

Ballymoney Nursery School December 2023 Newsletter



What a fast term this has been! We can't believe we are now on the countdown to Christmas and what a busy few weeks we have ahead of us! We would like to welcome Terri Kelly to Ballymoney Nursery School in the role of a SEN assistant and welcome back Karly McMullan as a SEN assistant and substitute classroom assistant. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff and Governors to thank you all for the support you have shown us as a school over the past few months. We wish you all a happy and healthy festive season with your loved ones.

Festive Season learning opportunities

There are lots of learning opportunities that will be happening over the coming weeks in helping your child understand Christmas and the associated traditions. The children will be learning the story of the Nativity and have the opportunity to dress up in festive costumes. They will be decorating Christmas trees, writing letters to Santa and then posting them to him. The children will be creating a 'keepsake' decoration and crafting their own special Christmas card along with a yearly calendar for the year ahead. They will be learning Christmas songs and developing their performing skills ready for their first public performance to their parents/carers. The children will be developing their percussion skills in using instruments such as bells and rhythm sticks. They will also be practising their skills in wrapping presents and of course dressing up for the Christmas Party! Each day of December a child will take home a special little book out of our class advent calendars.

Posting letters to Santa



The children in the pre school classes will be walking to the Post Office to post their letter to Santa. The children in the pre-pre school class will walk to the special post box at the end of the path to post their letters and they will walk to the Post Office during their Pre School year.

Christmas Jumper Day



On Monday 11th December 2023 we are holding a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of the local charity Cancer Fund for Children. Children can come to school in their Christmas jumper/clothes and/or accessories. Donations of £1 would be appreciated if you would like to donate.



Forthcoming Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 6th December 2023** - Mrs Trimmings and Mrs Jarvis classes walking to the Post Office to post their letters to Santa
- Thursday 7th December 2023** - Last day for Scholastic Book Club orders
- Friday 8th December 2023** - Raffle sheets and accompanying money to be returned - thank you ☺
- Monday 11th December 2023** Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Cancer Fund for Children
- Mrs Muller's AM (Pre Schoolers) Class walking to the Post Office to post their letters to Santa
- Mrs Muller's PM (Pre-Pre Schoolers) Class walking to the end of the lane to post their letters to Santa in the special post box
- Tuesday 12th December 2023** - P7 pupils from Ballymoney Integrated Model Primary School reading to Pre School classes
- Wednesday 13th December 2023** - Mrs Trimmings' AM Class Singing Performance - **11.00am**
Mrs Jarvis' PM Class Singing Performance - **2.15pm**
- Thursday 14th December 2023** - Mrs Muller's AM Class Singing Performance - **11.00am**
Mrs Muller's PM Class Singing Performance - **2.15pm**
- Monday 18th December 2023** - Banyan Theatre performing for all classes
- Tuesday 19th December 2023** - Christmas Parties (Children can come to Nursery in their festive/party clothes, no heeled shoes please)
- Thursday 21st December 2023** - School Closes Early - **No afternoon session**
- Friday 5th January 2024** - Children return to school

Parental Partnership

Christmas Performances

After years of Covid restrictions we are looking forward to welcoming our families back into Nursery to watch our children perform at Christmastime. All the classes are currently busy practising songs to sing to you. Please remember there is a limit of 1 or 2 people per child to attend the short performance.



RISE

Reminder that 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>

Children in Need

Thank you everyone for your kind donations on Children in Need when you all helped raise the grand total of £185.50.

Christmas Hamper Donations

We would also like to thank you for the donations towards our Christmas hampers which will be raffled off as part of our Christmas raffle. If you would still like to donate an item, please bring it into school by Friday 8th December 2023.

Scholastic Book Club



Our latest **Scholastic Book Club** is now **online** at <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/ballymoney-bt53/digital-book-club> or alternatively your child will have gone home with a leaflet they issued us. There are hundreds of fantastic children's books to choose from. If you wish to place an order please do so by **December 7th, 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**.

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

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.

The Ballymoney Nursery School Staff and Board of Governors wish you all a happy and healthy festive season with your loved ones.