

# Ballymoney Nursery School / October 2020 Newsletter



BALLYMONEY  
NURSERY SCHOOL



I am delighted to be back at work and would like to thank Ms McCarron for acting up as Principal in my absence. I look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year as we navigate our way through the 'new normal'. We are all very proud of how all our children have adapted to nursery school and the routines in place such as hand washing and getting their temperature taken at the beginning of each session. Thank you to you for adhering to the routines we have in place by using the markings on the ground to keep distance from others and our staggered drop off and pick ups. We do miss getting to know you and letting you see what the children are learning each day. I am in the privileged position to be working with a wonderful team here at Ballymoney Nursery who all want to do the best that they can for your children to help give them the best start in their education journey. If you ever want to talk to any of us, please telephone the school.

## Our Newsletter

Our newsletter is produced to keep you informed of what's happening in the school. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about what you might like us to include in the Newsletter.

## Thank you



I would like to thank some of our local businesses for their support in helping us reopen and restart the school. Thank you to Terex in Ballymoney who designed and created the stencil that was used to mark the standing spots outside to ensure social distancing. Thank you, also to C.P.Hire who have donated free of charge the use of the metal railings to help us ensure a one way system in and out of the school. They also lent us the use of a power wash to ensure the playground was as clean as it could be for the children starting Nursery. Thank you to Miss Johnston and her family who ensured it was as clean as possible.

## Learning within the Nursery School

### Settling In



During September our priority was ensuring the smooth transition of all the children from home to school. Most of our children have settled happily and are responding positively to the rules and routines. Some children just require a little more time and reassurance and it's important to be patient.

### Daily Snack



In Ballymoney Nursery School we are committed to promoting healthy eating and feel it is imperative to maximise every opportunity to influence the children's eating habits. All staff are aware of any allergies that have been made known to the school and ensure that appropriate healthy foods are available to the children along with the option of milk or water. We are a **nut free zone** and would remind everyone to ensure that there are no nut products brought into school.

## Developing independence

During your child's time at nursery, we will be helping them develop their independence. You can help with this by giving them the chance to practise putting on/off their coat, shoes and putting 'stuff' away when finished with it at home.

## Important Information

### Completed personal information forms

Thank you to everyone who has already completed their children's personal information forms. If you haven't already completed them can you please do as soon as possible. This will ensure that we have appropriate contact details and are aware of any medical needs and allergies and also whether photographs can be taken and displayed or not.



It is extremely important that we hold **up-to-date contact details** for every child in the Nursery School. If your details/telephone numbers/email addresses have changed or contact details of emergency contacts, please inform the school at your earliest convenience.

### Unwell children



Thank you to everyone who has been conscientious and cautious and kept their child home if they have been feeling 'under the weather'.

In the event of your **child being ill, especially with a vomiting/diarrhoea bug**, please do not send him/her to school. The Public Health Agency advises that **48 hours is left** from the last episode of illness before your child returns to school. In addition, if your child is on an **antibiotic they must not attend school until the course is completed**.

### Covid-19

If your child or anyone in your house is showing any signs of Covid-19, please ensure your child does not attend school for 14 days. The following main symptoms to look for are: -

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- loss of taste or smell

Please let us know if your child is off school due to self-isolating. If symptoms start at the weekend or a test has been confirmed as positive at the weekend please email me to let me know as I will be checking my emails daily.

### Notifying you in the event of a positive case in our school community

If a member of our school community (staff or children) tests positive for Covid-19 you will all be informed. In the first instance, the children in the effected bubble/s will be emailed to inform them as they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the bubbles will then be emailed to keep them informed with what is happening. A text message will be sent to all parents to check their emails.

## Mrs McClelland's afternoon class

The children in Mrs McClelland's afternoon class will attend nursery from 12.30-1.30pm for their first two weeks. If they have settled, they will then attend from 12.30-2.30pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and from 12.30-1.30pm on a Thursday and Friday until the Half term holiday. When we return in November, if the children have settled, they will attend 12.30-2.30pm each day.

## School Fund

School fund for this term will be £40. This money is used to purchase the daily snack, purchase resources for the children and pay for treats for the children throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their donation, this can either be paid in full each term or £20 per half term. 😊

Due to the current situation we want to reduce the amount of actual cash handling within the school. Therefore, our preferred method of payment is now via direct payment into our school bank account. Our bank details are as follows: -

### Ballymoney Nursery School -School Fund

Danske Bank Account No: 91100769

Sort Code: 95-02-37

Please indicate your child's name when completing this transfer.



If you are unable to pay direct into our bank account, please either bring a cheque or the correct money where possible into school in an envelope with your child's name on it and what it is for.

## Parking



Parents are notified **NOT** to bring **cars** into the front of the Nursery School when leaving off and picking up children. This area is strictly for the use of staff, vehicles making deliveries to the school and for those parents/carers who have disability badges. If you have a disability badge, it will be necessary for us to make a photocopy which will be retained in school.

**It is also illegal** to park on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates. Please consider the safety of all our children and others and refrain from parking on the zig zags.

## Children's birthdays

Most children love to bring a cake into school for sharing on their **birthday**. If you would like to do this, please ensure it is an **unopened shop bought cake** and inform a member of staff the day before you intend to bring the cake so that we can plan our snack accordingly. Please ensure that there are no nuts / may contain nuts in the cake as we will be unable to open the cake in school.



## Labelling

Would all parents please ensure they have **sweatshirt(s)/coats clearly labelled** with name tags or indelible ink. There is a little label inside the pocket of the coat which can be marked. For those who wish, uniform is still available to buy from the school. T-shirts cost £8.50, sweatshirts £10 and coats are £20.



## Child Protection

The safety of all our children is paramount to everything that we do. If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak with myself or write a letter to the Chairperson of the

Board of Governors c/o Ballymoney Nursery School. If I am unavailable, please speak with a member of staff who will relay your message on to me.

## Communication

### Open door policy

Although our 'open door' is currently closed, if you have anything that you wish to discuss with regard to your child or the school, please feel free to telephone and request a call back from the member of staff you wish to speak with.



### Online communication

The private Parent/Staff Facebook group for 2020-21 has also been created. If you would like to join it, search for "Ballymoney Nursery School 2020-21". We are currently awaiting all of the permission forms to be returned from parents before we launch our use of Seesaw. We hope to be using it by the end of the month.

### Half term holiday

The school will be closed to children from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**. We hope you enjoy the time with your children and look forward to welcoming them back on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**.

### Dates school closed to pupils 2020-21

The below dates include holidays and the 5 development days and 5 baker days that staff take each year.



Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>-Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> -Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>-Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> -Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021- Last day of term

Take care and best wishes

Principal

**We have included a selection of rhymes and songs associated with this month's themes which we will be teaching the children.**

**I've got one head, one  
nose too**

I've got one head, one nose  
too  
One mouth and one chin and  
so have you  
I've got two eyes, two ears  
too  
Two arms, two legs and so  
have you  
I've got two hands, two  
thumbs too  
Four fingers on each hand  
and so have you.

### **Blow Your Nose**

When your nose is feeling runny,  
Please don't sniff.  
Though you think it's very funny,  
Please don't sniff.  
Take a tissue, hold it flat,  
Place it on your nose like that,  
Blow a little, wipe it well,  
Blow, blow, blow.

### **Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes**

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
Knees and toes. (twice)  
And eyes and ears  
And mouth and nose,  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
Knees and toes.

### **Tommy Thumb**

Tommy Thumb, Tommy  
Thumb,  
Where are you?  
Here I am, here I am  
How do you do?

Peter Pointer, Peter  
Pointer,  
Where are you?  
Here I am, here I am,  
How do you do?

Toby Tall, Toby Tall,  
Where are you?  
Here I am, here I am,  
How do you do?

Ruby Ring, Ruby Ring,  
Where are you?  
Here I am, here I am,  
How do you do?

Baby Small, Baby Small,  
Where are you?  
Here I am, here I am,  
How do you do?

### **If You're Happy and You Know It**

If you're happy and you know it,  
Clap your hands, (twice)  
If you're happy and you know it,  
And you really want to show it,  
If you're happy and you know it,  
Clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it  
Stamp your feet .....

If you're happy and you know it  
Nod your head .....

If you're happy and you know it  
Do all three ....

### **Autumn Leaves**

Orange Leaves are falling down,  
Spinning, spinning all around  
Floating by without a sound  
So catch them if you can.

Yellow leaves are falling  
down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Golden leaves are falling  
down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Red leaves are falling down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Autumn leaves are falling  
down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Gather up a box of wheat .....

