

Ballymoney Nursery School December 2020 Newsletter



Thank you



Thank you to everyone who gave their consent for their child to be included in school's virtual tour. They have been a credit to you and I am pleased to say the video is now complete and is being edited before being shared online. Our virtual tour video will be available on our Youtube channel - Ballymoney Nursery School. We will also upload it to

Facebook.

I would also like to thank you again for your support in adhering to our rules of - wearing a face covering and 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.



Thank you also for helping us support Children In Need. With your help we raised £124 and the children enjoyed coming to school in their yellow and/or spotty clothes and taking part in Children in need themed activities such as Joe Wicks Work Out!

Learning within the Nursery School

Last month, all of the children enjoyed learning different nursery rhymes and taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week. Hopefully, they have been practising some of them at home with you! There was also a lot of learning about the change in season with Autumn. They also started practising for their Christmas performances.



Parental Partnership

Individual Parent/Carer consultations

Our parent/teacher interviews took place last month. Thank you for everyone who contacted the school to arrange a time for your telephone appointment.

Getting ready to learn home learning bags

I am delighted the home learning bags that have been funded by the Getting Ready to Learn time have now been made up and will be sent home with the children on Tuesday 1st December 2020. We chose resources that would help develop your children's motor skill, curiosity as well as they development of maths and language. Each bag has a leaflet included with a list of the contents and ideas of what types of activities can be done with each of the resources.

Ultimately, we hope your child using the items in the bags and you both get the chance to work on activities together.



It would be good to see the children using the bags so please feel free to upload a photo of your child using some of the items either on Seesaw or the private group Facebook page.

Outdoor Development

I would also like to thank the parents who have offered us resources for the outdoors and those that have already dropped some off with us. We have already started putting some of them to good use! If you have any loose parts that you aren't using and would like to upcycle them and donate them to us we would much appreciated it e.g. pipes, cable reels, crates, jugs, saucepans, tyres, steering wheels etc!



We are now using the area to the left hand side of the school. We ask that if you are queuing to drop off your child that you ensure they don't play with the resources that have been set out. I know they are really tempting to play with but as we have the bubble system in operation, it might not be there bubble that will be playing with them that day.

Christmas

We are fast approaching the festive season and although we don't know what format Christmas may take for us all this year, rest assured that within the nursery, the children will be taking part in the usual Christmas activities: - Christmas craft, performances, Christmas jumper day and parties!

Performances

This year, instead of all the Christmas songs being sung at an event at the end of term, a different performance will take place each week in December. Each week in December a clip of each class performing a Christmas song will be uploaded to the class Seesaw page for you to enjoy.



Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday 11th December 2020**, all the children are invited to come to Nursery School in a festive jumper (or trousers etc). we have chosen this date as this is local charity Action Mental Health 'Elfie Day'. We are supporting this charity as we know that our mental health is important and that many people have suffered especially over the past 10 months. Children are invited to bring £1 donation in or can donate through the link which will be shared on our Facebook.

Christmas Parties

Our Christmas parties will be held this year on **Monday 14th December 2020**. Children can come to school in their party clothes (don't worry there will be no paint or exploring in the outdoors on this day!)



Posting letters to Santa

We will be talking to the children about writing letters and helping them "write" their own letters to Santa. This year, the children will be walking to the postbox at the end of the school entrance to post their letters to Santa.



Christmas Cards

I am aware that some of you may want your child to send cards to other children in the class. Unfortunately, due to GDPR we are unable to give out class lists of children's names to help you with this. If you do wish us

to give out cards on your behalf please leave them into school by **Monday 7th December 2020** and they will be given out when the children are leaving school on **Monday 14th December 2020**. Alternatively, your child could send one card to the class which the teacher will read out and display.

Eco Schools

We are now working in partnership with **Recycle for Kick Counts Northern Ireland** to recycle used cracker wrappers, cheese wrappers and disposable gloves that are being used in the nursery. If you are interested in recycling plastics that can not be put in your blue bin, I would recommend you look up **Recycle for KC NI** on Facebook as they have a collection based in the Balanced Pantry, Church Street that you could take some of your plastics to.



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.

Parking

I have been made aware that there is a major issue with parking on a Friday afternoon when you are coming to pick up your children especially as there are now various classes being picked up at similar times from the Primary School. The safety of everyone especially children is paramount and I want to reassure you that we will understand if you are unable to be here for 2.30pm and are running late. We would rather hold onto your child for a few extra minutes if it enables you to get parked safely to collect them.

Nut free zone

A gentle reminder to everyone that we are a nut free zone and if you wish to send a birthday cake into Nursery for your child to enjoy with their classmates it **needs to be nut free -this includes not containing traces of nuts**.

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.

Our new improved website

I am delighted to let you know that we have a new website which should be ready to be launched hopefully this week! It is a much user friendly website with all the information that you would need located on it e.g. letters, newsletters, policies, reminders of dates etc

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 grateful if you could help support us in this way.

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th December 2020 - Christmas Jumper day in aid of Action Mental Health

Monday 14th December 2020 - Christmas parties (children can dress up in their party clothes)

Friday 18th December 2020 at 12pm - School closes for the Christmas holidays (we have reverted back to the original date)

I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season where you may get to spend it with your nearest and dearest.

Take care and best wishes

Principal

We wish you a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year.



**BALLYMONEY
NURSERY SCHOOL**