

Ballymoney Nursery School

October/November 2023 Newsletter



We have had a busy start to the school year and can hardly believe it will soon be time for half term break! All of our children have now started with us and are enjoying the various experiences Ballymoney Nursery life brings. Thank you to everyone for trusting us and our professional judgement in the best steps for your child during this process. We hope this newsletter lets you know a little of what we have been up to and an insight into the weeks ahead.

Students/Substitute staff

Over the past few weeks, we have had a few new adult faces in the Nursery School.

Rebecca and Caroline are level 3 Childcare students from North Regional College. They are in school on a Monday and Friday and spend time in both of the classrooms. Miss Ashleigh Heggarty is a teaching student from Stranmillis College who is currently in Mrs Muller's classroom. This month, we also welcomed Mrs Abou Samra, a former Nursery School parent in the role of a supply teacher.

Staff training

As part of her safeguarding team duties, Mrs Jarvis completed the two day training on Safeguarding for Deputy Designated Teachers. Miss Johnston participated in a NI Forest Schools taster session. The children have enjoyed practising what Miss Johnston learned on the training such as building dens in the secret garden!

Learning within the Nursery School

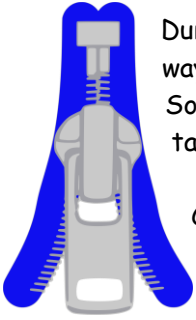
The Great Outdoors

There has been much learning, exploration and development of skills taking place in each of our outdoor areas. So far, the children have enjoyed a wide variety of activities. These have included physical activities such as rolling down the hill, climbing the steps to use the slide, riding the tricycles/bicycles and walking on the balance beam. They have engaged with nature through leaf hunts, nature hunts, observing snails and using their imagination to create art using the nature all around us. The children have developed their imagination and co-operative skills through cooking in the mud kitchen, building and construction using both natural and bought resources. We have also had creative performances through the use of our outdoor stage and the music wall.



Thank you to everyone for being understanding when your child has come home with dirty waterproofs - it is a sign that they have had fun! We will send the wellies home just before half term so that you have them in case they are needed during the holiday. As the weather has now become much colder, please remember to send your child in with gloves and a hat.

Developing independence



During your child's time at nursery, we will be helping them develop their independence in various ways. We have been encouraging the children to take off their own coat, hang it up and put it on. Some children are now able to zip their coats by themselves. We are also encouraging children to take off their own shoes and be able to put them back on again.

Children are independently choosing what they want for their snack and pour their own cup of water or milk. The children have also now learned over the past few weeks that they are required to put aprons on before water play and using the paint easel and it is then their job to take them off again and hang them up.

You can help further develop these skills by giving your child the opportunity to do this at home.

Colour Monster

Last month we read the story **The Colour Monster** to the children which they all enjoyed. This story helped explain some of the different emotions we can feel and associated them with colours. We talked about how our face can look when we feel the different emotions and what we can do when we feel like that.



World Nursery Rhyme Week 2023



We will be participating in the **World Nursery Rhyme Week** - week beginning 13th November 2023

Did you know??? Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.

Nursery Rhymes are fantastic for developing children's early language and reading skills which is why we focus on them at school and encourage you to practise them at home. Young children have the capacity to learn and retain an enormous amount of information and by hearing nursery rhymes over and over they easily learn them off by heart. By teaching children nursery rhymes, we will help them acquire the following skills.

Language Development

Nursery rhymes help your child learn new words. They are easy for young children to remember and repeat as there are lots of rhythm and repetition. They introduce a child to new ways of using their voice as they can be loud or quiet, fast or slow and use a variety of inflections.

Early Reading Skills

Nursery Rhymes help young children understand the structure of a story as most rhymes will have a clear beginning, middle and end. In Jack and Jill they go up the hill, fetch a pail of water and then it all goes wrong. This is a whole story in just a few lines. It is also an old nursery rhyme so it will introduce your child to words they may not have heard before—pail for bucket and crown for head. This will help your child understand that there is more than one word for the same thing.

Physical Development

Children love acting out their favourite rhymes and they offer great opportunities to get them moving. Movements in action rhymes and songs will help develop a child's fine and gross motor skills as well as balance, coordination. They will also be developing the skills required to follow simple instructions.

Numeracy

Many rhymes will help your child become familiar with numbers and counting. Rhymes such as 'One, Two, Three, Four, Five—Once I Caught A Fish Alive' will help your child remember the order of numbers. Other rhymes can introduce important mathematical concepts such as size and order.

The nursery rhymes being focused on during this year's world nursery rhyme week are:- **Jack and Jill; Hickory Dickory Dock; Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes; Row, Row, Row your boat and The Wheels on the bus**

Parental Partnership



Individual Parent/Carer consultations via Telephone

Thank you to everyone who has downloaded the **Schools NI App** and verified their account. This will mean you will have received the link to book your child's parent/teacher interview. Unfortunately, the system doesn't give you a confirmation that your time has been booked, however if you click back into the link you will see that there will be a tick beside the time you selected.

As the parent/teacher interviews are taking place **via telephone** and we only have one phone line, **please be mindful that on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Friday 27th October that the phone lines will be busy. If you need to contact the school please either email or message through Seesaw.**

The main telephone number that has been provided for your child is the number that will be used. Please let the school know as soon as possible if there is a different number you want used.

Seesaw

We hope that you have now all had the opportunity to log into your child's Seesaw account and get a small insight into their time at Nursery School. Thank you to all the parents/carers who have liked or commented on the posts - this is reassuring for the staff involved in the rooms.



Parent Week 2023



The week beginning 16th October 2023 is Parent Week 2023 in Northern Ireland. ParentLine NI is a free and confidential helpline that is there for any parent. No referrals are needed and they are open to calls 6 days a week. They can be contacted on **08088020400 - Mondays-Thursdays 9am-9pm, Friday 9am-5pm and on a Saturday 9am-1pm.**

At the end of Parent Week 2023 your child will bring home a little bag of gratitude home for you as their parent/carers to enjoy.

RISE

RISE have a parent section on their website where there are lots of information that can be accessed to help you support your child at home. Click on the following link to access the resources: -



<https://view.pagetiger.com/RISENI/earlyyears>

Cash for Clobber



As part of our Eco Schools Action Plan on Waste, we are participating in the **Cash for Clobber** scheme with Cookstown Textile Recyclers.

In your preparations for Christmas, why not have a clear out of some of the clothes, shoes, handbags and belts you no longer need, bag them and bring them to the school on **Tuesday 7th November 2023** and they will get picked up on **Wednesday 8th November 2023!**

Upcoming half term holiday

The school will be closed to children from **Monday 30th October - Monday 6th November 2023**. We hope you enjoy the time with your children and look forward to welcoming them back on **Tuesday 7th November 2023**.

Important Information

Absences

Thank you to everyone who either phoned the school, sent a message on Seesaw or completed the absence reporting form on our website to let us know if their child will not be attending nursery school. The link to the website can be found here:- <https://www.ballymoneynurseryschool.co.uk/parents/reporting-absence/>

Unwell children



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**.

This is the time of year, that there are various illnesses doing the rounds such as hand, foot and mouth, Strep A, Herpangina as well as the common cold. Please remain vigilant if your child begins displaying symptoms they don't normally have. Remember if they are not feeling well, the best place for them to be is in the security of their own home as Nursery can be a challenge to children when they don't feel well.

Parking



Parents/Carers are reminded **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 who have disability badges. Thank you to everyone who is adhering to this and helping keep our children and their families safe.

Child Protection

The safety of all our children is paramount to everything that we do. If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak with myself, Mrs Muller or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Walker c/o Ballymoney Nursery School. If Mrs Muller or myself are unavailable, please speak with Mrs Jarvis (Deputy Designated Officer for Child Protection) or any member of staff who will relay your message on to a member of the safeguarding team.

School Fund

Thank you to everyone who has paid their school fund, this has helped us plan some of our future events. If you have not yet contributed or would like an alternative payment option, please feel free to ring the school and speak to either Mrs Trimmings or Mrs Muller-the Nursery team are very understanding and will be discrete.



Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Friday 27th October 2023 - Telephone Parent/teacher interviews

Monday 30th October - Monday 6th November 2023 - School closed to children

Tuesday 7th November 2023 - Children return to school - Please bring your Cash for Clobber donations into school (ensure they are in bin bag/plastic bag and tied)

Wednesday 8th November 2023 - Cash for Clobber collection

Wednesday 15th November 2023-Individual School Photographs which will take place during class time (*please note if your nursery child has younger or older siblings you are welcome to have family photographs taken - please come to the school during the following times for these photos:-* **8.30-8.55am and 11.45-12.10pm**)

Friday 19th November 2023- Children In Need day - all children are encouraged to wear their pyjamas (please NO onsies) but to still wear shoes/trainers as opposed to slippers. (If children wish to they can bring £1 donation for the Children in Need Charity)



Best wishes