

Ballymoney Nursery School

May 2024 Newsletter



BALLYMONEY
NURSERY SCHOOL



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We have been very busy in the Nursery School since we returned after the Easter Holidays! We were delighted to welcome both Mrs Jarvis and Miss Johnston back to work. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful school grounds and there has been lots of learning in our natural environment and more planned for the coming months.

Learning within the Nursery School

Earth Day 2024

On Monday 22nd April 2024, we celebrated Earth Day. All the children were busy outside weeding, brushing, tidying, sorting and gardening. Thank you to Miss Johnston for taking the lead on all of this work! The children also developed their skills in marbling by creating their own earth using blue and green paint along with marbles in a tray!



We discussed the importance of looking after our world by recycling and how we put our rubbish where it belongs (blue bin, brown bin and black bin). The children were able to discuss the effects rubbish and pollution can have on our environment as well as living things. The children have been so enthusiastic about taking good care of our school grounds and have enjoyed getting the opportunity to help.

Sunflowers



All of our children planted their own sunflower and took them home in compostable pots so that they could replant them. We are looking forward to seeing the photographs on Seesaw of how tall they grow!

Gardening

As well as cleaning up our playground and planting our sunflowers, the children have been planting in the school grounds. To date, we have planted shallots, red onions, beans and brown onions. If any of you have any child friendly plants/seeds/bulbs/plastic pots/children's gardening gloves, trowels, spades etc that you would like to donate to the school for the children to use, it would be much appreciated.

Socatots and Rugbyz

All of our children have been enjoying taking part in weekly Socatots sessions with David on a Tuesday. These have been helping the children develop their balance and co-ordination skills. Weekly Rugbyz sessions with Claire will be starting on Friday 3rd May for the month of May.

Class Trips



We are delighted to be offering all of our children the opportunity of a class trip this summer. All of our pre schoolers will have the opportunity to experience a train journey from Ballymoney to Coleraine. The tickets have all been booked and our seats have been reserved with Translink to ensure we are all seated together. When we get to Coleraine, the children will have sole use of Itsy Bitsy Wonderland. Itsy Bitsy Wonderland is a role play centre featuring 11 areas specifically designed for young children, with a variety of play equipment, toys and costumes. This will enable the children to develop their curiosity and creativity with their friends. Snack will be provided onsite and all dietary requirements will be catered for. Thank you to everyone who offered to help accompany us. Your child's class teacher will be in touch shortly to confirm if your help is required.

Our Pre-pre schoolers will be having the opportunity to explore the sensory world within Through the Looking Glass. They will walk from the Nursery school to Through the Looking Glass and then walk back to Nursery.



Below are a reminder of the arrangements for each class during 'Trip Week'

➤ **Monday 3rd June 2024 -**

- ☐ **Mrs Muller's PM children class trip**
 - ✦ Some children attend in the morning and some in the afternoon (you will have been notified by letter which session your child is in)
- ☐ **Mrs Muller's AM Class NOT in school today**

➤ **Tuesday 4th June 2024 -**

- ☐ **Mrs Trimmings' AM Class trip** - all parents/carers to drop their children at Ballymoney Train Station for 9.05am and collect again at 12.30am.
- ☐ **Mrs Jarvis' PM Class NOT in school today**

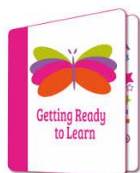
➤ **Wednesday 5th June 2024 -**

- Mrs Muller's AM Class trip** - all parents/carers to drop their children at Ballymoney Train Station for 9.05am and collect again at 12.30am.
- Mrs Muller's PM Class NOT in school today**

➤ **Thursday 6th June 2024 -**

- Mrs Jarvis' PM Class trip** - all parents/carers to drop their children at Ballymoney Train Station for 9.05am and collect again at 12.30am.
- Mrs Trimmings' AM Class NOT in school today**

Parental Partnership



As you know we have been taking part in the *Getting Ready to Learn* programme and the feedback has been great from our weekly lending library. ☺ During term 3, we will be alternating the book bags with activity bags each week. The activity bags will have a range of resources, developmental information and activity guidance. The bags will enrich the development of your child across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum, and will provide fun and educational experiences (as well as help you to support your child at home!). The bags will go home on a Friday and should be returned **no later than Tuesday** of the following week.

Please note: The bags are for use with adult supervision only and should be taken care of at home. Each bag should be returned in the same way it went home and with all items included. The staff really do appreciate your support with this as it is time consuming to check and replenish all 104 bags in preparation for them going out again the following week.

We hope you enjoy this resource - your feedback is always welcome. You can access more materials and support on the *Getting Ready to Learn* website (under the parent section);

<https://www.gettingreadytolearn.co.uk/parents/>

Important Information

Accepting your child's preschool / primary school place.

We hope you are pleased with the allocation of where your child will continue their educational journey. Please remember that you **must accept** the place you have been offered on the **EA Portal** by **Friday 3rd May 2024**.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the google Form to let us know what primary School their child will be attending. If you have not already completed it we would appreciate it, if

you could do this so that we can ensure there is effective transition of information from the Nursery to your child's Primary School. <https://forms.gle/JA6DcyEdxujYxiBn8>

Reminder of Changes of Dates 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 be closed on **Tuesday 28th May** as well as **Friday 31st May 2024** as they are school development days.



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.

Online Safety Hub

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland have recently launched a new online safety hub. The Online Safety Hub has two sections - one for parents and carers and one for young people - all with up to date and relevant information to help our children be safe, secure and supported online.

The Hub is free to access and includes information on a variety of topics including, how to manage screen time, understanding the latest gaming platforms and reporting inappropriate content. It can be accessed on the following link:- [Online Safety Hub - Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland \(safeguardingni.org\)](https://safeguardingni.org)

Forthcoming Dates for your diary



May 2024

- **Monday 6th May 2024** - School closed - bank holiday
- **Tuesday 14th May 2024**- Mrs Jarvis' PM Class parent/teacher interviews
- **Wednesday 15th May 2024** Mrs Jarvis' PM Class parent/teacher interviews
- **Monday 27th May 2024** - School closed - bank holiday
- **Tuesday 28th May 2024**- School closed to pupils - School development day
- **Friday 31st May 2024**- School closed to pupils - School development day

June 2024

- **Monday 3rd June 2024**
 - Mrs Muller's PM children class trip
 - Mrs Muller's AM Class NOT in school today**
- **Tuesday 4th June 2024**
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- **Wednesday 5th June 2024**-
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- **Friday 7th June 2024**- **Sports Day (parents/carers invited)**- further details to follow
- **Monday 24th June 2024** **Celebration Day (2 parent/carers per child invited)**- further details to follow
 - 10.30am-11.30am - Morning Classes Celebration
 - 1.45pm-2.45pm - Afternoon Classes Celebration

Best wishes

Mrs Trimmings and all the Ballymoney Nursery School Team