

# Ballymoney Nursery School September 2024 Newsletter

Welcome



## Welcome to our Nursery School

We are delighted to have started the new school year and have enjoyed getting to meet you and your children at the induction sessions. A special welcome to all our new families and a special welcome to our returning families. Thank you to everyone who has completed all the relevant paperwork and children's information books.

The early years of a child's life are very important as they provide the crucial building blocks they need for the rest of their lives. I am in the privileged position to be working with a wonderful nurturing team here at Ballymoney Nursery who all want to do the best that they can for your children to help give them the best start in their education journey.

I am working as teaching Principal on Mondays-Wednesdays and Ms Muller is working as teaching Principal on Thursdays and Fridays. Please be mindful that all staff are class based on a Friday afternoon and therefore may not be able to answer the telephone.

## Learning within the Nursery School



### Settling In

During September our priority is ensuring the smooth transition of all the children from home to school. We want all our children to settle happily, feel safe and secure and respond positively to the rules and routines. Some children may require a little more time and reassurance and it's important to be patient. The induction process is individual to each child and their time will be increased when they are ready.

If your child is not yet toilet trained and there are no medical reasons for this to be the case, please find attached some links that may help you with this process. This will enable them to become independent and reduce the need for such close contact from staff. It will also help us to ensure that all adults are able to remain with the class.

[Top 10 potty training tips | ERIC](#)

[Toileting and autistic children \(autism.org.uk\)](#)

[Toileting - a guide for parents and carers \(autism.org.uk\)](#)

## Daily Snack



In Ballymoney Nursery School we are committed to promoting healthy eating and feel it is imperative to maximise every opportunity to influence the children's eating habits. All staff are aware of any allergies that have been made known to the school and ensure that appropriate healthy foods are available to the children along with the option of milk or water. **We are a nut free zone and would remind everyone to ensure that there are no nut products brought into school.**

**If you have not made us aware of any allergies or dietary requirements, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.**

## Medical Conditions

Thank you to everyone who has informed us of any medical conditions that their child may have. Your child's safety is our priority and if you have not already done so, can you please let us know if your child has any medical conditions.

## The Great Outdoors

We are very lucky to have many fantastic outdoor areas that help develop the children's curiosity as well as covering the six areas of the Pre School Curriculum. We have our Playground, Secret Garden and the Front Garden. We have been very fortunate to be able to resource these areas through fundraising and the talents of some of our parents/carers. We access outdoors on a daily basis and in all weathers. Thank you everyone who has sent in a pair of wellies and waterproof trousers to stay in school.

## Important Information

### Parking



To ensure the safety of all our children and their families, parents are reminded **NOT** to bring **cars** into the front of the Nursery School when leaving off and picking up children.

The exception are those parents/carers who have informed us that either they (car driver) or their child has a disability badge. It will be necessary for us to make a photocopy of any disability badges which will be retained in school.

We know it can be busy especially outside the Nursery grounds in particular with the Primary School traffic as well. **Please be mindful that it is illegal** to park on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates.

### Completed personal information forms

Thank you to everyone who has already completed their child's personal information forms. If you haven't already completed them can you please do this as soon as possible.



This will ensure that we have appropriate contact details and whether photographs can be taken and displayed or not.

It is extremely important 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.

## Absences

Although Nursery is not compulsory, we ask that you inform us if your child will not be in school. This can be done either by messaging the teacher on Seesaw; telephoning the school or using the school absence section on the school website <https://www.ballymoneynurseryschool.co.uk/parents/reporting-absence/> . The safety of all our children is paramount to us. If a child has not arrived at Nursery and we haven't heard from the parents/carers, we will telephone to check that everything is okay.

## 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.**

## Children's birthdays

Most children love to bring a cake into school for sharing on their **birthday**. If you would like to do this, please ensure it is an **unopened shop bought cake** and that there **are no nuts/may contain nuts in the cake**. Please inform a member of staff if you intend to bring the cake so that we can plan our snack accordingly and we will ensure that we have a treat that children with particular intolerances/allergies can enjoy on the day.



## Labelling

Would all parents please ensure they have **sweatshirt(s)/coats clearly labelled** with name tags or ink. There is a little label inside the pocket of the coat which can be marked. For those who wish, uniform is still available to buy from the school. T-shirts cost £8.50, sweatshirts £12 and coats are £22.



## Child Protection

The safety of all our children is paramount to everything that we do. Our Safeguarding team is made up of Mrs Sharon Martin, Governor for Safeguarding; Mrs Trimmings, Designated teacher and our Deputy Designate teachers Ms Muller and Mrs Jarvis. If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Walker c/o Ballymoney Nursery School.

## School Fund

School fund for this term will be £40. This money is used to purchase the daily snack, resources for the children and pay for treats for the children throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their donation, it is very much appreciated.

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.

## Communication



### Open door policy

We have an open door policy and are happy to speak with you throughout the school year. If you have **anything that you wish to discuss with regard to your child or the school**, please telephone and request a call back from the member of staff you wish to speak with or send a message to the class teacher on Seesaw. Time can then be made available to speak with you and if appropriate in a confidential manner.

## Online communication

### Facebook

Our Facebook page is used primarily to promote the school and a sample of the learning activities that take place here.

### Seesaw

**Seesaw is used to communicate with yourselves about your child's learning.**

Each class will use this app to share photos and videos with you of your child during their time here at Nursery school. You can also send a message to your child's class teacher if there is something they should know or if you have a question. **Please note that these will only be answered during working hours, Monday-Friday 8.30-3.30pm and probably not during class times as the teacher will be working with the children.**

A paper version of the QR code to your child's Seesaw account was included in your child's induction pack. If you need this reissued please get in touch with Mrs McKinney. We would advise that after you have downloaded the Seesaw App (this is free) and set up your child's account that you **put the notifications on**, this means you will get notified every time something has been shared on your child's Seesaw.

If you have any queries about setting up the app, please speak with either Ms Muller or myself.

## School NI App

School NI App is linked to our school website and is used to share important information, letters and documents with you by sending a text message.

Thank you to everyone who has consented to using the school messaging app. You will soon be sent a link to join the messaging app. We are currently awaiting all the permission forms to be returned before everyone gets access. By consenting to use this app, means that you will receive text messages immediately about events such as school closures, reminders of events.

## Dates school closed to pupils 2024-25



Please note that the below dates are subject to change. All the holidays can be found on the school website.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (school closed)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - (school closed)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (AM classes only)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (school closed)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (school closed)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (school closed)

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025-(school closed)

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May-Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (school closed)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May-Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (school closed)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025- Last day of term for all pupils

Best wishes

*Your  
Thanking*

Mrs Trimmings and all the Ballymoney Nursery School Team

