



January Newsletter 2026



We hope that you, your child and family have had a Peaceful Christmas break and wish you all a Happy New Year! We look forward to another 'fun filled 'term

Applications for your child's Primary 1 place can now be made online through EA Portal; the link is detailed below.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place> - Online

applications will open at 12 noon on Wednesday the 7th January 2026 and will close on at 12 noon on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

If your child is born on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (Target Age - Final Pre-School Year) you can apply for a funded pre-school place for September 2026 in a Nursery Unit of a Primary School or a Nursery School or a Voluntary/Private Playgroup participating in the Pre-School Education programme.

Ensure you upload your birth certificate and any other verifying information to the first preference school by noon on Friday 30th Jan 2026.



Topics

Winter, Transport & Grandparents

We will be investigating white and Silver. The children will be engaged in lots of activities, songs and learning experiences related to our topics. Don't forget to check out our nursery website.



<https://www.goodshepherdns.co.uk>



Grandparents Day

Catholic schools' week will fall between Sunday 18th -24th January. Grandparents are invited into the nursery for a stay and play with their grandchild on Friday 23th at 9.15 am

Penultimate Children

Teachers' will invite parents to meetings during the week of the 26th to discuss your child's progress and development in nursery. Available time slots will be posted on seesaw closer to the date.



Safety

We have a duty of care to protect our children in nursery, and we must request that no parents are allowed to use the nursery carpark. This is for STAFF only!

Please, do not open the main gate and always keep entrance clear

Many thanks for your support



Library Visit

If you are not a Libraries NI member yet, you can become a member, then you can have instant access to eBooks, audio books and eMagazines.

Sign up:

<https://bit.ly/LNI/join>

School of Sanctuary.

We continue to teach our children about cultural diversity through our Media Initiative-Respecting Differences programme and Bobbin around the world. This month we will learn about Kim .

Parent Pay

Thank You to everyone who has signed up and continues to use our cashless dinner and snack system. Please be reminded that snack fund is not a direct debit and must be manually paid each week. We appreciate all contributions enabling us to offer additional resources/other items throughout the year.

EA School Dinners will be going up by 50p to £3.00 per day from 1st January 2026

Early Talk Boost



Early Talk Boost is a targeted intervention aimed at 3-4-year-old children to boost their language skills. The intervention's design is based on strong evidence of what is known to support language development in the early years. Such as:

- Attention and listening as a foundation skill for speaking and listening
- Developing vocabulary
- Building sentences; putting words together is a vital skill for having conversations and telling stories

Your child's teacher will inform you if your child is involved.

School Development Plan:

As part of our self-evaluation and reflection would be grateful if you would complete this very short questionnaire about your child's first term experience.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8V26>

Getting Ready To Learn

As part of Getting ready to Learn programme. Please check the website under the GRTL tab to find lots of activities and links for useful support.

Don't forget to take home your story bags when they are on your child's peg. We would love to see pictures of the children using the bags at home with their family

SEE-SAW APP

We hope you are enjoying using our 'See-Saw' app, We very much appreciate your comments on all the lovely photos and video's that we regularly share. A reminder that if there are issues, please arrange a meeting with child's teacher.



Make a Sound

Melissa from Make a Sound will continue to visit the nursery 20th of Jan. Children are thoroughly enjoying these sessions. We hope you are enjoying the photos and videos.



Mindfulness

Laura from Mindfulness will offer sessions on 13th, 20th and 27th Jan for some mindfulness, self-awareness, self-regulation and breathing Activities. Why not try some cosmic Yoga sessions- Diggory Dump truck

<https://youtu.be/lppLh0FI3iw>

**Children finish at 1pm on Tuesday
20th Jan to facilitate onsite
training/cluster in the setting.**

Please can we ask you to ring in morning/ or send a see saw message to let us know if your child is going to be late. This allows us to update dinner numbers.

**Could you please send in boxes of tissues, wipes and hand soap.
Thank You**



Positive Behaviour.

This month we will be supporting children to ensure we all engage in safe play particularly in our outdoor environment. We shall be sending some resources, tips and strategies home so you can support and talk to your child about the importance of following rules to keep safe in their nursery school. Gentle hands and feet!



As part of our involvement in the ECO programme, Good Shepherd Nursery school will be involved in the Big School's Bird Watch, 23rd-25th January.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/w/hats-happening/get-ready-for-big-schools-birdwatch>



Practise Using your "Wheels"

We are encouraging children to use their bikes

We are teaching the negative effects of the use of cars on our environment.

Children are invited to take their "wheels" to nursery school, the children will 'ride' their wheels to nursery and in the primary school grounds.

Monday-26th Jan Mrs Le Mahieus' & Mrs Mc Manus' class

Tuesday 27th Jan Mrs Murney & Mrs Voyles' class



Transport

Survey

In January the boys and girls will participate in their own Traffic Survey around the local area. We will count and record the different types of transport we see.

This links to our main Eco theme of Transport.

Remember we are an Eco Nursery and have applied for our 6th Green Flag.

Loose Parts and Authentic Resources

To enhance our children's play and learning experiences we are continuing to build on our loose parts within all areas of nursery both inside and out. Loose parts are open ended materials that encourage creativity, imagination and problem solving. Please donate, any recyclable -cardboard boxes, egg cartons, tubes, pipes, baskets, outside guttering. We are also looking for any authentic household items such as mirrors, ornaments, old phones etc.



Forest Schools

We are excited to share that three of our staff members will begin their forest school training journey in January. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance outdoor learning experience for our pupils.

Forest school an educational approach forces on holistic development through hands on activities, exploration, play in nature, child build on confidence, resilience and problem solving while learning about the environment.



Happy Birthday to the children who celebrate their Birthday in January

