

Ballymoney Nursery School

March 2021 Newsletter



Learning experiences within the Nursery School

Thank you once again to everyone who has been sharing your child's learning at home with us, whether this be through Seesaw or on Facebook. During the past month, there have been lots of learning take place at home. The pancake making, Valentine card and craft, Chinese New Year, creating calm jars and practising different breathing exercises. We celebrated Children's mental health week and although it is a specific week each year, I would encourage you to continue using some of the strategies that have been shared to help you child with expressing their emotions and self-regulation. It has been lovely to see your children carrying out the activities suggested by Mrs McClelland and Ms McCarron and watching your child join along with them and with the videos shared on Facebook. You have working so hard with your children and I know there are many other challenges as well. We are proud of all of you and are looking forward to having all our children back next week ☺



Mini Professors at home

On 11th February 2021 our pre school children had the opportunity to participate in a **mini Professors @ Home Science class** as part of the NI Science Festival. We were delighted we were successful in gaining a slot however disappointed we didn't get the two slots that we requested as we were then unable to offer this experience to all our children. We hope our pre pre schoolers will get to experience it next year. Thank you to everyone who took part in the session.

World Book Day

I cannot believe it is time for World Book Day again! World Book Day is on Thursday 4th March 2021 and it is about celebrating reading. We won't be together in school but I would ask that you all share on Seesaw or Facebook your child reading their favourite book. This might be a book they enjoy having read to them or a book they enjoy looking at the pictures of. The aim of the day is celebrating books! We are also holding our now annual 'extreme reading competition'. This involves your child reading a book anywhere at home, it could be in a weird or wonderful or unusual place and you taking a photograph. Examples from last year included reading in the bath, on a tractor, at the beach, whilst eating breakfast, on a bike or horse! Please note these were staged photos! The names of everyone who uploads a photo to seesaw or Facebook will be drawn at random before we break up from the Easter holidays and one child from each class will win a book voucher. When the children return to school on 8th March 2021, they will go home with the World Book Day £1 book token which they can exchange for a book in particular shops or use to pay towards a book.



Spring

Gradually we're beginning to see signs that spring is on its way. As you're out and about encourage your child to look out for signs of new life: buds on the trees, snowdrops, bulbs beginning to peep through, baby lambs in the fields. Being aware of seasonal change permits the children to develop their understanding of time as we focus on spring weather. Learning about lighter days and better weather also brings many opportunities for the children to find out about weather temperature and the need to wear different clothing.

Food for Thought

We were delighted to have received resources to develop our school garden from the Live Here Love Here team. Our aim is to start using them with the classes once they all return to school.



Mr Hullabaloo

We are excited to welcome Mr Hullabaloo back to the nursery on **Thursday 29th April 2021** (if restrictions permit this at that time). Due to the current situation, his show has been shortened so that each class can watch it separately in the hall to maintain the bubbles. The hall will be fogged between performances and we will ensure the children are seated at least 2m from where the show is being performed. If you would rather your child does not watch the show, please get in touch and let us know.



Parental Partnership

Board of Governors Vacancy

Mrs Hanna, our Chairperson has become an Education Authority representative on our Board which has created a vacancy for a parent representative on the Board. If you are interested in being a Governor of our school until the end of the school year in 2022 please get in touch with us either by emailing, Facebook messaging or telephoning the school.



Your views

Thank you to everyone who completed the remote learning survey. Your positive feedback has been really appreciated and we are glad that you have found the various parts of our home learning programme beneficial especially the daily teacher videos and home learning bags. We would rather have had all our children with us at Nursery school but knowing that many of you have said you still felt connected to us has been really heartening.

The home learning sheets were not issued weekly as we were aware that many parents have various demands on them and we wanted it to be flexible for you to choose what activities you do and when. Our curriculum is play based which is why we didn't provide worksheets or booklets and the ideas involve the children being active. Based on your feedback for the remainder of the remote learning period, we will issue them weekly, however you can carry them out whenever you wish to.

Some feedback expressed that it would be good if the children could participate in a Zoom call. It is too late to arrange this for the current week, however we will try and arrange a Zoom call for each class prior to the Easter holidays when we are all back to remote learning. 😊

Getting Ready to Learn Top up

Delighted to let you know that we were successful in getting a top up from the getting ready to learn team. These has enabled us to buy for every child's home learning pack a whiteboard, whiteboard pen and goo putty which can be used to help relieve stress as well as develop fine motor skills and strength. Hopefully these will arrive in school before 22nd March 2021 so that you can use them when we have to go back to remote learning.

Text Service Cancelled

Our contract was due for renewal with the school text service and as we are now using the school messaging app we have not renewed this. Therefore, any text messages sent from the school will be through the app which you will receive as a text message if you signed up for it.



Playboard NI

We have tried not to bombard you with ideas and links during the past few weeks however I have attached a link to the Playboard NI document that has lots of beneficial ideas for play at home. [Play Ideas - PlayBoard NI - Leading The Play Agenda](#)



Important Information

We are saddened, that Sharon McMillan our Building Supervisor for the last 30 years is leaving us at the end of April. The interviews for her job are later this month and I will let you know who has been successful once everything is confirmed.

Wednesday 17th March 2021 is a school development day which would involve the staff being school and not the children. As the children will only have started back with us on the 8th March and will be going back to remote learning from 22nd March until the Easter holidays, we are no longer going to have this as a school development day so that we can give the children two full weeks at Nursery school.

Dates for your diary...



Monday 8th March 2021 - All children return to school 😊

Wednesday 17th March 2021 - no longer a School Development Day - all children welcome to attend school

Friday 19th March 2021 - School Photographs (Individual children/no family photos)

Monday 22nd March 2021 - Remote Learning Recommences / School open for key worker/vulnerable children with no other childcare arrangements

Thursday 1st April 2021 -Easter holidays begin

Monday 12th April 2021 - School reopens for ALL children 😊

Best Wishes

*Lower
Handicap*