

Ballymoney Nursery School

April 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to our April newsletter. March was a very long and busy month. It seems like it was quite some time ago that the children were enjoying making their very own pancakes for Pancake Tuesday!! During March there was lots of learning in the outdoors, observing signs of Spring, developing exploration and physical skills. The classes started focusing on people who help us in the community and mark making in weird and wonderful places i.e. underneath a table!

Parental Partnership

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March 2022 was world book day and everyone in the Nursery had a great time listening to stories and looking at all the wonderful costumes.

Thank you to everyone who helped your child get ready for the day and a special thank you to everyone who took part in the extreme reading challenge. It was really delightful to see the children reading in such a variety of places and we hope they enjoyed taking part in it.



Happy Healthy Kids - Activity Bags

The activity bags have started to be sent home and we hope that the children in the afternoon classes have enjoyed using them. Each class (morning/afternoon) will get to use them week about until they have had four different bags at home. They will be sent home on a **Friday** and we ask that they are returned on a **Wednesday**. If you could help your child fill in the child view sheet that would be much appreciated - they either colour in a sad or happy face.

Parent/teacher interviews

Thank you to everyone who has booked a parent/teacher interview which will **take place via telephone** the week beginning **Monday 4th April 2022**. As we only have the one phone line, please be aware if you want to contact the school regarding any other matters that week, email would be the best way to make contact. On the other hand, we ask for your understanding if your teacher/parent call is a few minutes late as someone may ring the school between appointments! Please ensure that the school has the most up to date number to ring.

Five steps to wellbeing

Last month our focus from the five steps to wellbeing was on Being Active. For the month of April we are focusing on **Taking Notice** and would encourage you to focus on it at home too. Some of ideas to encourage the children to take notice are:-

*Go for a walk with your child and get them to talk about the things they can see, hear, smell and feel.

* Encourage your child to notice the world around them by playing 'I Spy'. Play when in a queue or outdoors eg in a forest, play with colours eg "I spy something that is red."

*Sit together before bedtime and talk about the day - how did you feel when things went well or badly?

*Take a torch and go for a walk in the dark, get your child to point out different sounds, stars etc.

*Help draw attention to their 5 senses when engaged in activities such as cooking or when outside in nature ie eyes help us see, ears to hear, hands to feel, noses to smell and tongues to taste.

Your views

Thank you to everyone (59 families) who completed the school survey on the Google Form. We are delighted that everyone who completed the survey agreed that their child is happy and feels safe at Nursery and are becoming more confident; that the staff know their child as an individual and treats them fairly and with respect. We are also pleased that you all feel the Nursery School provides advice on how to support your child's learning at home e.g. conversations with the class teacher, Getting ready to learn information sheets, book bags etc. We are continually striving to improve our communication and are pleased that 78% of you thought it was very good and 18.6% thought it was satisfactory. We appreciate the positive comments that were written and take on board the areas that could be further developed. Some of the areas for development were based on communication and I will address some of these in this newsletter.



Communication Methods

Our main modes of communication are **Emails, Seesaw, the School Messaging App** and a monthly **newsletter**. When we asked you in the survey which forms of communication you found most beneficial, **78%** selected Seesaw with the next popular means being the newsletter at **45.8%**, **School Messaging App** at **44.1%** and emails with **40.7%**. As Seesaw was the most popular form of communication we will strive to send more messages out on Seesaw. However, we are aware that not everyone accesses Seesaw on a regular basis or has it set up to have an alert when there is a new message therefore there will be occasions when you will have duplicate messages on Seesaw and the School Messaging App. This is to ensure that everyone receives the message.

School Messaging App -It was mentioned in the survey that the school messaging app will occasionally repeatedly send the same message. This will be for one of two reasons; it hasn't been read the first time it was sent out or the school has specifically asked it to resend it as it is important and we want to ensure that nobody misses the information. However, going forward as

we will be using Seesaw and the School Messaging App we will not send the reminders. Therefore, you should only get the same message sent to you on the app if you haven't opened it when it was first sent.

With regards to the booking appointment system on the app. There were some issues with the Health Visitor appointments that you were able to book more than one appointment as you may not have been getting a confirmation message. This shouldn't have been the case and we will have this rectified if using the same system to book their appointments next year. I am pleased however that with booking the parent/teacher appointments that you have only been able to book the one appointment. I spoke with the web designers about the fact some of you could not access the booking system and the school could not allocate you time slots -this has now been remedied and the school can now allocate you a slot on the system if required.

Facebook - Our Facebook is now used primarily for promotion of the school. If there are any messages we want to issue to you we would not use Facebook for that. The majority of photos shared on Facebook have also been shared on Seesaw. Children only feature on Facebook if we have consent from their parents/carers. **If there is anyone who would like to withdraw their consent for their child to be on Facebook, please get in touch with the school and we will ensure they don't feature in any further photographs that would be uploaded to it.** We no longer have the private Facebook group as we now use Seesaw which enables photos to be shared within specific classes.

Seesaw - We have used Seesaw more this year than in previous years and we are pleased that the feedback has been so positive and that it has helped most of you feel involved in your child's learning. We understand that for a few of you, the wording around the photographs and the pic collages have made it more difficult to make out the pictures. The wording around the photographs is shared to help you all feel involved in what the children are learning about/skills they are developing. As parents we understand you want to see your children more clearly. Therefore, we will strive to ensure that the majority of photographs shared on Seesaw will be uploaded as a photograph as opposed to a pic collage.

Important Information

Guess the name of the Easter bunny

This year we have an adorable Build a Bear Easter Bunny who needs a home! To be in with a chance of winning this beautiful bunny, children (and adults!) can guess the name! It is **£1 per guess** and you can guess as many times as you like. If you would like to take part please put the name and money inside an envelope and bring it into school. You can have as many guesses as you like. The last day to send in your guesses will be **Monday 11th April 2022**. Winner will be announced on **Tuesday 12th April 2022** - Good Luck!



Jump Jiggle and Jive Easter Fling

We are looking forward to welcoming **Jump Jiggle and Jive** to the Nursery School for the first time to provide an Easter party for each of our classes. Thank you to everyone who pays towards the school fund as this has helped us pay for this Easter treat for the children.

Dates for your diary...

Monday 4th April 2022 - Mrs Jarvis/Ms McCarron AM class parent/teacher interviews

Tuesday 5th April 2022 - Mrs Muller AM class parent/teacher interviews

Wednesday 6th April 2022 - Mrs Muller PM class parent/teacher interviews

Ms McCarron/Mrs Jarvis PM class parent/teacher interviews

Thursday 7th April 2022 - Ms McCarron/Mrs Jarvis PM class parent/teacher interviews

Monday 11th April 2022 - Last day to enter the guess the Easter bunny name

Tuesday 12th April 2022 - Easter bunny draw taking place / **Jump Jiggle and Jive Easter Fling** for each class!

Wednesday 13th April 2022 - Morning session only in school as school closes half day

Thursday 14th April - Friday 22nd April 2022 - Easter holidays

Monday 25th April 2022 - - School closed to children / staff development day

Tuesday 26th April 2022 - School reopens to children

Thursday 28th April 2022 - Fun with Drums will be back with us again 😊

Thursday 28th April 2022 - The portal will be updated to indicate where children have been allocated for their pre school/ Primary 1 year. (If your child is a pre pre schooler and you have applied for a pre school place with us, you will receive an email from us as well as your portal being updated).

Thursday 28th April 2022 - 4pm on Friday 6th May 2022 If you decided to defer your child starting Primary 1 (you would have made this decision by 30th March 2022), the **Stage 2** of the preschool admissions process opens on **Thursday 28th April 2022**. Please go online and complete an online application for them to have an additional year at Nursery School.

If you know of anyone with a child who will be preschool age for starting in September 2022 and they haven't already applied for Nursery school, please let them know Stage 2 opens on 28th April 2022 and they can apply. Stage 2 closes at **4pm on Friday 6th May 2022**. Any applications after this will be considered as late.

Anyone who has deferred their child's entry to Primary 1 must apply to the Nursery during Stage 2 if they wish to come back to Nursery in September 2022.

Best Wishes

Principal

