, we had a visit from Louise from Resilient Rhythms who led all the children in a variety of action songs rhymes and developing the children's creativity in making music.

### Northern Ireland Children Hospice

Thank you to everyone who donated money on Christmas Jumper day to support Northern Ireland Children Hospice. We are delighted that we raised £105 for such a worthwhile local charity.

### Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who sold tickets for our Christmas raffle and to those that bought them. We have been blown away by the amount of money you helped us raise **£1980!!** This money along with additional funding that we received from the Department of Education is being used to purchase an interactive whiteboard for one of the classrooms and a wall mounted bubble tube for the other classroom. We will let you know when we get them installed!!

### Winter Weather

This month the children will be talking about the different kinds of winter weather. They will be using/mixing blue, white, and grey to make cold colours and discussing why they look cold. They will also be using fabrics/papers in cold colours for collage (any contributions eg shiny papers/sweet wrappers, tinfoil would be very welcome) and will be making pictures/patterns in crayons/oil pastels. The children will be discussing the appearance of frost, and how it feels.

You could encourage your child to look at patterns on glass or leaves when out and about. Discuss what happens if you breathe on it, or apply other warmth and why? If you would like to get involved perhaps you could encourage and develop the key vocabulary associated with this topic e.g. frost/y, ice, freeze / freezing, melt/melting, cold, nip, sparkle, crackle



## Winter clothes

We have fantastic outdoor areas and the children will continue to be outside exploring them. Please ensure your child comes to nursery with warm clothing to help wrap them up when we go outside. We will continue encouraging children to become independent when putting on hats, scarves/snoods, coats, gloves and would suggest that you continue the same at home. We will be talking about ways of keeping warm - food, heating, clothes, the importance of layers for insulation and the suitability of different fabrics for protection against wind, wet and cold.



## Fun with drums

We look forward to welcoming Fun with Drums to the nursery on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 who will be leading each of the classes in a drumming workshop.

## Parental Partnership

### Christmas Performances

We are very proud of all the children for having the confidence to perform as a class at Christmas time. For most of the children this would have been their first ever performance. I hope you enjoyed having the opportunity to watch it over and over again on Seesaw.



### Home learning bags

The Big Book Reading Bags started to be issued prior to the Christmas holidays and continued again this week. We hope that you and your child have enjoyed having the opportunity to share in reading books together. If you would like to further encourage your child to want to read, you could visit your local library and help your child choose a book of their interest.

### Getting Ready to learn Information

The Getting ready to learn programme have issued lots of informative parental leaflets to support the development of our children. I don't want to bombard you with issuing lots of leaflets all at once, therefore a different informative leaflet will be uploaded to the school website and sent via email on a weekly basis. These leaflets will also help provide some of the information that those of you who filled in the Getting ready to learn baseline questionnaire said you would like to know. The leaflets for the month of January will include physical play, screen time and promoting positive behaviour.

### Ideas to help concentration

Carrying out activities such as jigsaw puzzles and matching games like dominoes can help improve your child's memory and concentration.

## Important Information



### Pre School Admissions for 2022-23

**Application forms** for admission to the **Nursery School** in **September 2022** are now available to complete online at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions).

Forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 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.**

### Primary School Admissions for 2022-23

**Application forms** for admission to Primary School in **September 2022** are now available to complete online at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions).

Forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. There are videos on the EA website which show you how to upload your child's birth certificate.

### Eco-Schools

As we continue with our initiative to encourage **less waste and more recycling**, we would invite you to bring in any used **Christmas cards** which the children can use for craft activities.



### School Fund

We would like to thank those of you who have paid the **School Fund** for the year and remind those who are paying each term that £40 for this term (January -Easter) is now due alternatively £20 can be paid prior to half term break in February and the other £20 after half term break. ☺

### 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.

### Best Wishes

Principal