

Ballymoney Nursery School January 2025 Newsletter



Happy New Year

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2025 year. We hope you have all had an enjoyable festive season with your loved ones. All of our staff would like to sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness at Christmas through kind words, cards and gifts. Your kindness was very much appreciated by everyone.

Learning within the Nursery School

Christmas

We were very busy last month with our preparations for Christmas. The children enjoyed writing their letters to Santa and then walking to the post office to post them. Our pre pre-schoolers walked to the special post box at the school gates and will get to walk to the Post Office next Christmas when they are in pre-school. We were very fortunate that Santa received them in time to send his replies along to our Christmas parties! All the children enjoyed their Christmas party, learning some new and some different games, dancing and of course not forgetting the party food! The children worked hard practising their songs for their performances and we hope that everyone who came along enjoyed them. I am sure you are as proud of the children as we were.



Yoga

We are delighted to be welcoming local yoga instructor, Rosie Napier from Iron Fist Gym to the Nursery. As part of our focus on health and well-being (Being Well Doing Well), she is going to be carrying out yoga sessions with all of the classes over the next 10 weeks. We cannot wait for our children to avail of this new opportunity to Ballymoney Nursery School.



Wee Critters

We look forward to welcoming Wee Critters to the nursery on Monday 20th January 2025 for an exciting interactive workshop.

Parental Partnership

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Christmas raffle and who sold them. We are delighted to announce you helped the Nursery to raise an amazing £1187.65. This money will help us to replenish and buy new items for the children to use within the Nursery School and we will let you know what we have purchased when we have placed the orders. 😊

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in and kindly donated to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice during our Christmas jumper day on Thursday 12th December 2024. Together, you helped us raise £82.50 for a very worthwhile local charity.

Eco-Schools

As we continue with our initiative to encourage less waste and more recycling, we would invite you to bring in any used Christmas cards which the children can use for craft activities.



3+ Health Reviews:

Thank you for everyone who has completed the questionnaires from the Health Visitor. The school's named health visitor will be collecting them this week in preparation for your appointment with them next week. You will get the chance to choose your timeslot tomorrow when you are dropping off/picking up your child.

Term 2's parent/child evening event

As promised last term, we are holding another parent/carer and child event this term and at a slightly earlier time. Please keep the following date and times in your diary and further details will follow nearer the time: **Wednesday 26th February 2025 - (Ms Muller's Classes - 5.15-6.00pm) (Mrs Trimmings & Mrs Jarvis' classes - 6.15-7.00pm).**

Important Information

Parking

A reminder to everyone - please be careful when parking outside the school gates and when approaching the school. We know it can be busy especially with the Primary School traffic as well. **Please be mindful that it is illegal to park on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates.** Just a reminder that the nursery carpark is for staff of the Nursery and the Model Primary school only. You may use this carpark to collect your child/children only if you are an approved Blue Badge holder.

Please consider the safety of all our children and school community and refrain from parking where it is clearly marked "No Parking" or not safe or legal to do so.

Pre-School Admissions for 2025-26

The online application for admission to the Nursery School in September 2025 will be available to complete online at www.eani.org.uk/admissions from **12 noon on Friday 10th January 2025**. Online forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 24th January 2025**.



Children born on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 are eligible to apply for admission to a funded pre-school place.

Children born on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 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: all our current pre pre-school children need to reapply to attend here for their pre-school year.

Primary School Admissions for 2025-26

Application forms for admission to Primary School in September 2025 will also be available to complete online at www.eani.org.uk/admissions from **12 noon on Friday 10th January 2025**. Forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 24th January 2025**. There are videos on the EA website which show you how to upload your child's birth certificate.

Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs

If your child has **received** a Statement of Special Educational Needs then you **do not need to apply** through the online admissions system. Your child's choice of Primary school will be discussed with the Special Education team at your child's annual review (which will be taking place on **Tuesday 4th February 2025**) and they are responsible for placing your child in a Primary School for September 2025.

Absences

Although Nursery is not compulsory, we ask that you inform us if your child will not be in school. This can be done by either messaging the teacher on Seesaw; telephoning the school or using the school absence section on the school website. 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 be in contact 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 has passed** 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.**

Winter weather

The children will be exploring in the outdoors during this Winter season and it is important they are dressed appropriately. Please ensure they come to nursery in a warm/padded winter coat, a scarf, hat and gloves which will help keep them warm outside. Please ensure ALL items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Child Protection

If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak with myself (Mrs Trimmings), Ms Muller or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Walker c/o Ballymoney Nursery School. If Ms Muller or I 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.

School Fund

School fund for this term is £40 and is now due (if you haven't already paid for the year). This money is used to purchase the daily snack, purchase resources for the children and pay for treats for the children throughout the year, including trips and visitors into the setting (e.g. yoga and Wee Critters this term). Thank you to everyone who has already contributed their donation, it is very much appreciated.



Forthcoming Dates for your diary



- Monday 6th January 2025 - Baker Day - School closed to children
- Tuesday 7th January 2025 - Children return to school
- Friday 10th January 2025 at 12noon - preschool and primary school application portal opens
- Tuesday 11th January 2025 - weekly yoga classes begin (within session times)
- Monday 20th January 2025 - Wee Critters Visiting each class

- Friday 24th January 2025 at 12noon - preschool and primary school application portal closes
- Wednesday 29th January 2025 - Police visit to each class
- **Monday 10th February-Friday 14th February 2025 - School closed for half term**
- **Wednesday 26th February 2025 - Our next parent/child evening event (*Further details to follow*)**