

Ballymoney Nursery School September 2023 Newsletter

Welcome



Welcome from our Principal Mrs Trimmings

We are delighted to have started the new school year and have enjoyed getting to meet you and your children at the induction sessions. A special welcome to all our new families and a special welcome to our returning families. Thank you to everyone who has completed all the relevant paperwork and children's information books.

The early years of a child's life are very important as they provide the crucial building blocks they need for the rest of their lives. I am in the privileged position to be working with a wonderful team here at Ballymoney Nursery who all want to do the best that they can for your children to help give them the best start in their education journey.

I would like to warmly welcome Mrs Roberta Jarvis back as a class teacher to Ballymoney Nursery School and Miss Kirstie Watton and Miss Kirsty McAlonan who will be working as SEN assistants in the school.

As of Friday 1st September 2023, I am working as teaching Principal on Mondays-Wednesdays and Mrs Muller is working as teaching Principal on Thursdays and Fridays. Please be mindful that all staff are class based on a Friday afternoon and therefore may not be able to answer the telephone.

Learning within the Nursery School

Settling In



During September our priority is ensuring the smooth transition of all the children from home to school. We want all our children to settle happily, feel safe and secure and respond positively to the rules and routines. Some children may require a little more time and reassurance and it's important to be patient. The induction process is individual to each child and their time will be increased when they are ready.

If your child is not yet toilet trained and there are no medical reasons for this to be the case, please find attached some links that may help you with this process. This will enable them to become independent and reduce the need for such close contact from staff.

[Top 10 potty training tips | ERIC](#)

Daily Snack



In Ballymoney Nursery School we are committed to promoting healthy eating and feel it is imperative to maximise every opportunity to influence the children's eating habits. All staff are aware of any allergies that have been made known to the school and ensure that appropriate healthy foods are available to the children along with the option of milk or water. **We are a nut free zone and would remind everyone to ensure that there are no nut products brought into school.**

If you have not made us aware of any allergies or dietary requirements, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

The Great Outdoors

We are very lucky to have many fantastic outdoor areas that help develop the children's curiosity as well as covering the six areas of the Pre School Curriculum. We have our Playground, Secret Garden and the Front Garden. We have been very fortunate to be able to resource these areas through fundraising and the talents of some of our parents/carers. I know the resources in the front garden (situated to the left of the school) can be enticing for the children waiting to come to school however I would ask you to discourage them from touching them.

We access outdoors on a daily basis and in all weathers. If possible, please send a pair of wellies into school that will remain in school.

Important Information

Completed personal information forms



Thank you to everyone who has already completed their children's personal information forms. If you haven't already completed them can you please do this as soon as possible. This will ensure that we have appropriate contact details and whether photographs can be taken and displayed or not.

It is extremely important that we hold **up-to-date contact details** for every child in the Nursery School. If your details/telephone numbers/email addresses have changed or contact details of emergency contacts, please inform the school at your earliest convenience.

Absences

Although Nursery is not compulsory, we ask that you inform us if your child will not be in school. This can be done either by messaging the teacher on Seesaw; telephoning the school or using the school absence section on the school website <https://www.ballymoneynurseryschool.co.uk/parents/reporting-absence/> . The safety of all our children is paramount to us. If a child has not arrived at Nursery and we haven't heard from the parents/carers, we will telephone to check that everything is okay.

Unwell children



completed.

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**

Parking



Parents are notified **NOT** to bring **cars** into the front of the Nursery School when leaving off and picking up children. This area is strictly for the use of staff, vehicles making deliveries to the school and for those parents/carers/children who have disability badges. If you have a disability badge, it will be necessary for us to make a photocopy which will be retained in school.

We know it can be busy especially with the Primary School traffic as well. **Please be mindful that it is illegal** to park on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates. Please consider the safety of all our children and others and refrain from parking on the zig zags.

Children's birthdays

Most children love to bring a cake into school for sharing on their **birthday**. If you would like to do this, please ensure it is an **unopened shop bought cake** and ensure there **are no nuts/may contain nuts in the cake**. Please inform a member of staff if you intend to bring the cake so that we can plan our snack accordingly and we will ensure that we have a treat that children with particular intolerances/allergies can enjoy on the day.



Labelling

Would all parents please ensure they have **sweatshirt(s)/coats clearly labelled** with name tags or ink. There is a little label inside the pocket of the coat which can be marked. For those who wish, uniform is still available to buy from the school. T-shirts cost £8.50, sweatshirts £10 and coats are £20.



Child Protection

The safety of all our children is paramount to everything that we do. Our Safeguarding team is made up of Mrs Sharon Martin, Governor for Safeguarding; Mrs Trimmings, Designated teacher on Mondays-Wednesdays, Mrs Muller, Designated teacher on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Muller is Deputy Designated teacher on Mondays-Wednesday and Mrs Jarvis is our Deputy Designated teacher on Thursday and Fridays. If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Walker c/o Ballymoney Nursery School.

School Fund

School fund for this term will be £40. This money is used to purchase the daily snack, resources for the children and pay for treats for the children throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their donation, it is very much appreciated.

Our bank details are as follows: -

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.

If you are unable to pay direct into our bank account, please either bring a cheque or the correct money where possible into school in an envelope with your child's name on it and what it is for.

Communication



Open door policy

We have an open door policy and are happy to speak with you throughout the school year. If you have **anything that you wish to discuss with regard to your child or the school**, please telephone and request a call back from the member of staff you wish to speak with or send a message to the class teacher on Seesaw. Time can then be made available to speak with you and if appropriate in a confidential manner.

Online communication - Facebook and Seesaw

Our Facebook page is used primarily to promote the school and a sample of the learning activities that take place here.

Seesaw is used to communicate with yourselves about your child's learning.

Each class will use this app to share photos and videos with you of your child during their time here at Nursery school. You can also send a message to your child's class teacher if there is something they should know or if you have a question. **Please note that these will only be answered during working hours, Monday-Friday 8.30-3.30pm and probably not during class times as the teacher will be working with the children.**

A paper version of the QR code to your child's Seesaw account was included in your child's induction pack. If you need this reissued please get in touch with Mrs McKinney. We would advise that after you have downloaded the Seesaw App (this is free) and set up your child's account that you **put the notifications on**, this means you will get notified every time something has been shared on your child's Seesaw.

If you have any queries about setting up the app, please speak with either Mrs Muller or myself.

School NI App is linked to our school website and is used to share important information, letters and documents with you by sending a text message.

Thank you to everyone who has consented to using the school messaging app. You will soon be sent a link to join the messaging app. We are currently awaiting all the permission forms to be returned before everyone gets access. By consenting to use this app, means that you will receive text messages immediately about events such as school closures, reminders of events.

Dates school closed to pupils 2023-24



Please note that the below dates are subject to change. All the holidays can be found on the school website.

Monday 30th October - Monday 6th November 2023 (school closed)

Thursday 21st December 2023 (School closes early)

Friday 22nd December 2023- Thursday 4th January 2024 (school closed)

Monday 12th February - Monday 19th February 2024 (school closed)

Monday 18th March 2024 (school closed)

Wednesday 27th March 2024 (school closes early)

Thursday 28th March 2024 - Friday 5th April 2024-(school closed)

Monday 6th May-Tuesday 7th May 2024 (school closed)

Monday 27th May-Tuesday 28th May 2024 (school closed)

Friday 28th June 2024- Last day of term

Best wishes

Mrs Trimmings and all the Ballymoney Nursery School Team

