

Ballymoney Nursery School February 2024 Newsletter



Last month we focussed on what was happening in the world around us and spent a lot of time focusing on winter and bird watching. Lots of fun was had with the snow outside when our playground was turned into Narnia itself. With the arrival of Storm Isha, there were lots of conversations about storms and wind along with curiosity of watching the tree surgeon cut down a tree next door! The pre school children enjoyed stay and play dates at Ballymoney Integrated Model Primary School and Leaney Primary School and for some children, they had their first trip on a bus! All of the classes enjoyed a drumming workshop with James from Fun with Drums.

Learning within the Nursery School



Eco Schools - Big School Bird Watch

This month, all of the classes took part in the Big School Bird Watch. The results from each class were collated and submitted to the RSPB. The children have really been enjoying using the binoculars to see what birds they can see in our grounds. Some children have made their own binoculars to use and some children made bird feeders to ensure the birds had food in the cold weather.



Big Schools' Birdwatch

Treasured Teddy Workshop



Our pre school classes will be walking to Ballymoney Museum to take part in a treasured teddy workshop. We can't wait to see what the staff at the Museum have got planned for us on this occasion. Mrs Muller's AM Class and Mrs Jarvis' PM class will be visiting on Monday 5th February 2024 and Mrs Trimmings' AM Class will be visiting on Tuesday 6th February 2024.

Safer Internet Day 2024



On Tuesday 6th February 2024, it is Safer Internet Day and we will be focusing on how to keep safe on the internet. Research shows that 54% of 3-4 year olds own their own device and on average that age group spend more than 6 hours a week online! Children are accessing technology and the internet at a younger age than ever before. There are benefits to them being online at this age however there are also many risks and it is important that we as their parents and educators become aware of these risks and how to support our children to reduce the risks. It's never too early to talk to children about what they do online and who to tell if they come across anything online that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.


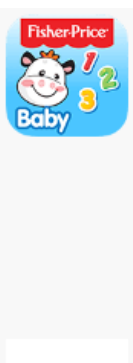

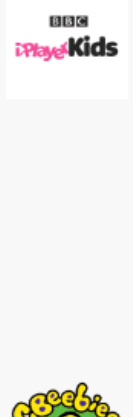
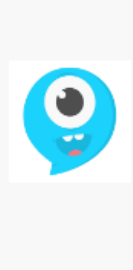
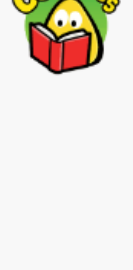
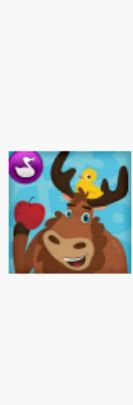
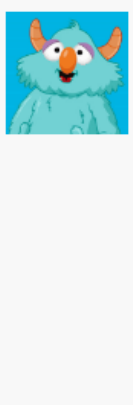
We will be showing the children a story about **Smartie the penguin** which explains in an age appropriate way what to do when things change when using a device e.g. pop ups, messages, images. We will upload the story to Seesaw so that you can see it.

We will also be sharing some information that is for you as parents/carers which gives advice on how to set boundaries, balance screen time and also about gaming. These will be sent home on Seesaw and via the messaging app. Alternatively, you can access the internet matters website directly:- <https://rb.gy/0lwx2g>

We would really appreciate it if we can work in partnership with this and you could show and discuss the following video with them that is found on the CEOP website:- [4-7s | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#) If you have older children, you will find lot of resources that will help you discuss using the internet safely with them.



If you would like to access online Apps to encourage creativity, learning and development. Internet Matters website recommends the following for our age group:-

	<p>YouTube Kids ↗</p> <p>Made for young kids, this child-friendly version filters out inappropriate content and hides comments on videos giving parents peace of mind and a child a safe online viewing experience.</p> <p>Download as an Android ↗ or iOS ↗ app.</p>		<p>Fisher Price Apps ↗</p> <p>Designed for the way kids play today and can be used at home or on the go. All based on learning concepts and all free to download on iOS from Apple and Android via Google Play or Amazon.</p>
	<p>Sky Kids App ↗</p> <p>The Sky Kids app offers a fun and safer way for pre-schoolers to nine-year-olds to enjoy a wide range of popular kids TV. Parents have been involved in the development of the Sky Kids app. The result is an app that kids will love, supported by safety features that parents need.</p>		<p>BBC iPlayer Kids ↗</p> <p>BBC iPlayer Kids app gives children easier access to their favourite programs, while parents can be confident they're watching shows appropriate for their age and free from adverts. Simply login to your BBC iPlayer account to set up a child's account.</p>
	<p>Lingokids ↗</p> <p>Lingokids offers educational games, picture dictionary, language learning videos, songs for children to teach English to children from 2 – 8 years of age, designed with Oxford University Press content</p>		<p>Cbeebies Storytime App ↗</p> <p>This app aims to make reading fun, with playful and imaginative stories designed to help support early years reading. All apps are free to download on Apple ↗ and Android ↗, or Kindle Fire ↗.</p>
	<p>Duck Duck Moose Apps ↗</p> <p>Duck Duck Moose Apps are Free educational apps that allow young children to explore and learn in a safe and fun environment. The range of apps covers; reading, emotions, maths,</p>		<p>Breathe, Think, Do with Sesame ↗</p> <p>This is a digital wellbeing app using Sesame Street's monster character to share with your child to help teach skills such as problem-solving, self-control, planning, and task persistence.</p>

Important Information

Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs

If your child has **received** a Statement of Special Educational Needs, their annual review will be taking place on **Tuesday 20th February 2024**. If you have not yet received your letter from your child's class teacher regarding this meeting, please ask for a copy of it.

Change of Date in May

A reminder that there has been a change of date to one of the school development days in May. The school will now be open to children on **Tuesday 7th May 2024** however will now be closed on **Tuesday 28th May 2024** as it is now a school development day.



Unwell children



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**. We are aware that there are various viruses and illnesses going around at the minute, thank you to everyone who has been vigilant and kept their child at home until they have recovered.

Child Protection

If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak with myself, Mrs Muller or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Walker c/o Ballymoney Nursery School. If Mrs Muller or myself are unavailable, please speak with Mrs Jarvis (Deputy Designated Officer for Child Protection) or any member of staff who will relay your message on to a member of the safeguarding team.

Forthcoming Dates for your diary



- **Monday 5th / Tuesday 6th February 2024** - Pre School classes visit Ballymoney Museum for Treasured Teddy workshop
- **Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024** - School closed for half term
- **Monday 19th February 2024** - School Development Day - School closed to children
- **Tuesday 20th February 2024** - All children return to Nursery School
 - Annual Reviews

Best wishes

Yvonne Trimmings

Mrs Trimmings and all the Ballymoney Nursery School Team