

June 2025

It's hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for this school year!

We have thoroughly enjoyed having your child in the nursery school. We trust that you can recognise how much they have grown in both confidence and security over the last ten months. The month of June is about celebrating what your child has achieved and encouraging them to reach for the stars, as they move on from us. We appreciate that there is a lot of information enclosed in this newsletter and if you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact school.

We look forward to spending time with you and your family in the coming weeks as we celebrate your child's year with us. We thank you for your support throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Felicity Humphreys and the Nursery Team



Tuesday 3 rd June	Stay and Play Session
Monday 9 th June	Reports issued to parents
Friday 13 th June	Next Year's Nursery Induction Day NO SCHOOL for all pupils
Thursday 26 th June	Mrs Reilly and Mrs McBride's Am Class Garden Party 10am - 11am Mrs Reilly and Mrs McBride's Pm Fun Afternoon 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Friday 27 th June	Mrs Pattison's and Mrs Preston's FT Class Garden Party 10 - 11am



NO SCHOOL on Friday 13th June for all PUPILS

NO SCHOOL on Thursday 26th June for Mrs Pattison's and Mrs Preston's FT Class

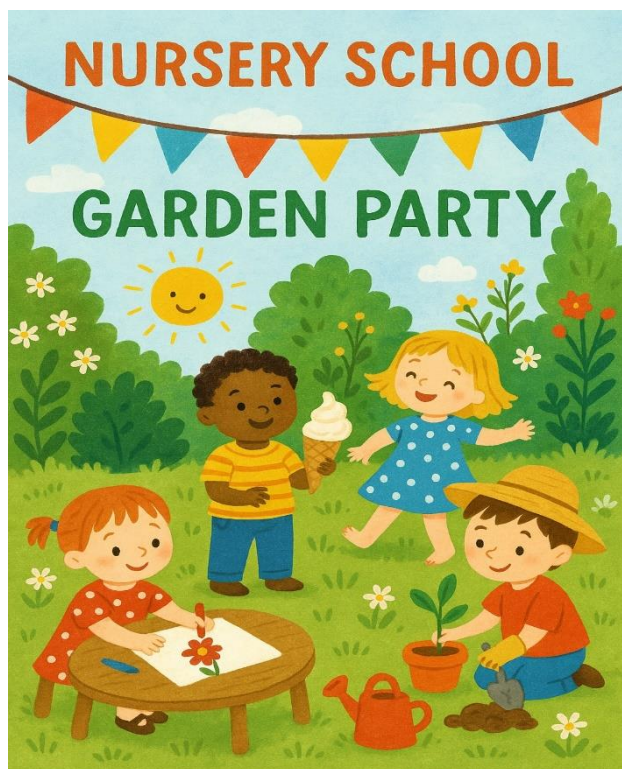
NO SCHOOL on Friday 27th June for Mrs McBride's and Mrs Reilly's two classes.

Invitation

Parent/Carer Invitation

Stay and Play Session: Parents/Carers are invited to attend on Tuesday 3rd June for the

Garden Party Celebrations: Parents/Carers are invited to attend.



Thursday 26th June: AM CLASS Garden Party (no school for FT class). Children come to school at the normal time and parents/ family join us at 10am. School will finish for children at 11am and this will be their last day of term.

Thursday 26th June: PM Class Fun Party (pre-school children only). Children come to school at the normal time and parents/family can join us at 1.30pm. School will finish for this class at 2.30pm and this will be their last day of term.

Friday 27th June: FT Class Garden Party (no school for AM/PM class)

Children come to school at the normal time and parents/family join us at 10am. School will finish for children at 11am and this will be their last day of term.

Summer Sun

We are hoping that the sun will shine again on us this month and we love to make the most of it in our school playground. We will be teaching the children the important message of staying safe in the sun. Please help us with this by making sure your child has sunscreen on before coming to school and wears appropriate clothing: a sun hat/cap. Also remember that footwear needs to be suitable for climbing.

Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide



Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer

End of Year Questionnaire

We will be sending a link for our end of year evaluation. I cannot stress enough how important this is to us as it gives you the opportunity as parents to help us evaluate how we do things and where we can go next as we strive to continually improve our school. Please take the time to give us your feedback and help us plan for the future.

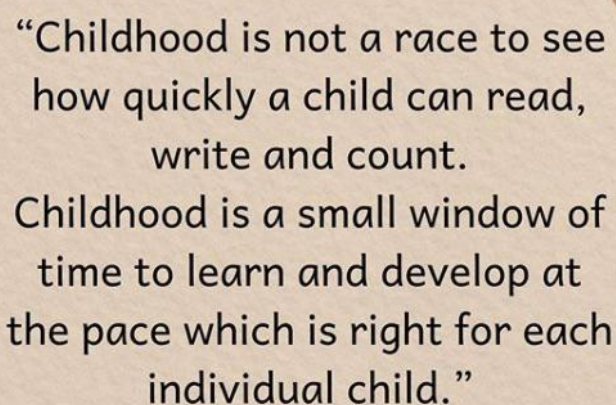
Transition Reports

You will receive your child's transition report on Monday 9th June 2025. This is a short summary of their achievements in nursery school. It is also designed to give areas for development that you can help your child with as they prepare for the move to P1. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's report, please contact the school to arrange this with the teacher. A copy of this report will also be forwarded to your child's new primary school.

Visits from Primary One Teachers

During the month of June, a teacher from your child's primary school will visit to see your child in the nursery setting and speak to your child's teacher.

Preparing for Primary One



“Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child.”

Magda Gerber

At this time of year parents can become very anxious about whether their child is ready for P1. Can I encourage you not to make comparisons with other children as this will only cause you to become anxious.

Children are fearfully and wonderfully made, unique with a distinct set of qualities and we need to allow them the freedom to enjoy childhood and develop at their own pace.

Letter Names:

They do not need to learn the letter names yet. They will be taught the letter name and its accompanying sound through phonics in P1 ready for reading and writing.

Writing:

They do not need to be able to write their name going into P1, so do not worry if your child shows no interest in writing or letter formation... just encourage them to grip small items using a pincer grip and in time the writing will come. As a former primary school principal, learning to form the letters in the correct way is crucial and incorrect letter formation can be difficult to rectify. Leave it to the P1 teacher to teach each letter's

correct formation! If your child is showing an interest in letter formation, DO NOT TEACH THEM CAPITAL LETTERS. The first letters they will learn will be lower case; the exception



to this being the letter at the start of their name. This can be confusing for children and difficult to undo if they have formed the habit of writing in capitals.

Look at the differences between a typical preschool hand (left) and a typical P7 child's hand (right).

Parents state 'My child has not started to write yet or avoids using scissors'. Your child's hand is still developing! So how can you support your child?

1. Activities to Strengthen Hand Muscles:

- **Crawling and "Wheelbarrow" Walks/Races:**

These activities encourage the use of hands and knees for movement, strengthening the muscles in the hands and arms.

- **Finger Exercises:**

Squeezing small balls, playing with small blocks can build finger strength and coordination.

- **Water Activities:**

Using squeeze toys, spray bottles, or wringing sponges can strengthen hand muscles and improve dexterity.

- **Playdough:**

Playing with playdough allows children to manipulate the material (rolling, pinching, cutting with shapes), strengthening their hand and finger muscles.

2. Activities to Improve Coordination and Hand-Eye Coordination:

- **Drawing and Colouring:**

These activities help children develop hand-eye coordination and fine motor control.

- **Puzzles:**

Starting with simple puzzles and gradually progressing to more complex ones can improve fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

- **Building Blocks:**

Building with blocks challenges children to make precise movements and understand spatial relationships, enhancing visual perception and motor control.

- **Throwing and Catching:**

Help children develop timing, movement prediction, overall body coordination.

3. Activities to Develop Hand Skills:

- **Threading:**

Activities like threading beads or pasta on string can improve pincer grasp and fine motor skills.

- **Cutting and Glueing:**

Using child-friendly scissors and glue in craft activities can develop fine motor control and hand-eye coordination.

- **Sorting and Matching:**

Sorting buttons, objects, or pictures by colour, size, or shape can improve fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

- **Daily Routines:**

Engaging in daily routines like dressing, cleaning teeth, and helping with chores around the house can also help develop hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

4. Strategies to Encourage Hand Development:

- **Provide a Variety of Materials:**

Offer open-ended materials like paper, crayons, glue, clay, and small blocks to allow children to explore their own interests and develop their fine motor skills.

- **Create a Supportive Environment:**

Encourage children to try new things and provide positive reinforcement for their efforts.

- **Use Visual Aids:**

If children struggle with finger placement on a pencil or cutlery, use visual aids like stickers or marks to guide them.

- **Practice, Practice, Practice:**

The more opportunities children have to practice their fine motor skills, the easier they will become.

Focusing on strengthening hand muscles, improving coordination, and developing hand-eye coordination is crucial for later skills like writing.

Numbers to 10

They do not need to know their numbers to 10 and beyond... just introduce counting to them as they play, climb steps etc and give them time. Remember children must write a number starting at the top! They will do this at the beginning of P1.

Here are a few things that you can do to help prepare your child for the next stage:

- Self-help skills: getting fully dressed by themselves, putting on shoes, taking responsibility for tidying up; looking after their belongings.
- Read to your child every day. Encourage them to talk about the pictures and make predictions about what will happen.
- Draw their attention to words and numbers in the world around them.
- Recognise their own name on belongings.
- Count out enough glasses, knives, forks for everyone in the house at dinner time.
- **Get them outdoors!** Digging, riding, climbing, balancing on beams/ bikes. This will do more to develop fine/gross motor skills than any amount of pencil activities!



Free family days out

Northern Ireland  Embrace a Giant Spirit



The map of Northern Ireland is overlaid with various icons and text labels for family-friendly outdoor activities. The labels include: White Rocks Beach, The city walls, The Playtrail, Glenariff Forest Park waterfall walk, Kilcreggan Urban Farm Carrickfergus, Davagh Forest mountain bike trails, Ecos Centre, Gortin Glen Forest park & Destination play park, Drum Manor Forest Park, Ulster Museum, Crawfordsburn Country Park and eco-garden, Botanic Gardens, Castle Archdale lakes and bike trails, An Creagán nature garden, Lady Dixon gardens and play park, The MAC, Billy Neill's bike tracks, Scrabo Tower, Castlewellan Peace Maze, Slieve Gullion Forest park, adventure playground and Fionn's giant adventure, and Kilbroney Park Narnia Trail. The ParentingNI logo is in the bottom left corner.

ParentingNI

30 Fun Summer ACTIVE-ities for Kids



Run through the sprinkler

Make an obstacle course



Throw a ball

Make a mud pie



Go for a bike ride

Dance in the rain



Learn to jump rope

Visit a playground

Play hide and seek

Visit a splash park

Fly a kite or paper airplanes

Walk on tin can stilts

Try lawn bowling

Jump in a puddle

Do a bean bag toss

Build a fort

Play Frisbee

Go treasure hunting

Try to juggle

Walk on a log or balance beam

Go on a scavenger hunt



Try to Hula Hoop

Play with sidewalk chalk

Climb a tree

Blow bubbles

Kick a soccer ball

Play water tag

Swing on monkey bars



ACTIVE FOR LIFE