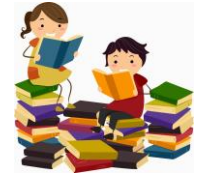


Ballymoney Nursery School - March 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to our March newsletter. We had a busy month in February, playing in the snow, baking, Fun with Drums and enjoying time with our families during half term. Now, that we are in March, we are looking forward to all that Spring will bring.

Learning experiences in school

Last month we enjoyed bird watching and taking part in the Big Bord Watch. The children enjoyed making bird feeders and some also enjoyed sampling the cheerio bird feeders by making bangles!! We are very fortunate to have such a variety of birds that come to our grounds on a daily basis. James from Fun with Drums visited us for the first time and all of the children got the opportunity to develop their listening and drumming skills whilst using their own drum. This visit was enjoyed by everyone - children and staff!

There were lots of discussions about feelings and how the children can help keep themselves calm using various breathing techniques and yoga. In the lead up to Valentine's day, all of the classes developed their baking skills by making Mary Berry Fork Biscuits. They really enjoyed decorating them and loved eating them most of all! The recipe can be found in the parental partnership section of the newsletter. February ended with a snow day and the children enjoyed the hands on experience of handling snow and watching what happens to it the more it is played with.

We started this month off with Pancake Tuesday and all the classes enjoyed making and eating their pancakes! Thank you to everyone who pays towards the school fund, as this helps us pay for all the little treats and experiences such as Fun with Drums and baking activities.

Parental Partnership

World Book Day



Thursday 3rd March 2022 is world book day and all the children and staff (!) are invited to come to Nursery dressed up as a book character. You are also all invited to take part in the **extreme reading challenge**. This involves your child reading a book anywhere at home, it could be in a weird and wonderful or unusual place and you taking a photograph and uploading it to Seesaw for us to see. **The names of everyone who uploads a photo onto Seesaw for the challenge will be drawn at random and then one child from each class will win a £10 National book token.**

Happy Healthy Kids – Activity Bags

We are currently sorting the home link activity bags and they will hopefully be ready to start being sent home in the coming weeks. There will be a variety of activities in them to help develop the fine motor skills of our children. They will be issued on a Monday and if you could please return them on the Thursday then they can quarantine for three days before going out again on the Monday.

Make and Taste – Mary Berry Fork Biscuits

Last month, the children really enjoyed making, decorating and eating their Mary Berry Fork biscuits. This was a recipe with very little ingredients and didn't take too long to make. Please find the recipe below if you would like to try it out at home.



Ingredients

100g (4oz) Butter/stork, softened
50g (2oz) caster sugar
150g (5oz) self-raising flour

Essential kit

You will need two baking trays.

Method

- Preheat the oven to 180°C /fan 160°C/ gas 4.
- Lightly butter two baking trays.
- Measure the butter into a bowl and beat to soften. Gradually beat in the sugar and then the flour. Bring the mixture together with your hands to form a dough.
- Form the dough into 16 balls about the size of a walnut and place spaced well apart on the prepared baking trays
- Dip a fork in a little water and use this to flatten the biscuits
- Bake in the preheated oven for 15-20 minutes until a very pale golden.
- Lift off the baking tray and leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

Five steps to wellbeing

Last month our focus from the five steps to wellbeing was connect. For the month of March we are focusing on Be Active and would encourage you to focus on it at home too. Some of ideas to encourage the children to be active are:-

- ❖ Put on music and have a funny dance session in the kitchen, play musical statues or Simon Says.
- ❖ Go outside into nature, play hide and seek, muddy puddles, jumping, running and climbing.
- ❖ Pass a ball back and forth – how many different ways can your child find to pass it?
- ❖ Encourage your child to pretend to be a different animal by moving and making noises. @
- ❖ Build an obstacle course which involves your child crawling under tables, jumping over cushions, etc

Parent/teacher interviews

Our parent/teacher interviews will take place via telephone before the Easter holidays (Monday 4th-Thursday 7th April 2022). The link to book your 10 minute appointment will be sent out to you later in this month. Please ensure that the school has the most up to date number to ring.

Your views

Your views on the nursery school are important to us and we will be sending you a link in the coming days to a Google form that we would appreciate if you could spare the time to complete. This will help us find out the areas you think we do well but also the areas that we need to improve on.



Important Information

3+ Reviews

Thank you to everyone who returned their 3+ review questionnaire. If you forgot to return your questionnaire, please still bring them into school and we will arrange for the Health Visitor to come back and collect them. I am still awaiting confirmation of timings for the appointments but hope to be in a position to send you out the link to book them soon. 3+ review is an important review that supports the development of your child and I would encourage you all to book an appointment.

Bubble Tube and Interactive Whiteboard

We are delighted that the bubble tube for the sensory room in Mrs Muller's class has arrived and is now installed. Unfortunately, there is a delay in the interactive whiteboard arriving but it will hopefully be here in the coming weeks.

Rockwall tunnel

We got a lovely surprise just before half term, when the Department of Education gave us money to spend on the outdoors. With this money, we have ordered a rockwall tunnel and can't wait for it to arrive! The children will not only get enjoyment out of it but also develop their gross motor and climbing skills. It will hopefully be here by the end of March!



Personal News

On a personal note, Spring is going to be an extra special time for my husband and I as we will adding to our family. We have been very blessed to be expecting a second child who is due in May. As I am now in my third trimester, I will be mainly working from home. However, I am still responsible for the running of the school and co-ordination of SEN throughout the nursery. I am in daily contact with the staff and am still contactable to you all either by email or by phone. If you contact the school by phone, I will call you back. My maternity leave will commence in May 2022 and you will all be informed of who will be Acting Principal during my absence nearer the time once everything has been organised.



Dates for your diary...

Thursday 3rd March 2022 - World Book Day

Thursday 10th March 2022 - Last day for uploading photos to Seesaw for the extreme reading challenge

Thursday 17th March 2022 - School closed to children / staff development day

Friday 18th March 2022 - School closed to children and staff

Tuesday 22nd - Thursday 24th March 2022 - 3+ Reviews taking place at the Connect Church (*Link to book will be sent soon*)



APRIL 2022

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 - Ms McCarron/Mrs Jarvis PM class parent/teacher interviews

Thursday 7th April 2022 - Mrs Muller PM class parent/teacher interviews

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

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gower Thompson".

Principal