



Newsletter Nov/Dec 2024

Thank you to everyone for all your continued support this year.

Diary Dates

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

November

Thursday 21st - **NURSERY IS CLOSED FOR MORNING SESSION (Apple, Kiwi and Orange classes) FOR PARENT/TEACHER TELEPHONE MEETINGS**

Friday 22nd- **NURSERY IS CLOSED FOR AFTERNOON SESSION (Cherry, Lime and Pineapple classes) FOR PARENT/TEACHER TELEPHONE MEETINGS**

Friday 29th- School photographer here to take individual photographs.

All the children will have the opportunity to get an individual school photograph taken by our photographer- 'Whitehall Photography'. You will then be able to order a variety of photo packs online. These should arrive in school before the Christmas holidays so are perfect gifts for family and friends!

December:

Mon 2nd- Mr Hullabaloo Theatre Company is in Nursery to present his latest show- "Festivals".



Tuesday 3rd- Open Afternoon for children due to start Nursery in September 2024. 3:30pm- 5pm (last entry 4:45pm)

****NEW EVENT****

Thursday 19th – For Parents and Carers

"Coffee and Carols"- See next page and attached flyer for further details.

Friday 20th- Christmas Party Day with Jo Jingles and last day of term. **CHANGE OF TIMES ON THIS DAY:**

AM session 9-10:30am

PM Session 12-1:30pm

Children can wear party clothes.

Please ensure that you have informed whoever brings and collects your child from school about these time changes- Thank you.

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

Children return to school on Tuesday 7th JANUARY 2025

“Coffee and Carols” Christmas Family Event!

On Thursday 19th December we invite parents and carers and any other family members to join us for a Christmas gathering of “Coffee and Carols” in the grounds of the nursery.

The children are learning some simple Christmas Carols and songs to perform to you on that day.

We are also delighted to welcome Fairview Primary School and Ballyclare Primary School choirs who will be singing along with our children, as well as performing some carols of their own to get us into the Christmas spirit!

There will be coffee as well as other refreshments available for adults to enjoy!

Times for the sessions are:

10:30- 11:15am

1:45-2:15pm

After children have sung, they will return to their classrooms to be collected as usual.

The car park may be slightly more busy than usual on this day. Please consider parking further away and walking up to the school to avoid unnecessary traffic if possible.



Our Learning Themes

In November and December, we are learning about “Special Events”. This includes learning about Halloween fireworks, The Hindu Festival of Light-Diwali, and Christmas, including the story

of the Nativity. All this learning is about the ‘cultural’ traditions of each event, such as types of food, clothing and family customs that children experience at these times. More information about our learning is available on the website under the tab ‘Parents’ and ‘Learning Themes and Home Learning’.



Home Learning

If your child is absent from Nursery, and/or you would like ideas of activities to do at home, then please go to the same section as above. There you will find lots of ideas linked to our learning in school for you to do at home with your child!

<https://www.ballyclarenurseryschool.co.uk/parents/learning-themes/>



Clothing Bin

Please continue to use the clothing ‘recycling’ bin that is located in our Car Park. 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 Website

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. The app also opens our full school website. Please also check this regularly for reminders and also to see photographs and videos of what your child's class has been doing via our password protected 'Class Pages'. There is also information about Primary School events and open days that are happening in many of our local schools.

Big Bedtime Read

We launched our Big Bedtime Read initiative on PJ Day last week. Every child received a book as a gift. We will be starting to send home book packs this week. Afternoon children will receive their first pack this coming Thursday 21st Nov and morning children this coming Friday 22nd Nov. This is due to the school closure changes for parent/carer meetings. Book packs should then be returned to school on Monday 25th November. **We will then start a regular pattern of sending the book packs home. Children will receive a book pack every Thursday and this should be returned to school every Monday.** There is further information about this and other activities for parents on the 'Getting Ready to Learn' website:

<https://www.gettingreadytolearn.co.uk/parents/>

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.

Car Parking

We are aware that there have been some issues during busy times both in the car park and on the road directly outside of the school gates.

This has been highlighted as a concern to the Education Authority and we are currently exploring possible solutions.

If you are parking outside of the school, please ensure that the road is kept clear enough for residents and emergency vehicles to be able to pass at all times. Your support with this is much appreciated.

Christmas Gifts

We know that parents and carers 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, you would consider donating to our Christmas Charity- The NI Children's Hospice. Money can be given to your child's teacher in an envelope if you would like to do this. We will then donate from the school on the children's behalf. Last year we received over £500 in donations for a very worthwhile cause. Thank you.



**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR
"COFFEE AND CAROLS" EVENT
AT BALLYCLARE NURSERY SCHOOL**



THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH

10:30-11:15AM

(MORNING CLASSES)

&

1:45-2:30PM

(AFTERNOON CLASSES)

**COME ALONG AND JOIN US
FOR SOME FESTIVE
REFRESHMENTS!
LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN
SINGING!
ENJOY THE CHOIRS FROM
FAIRVIEW AND
BALLYCLARE PRIMARY
SCHOOLS!**

