

Ballymoney Nursery School November 2020 Newsletter



BALLYMONEY
NURSERY SCHOOL

I hope you have all managed to have a peaceful half term break with your loved ones. It is a worrying time for us all but please be reassured that we are glad to be back at school and your children will be having lots of fun over the coming weeks and leading up to the festive season.

Due to the extended half term break, the Department of Education have asked all schools to use two optional closing days to cover part of the extended holiday. Therefore there are a couple of changes to our holiday list:-

Now closing at 12pm on Monday 21st December 2020 (instead of 12pm on Friday 18th December 2020)

Now closing at 12pm on Tuesday 29th June 2021 (instead of 12pm on Monday 28th June 2021)

Thank you



Thank you to everyone for completing their permission paperwork. We have now compiled the list of who can and can't have their photograph shared on Facebook and will be uploading photographs on a more regular basis.

It is extremely important especially in the current circumstances 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.

I would also like to thank you all for your understanding and support during these times and for following our rules which are for the safety of all - maintaining 2 metre distance when dropping off and collecting your child and not stopping to have a chat with other parents in the school vicinity.

Learning within the Nursery School



This month all of the children will continue exploring Autumn, discussing the importance of being safe and feeling safe. We will also be planting daffodil bulbs to help get our school garden ready for springtime as well as bringing some home 😊 This month is also the launch of the world nursery rhyme week and all the classes will be focusing on nursery rhymes with particular emphasis on: - Wheels on the bus, Miss Polly had a dolly, five little speckled frogs, hickory dickory dock and Old MacDonald.

We will also begin practising our songs for our Christmas concerts. Unfortunately, due to the current situation we are unable to invite you in to watch your child's class perform, however the concerts will still take place and we are currently trying to find out the best way to share them with you.

Parental Partnership

Individual Parent/Carer consultations

Due to Covid-19 our parent/teacher consultations will take place by telephone. This will be a 10 minute telephone call to discuss how your child has settled into Ballymoney Nursery School. The phone calls for the **morning classes** will take place week beginning **9th November** and the afternoon classes will take place the week beginning **16th November**. If you would like a telephone call please phone the school this week (between 9am and 3.00pm) and arrange a suitable time for your call.

Emotional wellbeing

At this time our emotional wellbeing is more important than ever. **Barnardos: See. Hear.**

Respond: Emotional well-being service are funded by Department of Education and the aim of this service is to provide immediate support that children and young people need, to help them manage current challenges and prevent problems escalating to crisis level during the Covid pandemic.

If you think this is something that you or your family may benefit from, all families in NI can self-refer, by using the webpage online form or by telephone **0800 157 7015 (12.00 - 7.00pm Mon - Fri)**.

Blended learning / Use of Seesaw

Part of our school development plan is to enhance parental involvement through the use of Seesaw, blended learning and the Getting ready to learn bags. Blended/home learning sheets will be issued at the beginning of every month along with the school newsletter. The activities can be used if a child needs to self-isolate, the entire class bubble needs to self-isolate for 14 days or if you want to reinforce the learning your child is doing at nursery.

Every child now has a Seesaw account and can upload photos of themselves carrying out some of the activities and staff will comment on them during school hours. Please note that for any communication with your child's class teacher we would ask you still to telephone the school to speak with them. In the event that your child's class are self-isolating for two weeks then your child's teacher can be contacted via Seesaw as they will not be in school.

As a staff team, we are all still learning how to use Seesaw and as we develop our skills we will make more effective use of it as the year progresses.

Important Information

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.

If you or anyone in your house is being tested for Covid-19 **please inform us immediately and do NOT send your child to Nursery**. If your child is already at nursery when you become aware a test for someone in your house is required, please contact us and pick your child up.

Face Coverings

Peter Weir, the Minister for Education gave an interview on Thursday 29th October 2020 when he said "I am asking parents and carers not to congregate at school gates when they are dropping off their children. Always practise social distancing and wear a mask...". Therefore, we are asking the adults who will dropping off and picking up children from the Nursery to now wear a face covering and to continue to socially distance when outside.

Pre School Admissions for 2020-21

Application forms for admission to the Nursery School in September 2021 will be available to complete online at www.eani.org.uk/admissions from noon on Thursday 7th January 2021.



Forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Thursday 29th January 2020**. Due to the current restrictions, we will not be holding an open day however will be making a promotional video instead to give everyone an insight into life at Ballymoney Nursery School. We would like to have some children in the video so parents can see how children enjoy themselves here. A consent form will be sent home this week for you to opt in to give us permission to include your child in the video.

Children born on or between **2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018** are eligible to apply for admission to a funded pre-school place.

Children born on or between **2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019** are eligible to apply for admission to a penultimate (underage) place. These are allocated if there are still any funded places available after target age (pre school) children are admitted.

Please note, that all our current pre pre school children need to reapply to attend here for their pre school year.

Board of Governors

At the recent meeting of the Board of Governors, a new chair person and vice chair person were elected. The chairperson is now Mrs Tracy Hanna and vice chairperson is Mrs Kirsten Walker. Mrs Sharon Martin is

the Governor for responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection and Mrs Charlotte McFadden is the Governor with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing.

Easy Fundraising

As the festive season approaches, please remember that you can support us every time you shop online. On our school website there is a "WebShop" icon on the home page which will bring you to "Easy Fundraising". You can choose from several retailers such as Tesco, M&S, Argos, Amazon and when you shop using the link from the Nursery School's website, up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to the school. Signing up is very simple and we would really be grateful if you could help support us in this way.

School Fund

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their donation, this can either be paid in full each term or £20 per half term. 😊 For anyone still to pay, 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.



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 Mrs Sharon Martin, Safeguarding Governor on 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.

Dates for your diary

Children in Need

We will be celebrating **Children in Need** on **Friday 13th November 2020**. Everyone is invited to come to Nursery wearing something spotty/yellow and bring a donation of **£1** on that day which will go to Children in Need.



Dates school closed to pupils 2020-21

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

Friday 20th November 2020

Tuesday 22nd December 2020 - Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 15th-Friday 19th February 2021

Wednesday 17th March 2021

Thursday 1st -Friday 9th April 2021

Monday 3rd-Tuesday 4th May 2021

Friday 28th -Monday 31st May 2021

Tuesday 29th June 2021- Last day of term



Take care and best wishes

Yvonne Thompson

Principal