

Monkstown Nursery School

Monthly Newsletter January 2025



May the staff take this opportunity to wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2025

Nursery / Primary Applications

The online portal to apply for nursery/primary opens on **Friday 10th January**. The whole process is now online and accessed via <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>. Parents complete their choices using the online form and upload all documents to the portal. Please note the closing date and time is **12 noon on 24th January 2025**

If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Car Parking

Due to health and safety reasons, cars are not permitted within the car park at any time, even to turn. The school gates may be open at times during the day, but this is for disabled access only (prior permission must be requested from the Principal).

Please take care when parking near the school gates and show consideration for local residents.



Stay and Play

Our Stay and Play sessions are scheduled for **5th & 6th February**. This will be an opportunity for you to come to nursery to play with your child for a short time at the end of their day and share in his/her nursery experience. If you are unable to attend, another adult who is important to your child is very welcome.

The class will be split into two groups (information to follow) to accommodate each session. Please ensure your child is collected punctually at the earlier time on the day you are not attending the play session. We cannot facilitate siblings attending this event.

We are sure both you and your child will benefit from the experience and will have lots to talk about when you get home.

Diary Dates

10 January: Online enrolment opens for Primary One and Nursery

10 January: Jo Jingles

Week Beginning 13 January: Show and Tell (Christmas theme) - children will be allocated a date and time.

24 January: Online portal for enrolment closes at 12 noon

4 Feb: Visit from Joe and the Gathering Drum (normal times)

5 & 6 February: Stay and Play

7 February: Jo Jingles

10 - 14 February: Half term holidays for all children

3 - 7 March: Reading Week

6 March: Dress up day—World Book Day

Dress up as any book character of your choice (or in Pyjamas for bedtime)

7 March: Jo Jingles

17 March: Finish 12 noon due to St. Patrick's Day as meals provided by EA kitchen

4 April: Jo Jingles

8 April: School Photographer

11 April: Big Bad Bass

All children attending in the morning. Nursery finishes early for all children.

Last Day of term for Easter.

Staffing Arrangements from January—June 2025

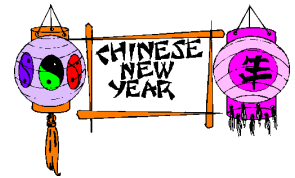
Mrs S. Coburn:	Principal, Full-time teacher, Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Ms L. Acheson :	Part-time class teacher (Mon-Thur), Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Miss A. Reeves :	Full-time teacher (Thur), Part-time class teacher (Fri)
Mrs E. Owen:	Nursery Assistant (Part-time room), Nursery Registered First Aider
Miss A. Young :	Nursery Assistant (Part-Time room AM), SEN Nursery Assistant (Part-time room PM),
Mrs M. Jones:	Nursery Assistant (Full-time room (Monday—Wednesday))
Mrs K. Maguire:	Nursery Assistant (Full-time room)
Miss J. Cole:	SEN Nursery Assistant (Full-time room)
Mrs E. Ferguson :	Caretaker
Mrs C. Smolenska :	Secretary

Nursery Theme for January and February

Our topic for this half term will be '**The Big Freeze**' as children will be learning all about the North and South Poles. We have a great many stories to read and activities to explore.

We have been discussing the winter weather and the clothes we need to keep us warm and dry and will be trying to continue our learning experience outdoors so please ensure your child has a **warm coat and a hat, scarf and mittens**. Please work with your child so they can begin to zip and unzip their coat independently.

We will also be celebrating **Chinese New Year** and enjoying our Chinese Restaurant role play area and Chinese themed crafts. Love will be in the air in February when we explore the theme of **Valentine's Day**.



Show and Tell Week Beginning 13th JANUARY

We always love to hear all about the children's Christmas gifts and as we would love every child to have a fair chance of showing and talking about a **special gift or photo**, we are hosting a 'one-off' Show and Tell 'special gift' week. Each child will be **allocated a day** when we encourage them to bring **ONE small, portable favourite gift (or photo of it, if it is too big)** to Nursery School. Hopefully this will make the "show and tell" experience a more relaxed and enjoyable time for everyone, as it can be very difficult to sit quietly and listen for long periods of time when you are just 3 or 4 years old.

Curriculum

We will be encouraging the children to show an interest in reading books and handle them appropriately by turning the pages and going from the front to the back of the book through our Big Bedtime Read.

We will continue songs and rhymes to reinforce our awareness of numbers and focus will be placed on rote counting in order and developing their awareness of counting objects to 10. We will also be encouraging the children to copy / follow a simple pattern.

The RSPB Big Bird Watch takes place from **Friday 24 January to Sunday 26 January**.

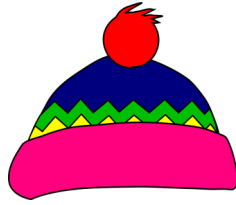
Children's Mental Health week begins on **3rd February** and through stories and activities we will be developing the children's understanding to recognise / label feelings and emotions, especially happy, sad, excited, worried, angry and surprised.

What is the Weather today? X2

It's Cold and dry x2

That's the Weather today

To the tune of Hickory Dickory



I am a little snowman round and fat
See my woolly scarf and see my hat.
You can count my buttons 1,2,3
Won't you come and play with me?

5 little penguins standing in a line

1, 2,3, 4,5 so fine

Lie on your tummy, slide in the snow.

Ready steady and off you go!

4 little penguins standing in a line ...



I am a little penguin

Black and white

Small and fluffy

What a sight!

I can't fly

But I love to swim

So I'll waddle to the water



Look at the snowflakes falling down

Falling down, falling down

Looking at the snowflakes falling down

It's winter time again

Look at the robin hopping along

Hopping along, hopping along

Look at the robin hopping along

It's winter time again

Look at the smoke from the chimney

Chimney pot, chimney pot

Look at the smoke from the chimney

It's winter time again

Look at the warm fire in my house

In my house, in my house

Look at the warm fire in my house

It's winter time again

My igloo is round with a tiny door. *(Make circle w/hands then hold hand low to ground.)*

It's made of cold ice & snow. *(Pretend to shiver.)*

The inside is covered with blankets & fur. *(Spread hands over wide area.)*

So it's warm when the winter winds blow. *(Hug self to keep warm.)*

How a chubby little snowman,

Had a carrot nose.

Along came a bunny,

And what do you suppose?

That hungry little bunny,

Looking for his lunch.

Ate that snowman's carrot nose,

Nibble, nibble, crunch!!



(She'll be Comin' Around The Mountain)

Oh, you shiver and you quiver when it snows.

Oh, you shiver and you quiver when it snows.

Your hands feel just like ice,
so you rub them once or twice.

YES, you shiver and you quiver when it snows.

10 round snowmen outside having fun
and when one round snowman melted in the sun
there were 9 round snowmen outside having fun

9 round snowmen outside having fun...

The north wind doth blow,

And we will have snow,

And what will the robin do
then, poor thing!

He'll sit in a barn,

And keep himself warm.

And hide his head under
his wing, poor thing!

