



Newsletter Nov/Dec 2020

Diary Dates

All diary dates are on our 'Calendar' on the website, with details of key events being added throughout the year.

November

Friday 6th- School Photographer here to take individual photographs

Friday 13th - Children in Need/ Big Bedtime Read Launch- **Wear PJ's to school!**

Friday 20th - **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING**

Weds 25th- Morning session **CLOSED** for Parent/Teacher telephone interviews

Thurs 26th- Afternoon session **CLOSED** for Parent/Teacher telephone interviews

December:

Friday 18th- Party day and finish for Christmas

Children return to school on TUESDAY 5th JANUARY- all normal times

Settling In Information

This year we will be holding Parent/Teacher meetings over the phone. In order to facilitate this, Nursery will be closed for the children to enable teachers to carry out these interviews. The dates and arrangements for these are as follows:

Wednesday 25th Nov – **No AM Nursery session on this day.**

Thursday 26th November - **No PM Nursery session on this day.**

You will receive an allocated appointment time for when your child's teacher will ring you. (If your time does not suit then there will be an opportunity to organise an alternative day and time.) **However, please try to facilitate the time you are given if at all possible.**

School Fund Payments

Due to the much slower settling in period this year we have decided to only begin collecting school fund contributions from the month of November onwards. Due to the current unpredictable situation, we have reduced the monthly amount of school fund that we will be asking for you to contribute in the hope that if any further school closures happen then this will allow for that and avoid the need for refunds etc. School fund is absolutely vital for us in order to pay for day to day

resources for the children's learning and development. It not only funds snack for everyone, but is used to enable us to provide a wide variety of activities and resources throughout the year for every child in our school. We very much appreciate everyone contributing to our school fund as every child benefits from what we receive.

Information will be sent to you in an App message regarding the payment of this. You will be able to either choose to pay online with a debit or credit card, or in cash. We will be collecting payment for the months of November and December in the coming weeks at a cost of £30 per child.

Our Learning Themes

In November and December we will be learning about "Special Events". This will include learning about Birthdays, Halloween fireworks, The Hindu Festival of Light- Divali and Christmas. All of this learning is about the 'cultural' traditions of each event, such as types of food and clothing that children experience at these times. There is no religious element within these events except during our learning about Christmas, when we learn about the story of the Nativity and the birth of Jesus. More information about our learning is available on the website under the tab 'Parents' and 'Learning Themes'

Clothing Bin

Please continue to use the clothing 'recycling' bin that is located at our Main Entrance Gate. This is for family and local community use. Every time the bin is emptied the school receives a small donation from 'Cash for Clobber' so



please use it whenever you are having a clear out!

School App and Parent Feedback Survey

Please ensure that you use our "School App" and check notifications regularly. This is now being used to send messages to remind you of events, when letters are available and other useful information and reminders. Please use the 'Calendar' feature to check for dates and events throughout the year. We will also be sending you a link to an online 'Parent Feedback Survey'. We really appreciate you taking your time to give us your thoughts. Any suggestions will be taken into account wherever possible and we enjoy reading your comments about our school.



Children In Need/ Big Bedtime Read Launch

Every year we support BBC Children in Need. This year we are combining this day with our "Big Bedtime Read" launch that was previously postponed in October. Children can come to school to mark both these events dressed in their PJ's and anything Pudsey! We ask for a donation of £1 per child. Collection tins will be outside each classroom. The children will be doing lots of fun activities and making spotty snacks! Your child will also be receiving a book as a gift to mark the launch. Unfortunately due to the on going situation we are unable to send home book packs this year. We are however going to provide some online activities instead, which we hope will be successful in a different way! You will receive further information on the 13th.





School Photographer

The school photographer will be here on Friday 6th November to take individual children's photographs. All photographs will be available to buy online afterwards. Further details will follow.

Contacting Us

If you need to let us know anything during the day whilst your child is in nursery, please phone us. Emails are not checked continually throughout the day and therefore should only be used for non-urgent queries and messages. We aim to answer all queries by email within 24 hours whenever possible.

Open Afternoon for Admissions September 2021

Any child who will be 3 on or before 1st July 2021 will be due to start Nursery next September!

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our usual 'Open Afternoon' event this year. We will be putting lots of information on our website and will be available to talk over the phone to any parent who would like to find out more. If you know of anyone who has a child who will be due to start Nursery School then please let them know!

They can also register their interest for a place in Ballyclare Nursery School by visiting our website and going to the 'Parents' tab, then "Admissions Information" and completing a short form. ***(Please note this is NOT an application form and the usual online application process via EA website will still need to be completed.)***

Christmas Gifts

We know that parents are always very generous at this time of year in the giving of gifts to staff. We would very much appreciate that rather than giving us gifts that you make a donation to our Christmas Charity The Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. Money can be given to your child's teacher in an envelope please. We will then make a donation from the school on the children's behalf. Thank you.

Christmas Party Day

Children will be having a Christmas Party in school on Friday 18th December. Children can wear party clothes on this day. Jo Jingles will be here to do lots of lovely Christmassy singing!

The times of these are:

AM Session 9:30-11am

PM Session 12:00-1:30pm

Nursery closes on this day for the Christmas Holidays.

Children return on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

