



Castlereagh Nursery School 'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

October 2022 Newsletter

Thank you to everyone for your support during this settling in time.

All of our children have now settled happily into the routines in Castlereagh Nursery School. The staff are enjoying getting to know all the children and our new families. Many have made new friends and are growing in confidence each day. Now that they have all settled well, we would ask that you ensure in the morning that you hand your child over to a member of staff at the door of each room.

Very soon most of the children will be staying for dinner, they are excited about this part of the nursery day and have settled well into the new routine.

We have a very busy month ahead with lots of exciting learning opportunities for your child. Please help us by talking about these activities at home.

We have a very busy time before Christmas so please read the information in the newsletter carefully. We always have a handy dairy dates page at the end as an overview of the months ahead to help you plan events into already busy family life.

REMINDERS

Please do not park in the carpark outside the nursery, this is for staff cars only.

Please send your children into school in **shoes with no laces** (Velcro is best), we are encouraging your child to become independent and laces can be very tricky for small fingers. If your child is ill, please either e-mail the nursery or ring the office to let their teacher know.

Dinner money is payable on a **SUNDAY EVENING** or **MONDAY** morning via the **SCHOOL MONEY APP**

The snack/school fund money is now due for October - from 3rd October to 28th October

£3.50 per week x 4 weeks = Total £14 for school fund.

£12.50 per week for dinners.

If your child is sick and the school has been notified before 10am when the dinner numbers have been sent through then dinner will not need to be paid for that day.

Your account can be topped up at any time and Shelley (secretary) will deduct each day's dinner when they attend.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We will be holding our Settling in meetings on Monday 17th October (Mrs Jones' Class) and Tuesday 18th October (Mrs Morrow's Class). These will last for 10 minutes and the teachers will share your child's settling in profile and also photographs of what they have been doing during their first 6-8 weeks of school. Interview sheets will be placed outside each classroom on Friday 7th October. Please choose the timeslot that suits you best.



Welly Walk

On Friday 11th November we will be embarking on our main fundraising event of the year - Our Welly Walk!!! This is a very exciting day for our children as we have lots of fun outdoor activities planned. Altogether the children can walk the whole way around the nursery 4 or maybe even 5 times!!! In the past our parents have been very generous with their sponsorship of this event and to all those past parents we thank you.

Over the past couple of years we have been able to purchase 2 new reading Wig-Wams for the outdoor garden, and Ipads for the children to record their own learning.

This year we would like to further upgrade our sensory rooms to ensure the children maintain high levels of wellbeing (these are the quiet rooms attached to each classroom). We would like all the children to be able to access a safe, quiet and calm space when they need to. Also, enhancing our outdoor areas, developing more areas for the children to use. We may need some help throughout the year from willing parents/grandparents to paint/dig/weed some areas. We will keep you updated as to when these events will be happening.

Sponsor forms for the Welly Walk will be sent out before half term.

Cool for School Photography

CHEESE!



Individual children's photographs will be taken in nursery on Monday 24th October in the morning. Proofs and order forms will be available shortly after. Payments can be sent online to Cool for School Photography.

Website

Please have a look at our website, here you can find the calendar that you can synchronise with your smart phone. It's handy to keep track and set reminders for important events. Monthly newsletters are available here as well and also the dinner menu.

Stay and Play Sessions

You are invited to stay and play with your child and decorate a Halloween Pumpkin. Pumpkins can be reserved and paid for in advance using the school money app from this Friday.

Mrs Morrow's Class (child and parent/carer) will be able to stay on Monday 24th October from 1.10pm - 1.40pm. All equipment will be provided.

Mrs Jones' Class (child and parent/carer) will be able to stay on Tuesday 25th October from 1.20pm - 1.50pm.

Themes for October

Nursery Rhymes and Autumn

We will be spending time this month learning lots of familiar and perhaps new nursery rhymes. Research has shown that the ability to use rhyming words i.e in nursery rhymes at an early age has a significant influence in future reading success. You will be sent home a laminated nursery rhyme sheet, this is yours to keep, please sing these at home with your child. We will also send home a Nursery Rhyme quiz for parents, it's just for fun so please test your knowledge and don't just 'Google it'. Send completed entries back into nursery by Friday 21st October and a winner will be picked at random.

Autumn is such an exciting sensory time of year for us all. Please take your child for walks in the park and discuss what they can hear, smell, touch and see. We would be delighted if you could bring into nursery some of the interesting things you find. A bag will be sent home next week for you to collect some Autumnal 'treasures'.

We will be talking to the children about the changes that are happening all around them, changes in the weather, nights getting darker, leaves changing colours and falling off the trees. Most importantly, how to stay safe at Halloween.

Curriculum Evening

We are holding our annual Curriculum evening on Thursday 10th November 6.30pm - 7.30pm. This is a fun and interactive evening for parents to attend.

It is especially useful for parents who has their first child is attending Castlereagh Nursery School. It will also give you an insight into a day in Nursery, also what and how your child learns through play.

We would love to see you there.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our Level 3 placement students who will be with us this year, Georgia (Mrs Jones' Class) and Ellen (Mrs Morrow's Class). We also welcome Eva back to Castlereagh Nursery. Eva completed her First year with us last year and has joined us again to finish her course in Early Childhood Studies in Stranmillis University.

Things you can help with at home with your child in October.

Go for a walk - Discuss the textures, shapes, sizes of what you find. Look up the names for things you are unsure of together.

Encourage your child to take off and put on their own coat/shoes/hat/gloves



Encourage your child to brush their own teeth (under supervision) this will help when we begin our tooth brushing routine.

We will be starting our 'Colour of the Week' next week. Please help your child to choose from home, these will be displayed on our colour table. We will be



starting next week (Monday 10th October) please send in something
Please see the dates for your diary sheet to stay up to date with weekly
coloured objects.

Help to build the excitement around our launch of our
'BIG BEDTIME READ'. We are dressing up on the last
day of term in our Onesies to promote bedtime stories!
(proceeds will be in aid of Cash For Kids NI). On the last
day of term we will begin our Book Lending Library.
Children can choose 3 books to share at home each week.
(2 fiction and 1 non-fiction books). The book bags remain
the property of the nursery, please do not write your child's name on these. We
have them numbered to ensure your child gets the same bag home each week.



The countdown is on!!!!

Parents and carers may also be interested in visiting the Rub a Dub Hub section of the
NI Libraries website where there is some helpful info
<https://www.librariesni.org.uk/sites/radh/Pages/default.aspx>

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome Mrs Chivers back this year. She will be the teacher in
Mrs Morrow's class on a Tuesday.

Health Visitor Interviews

Castlereagh Nursery is very happy to be included in the Early Years
Transformation Programme (EYTP) for the sixth year. This means we work very
closely with a number of local Health Visitors and we offer interviews with a
health visitor for you and your child here in the nursery. All our previous
families have found this very beneficial. They can discuss and help you with
many developmental issues you might have like, bedtime routines, sleeping,
feeding or behavioural issues. A sheet will be placed in the front hall for you to
select a day and time slot that suits you best. We would encourage you to take
part in this opportunity to discuss your child with the health visitor.

Health visitor interview dates will be week beginning 14th November

October - December 2022

We understand how busy family life can be so we have given you details of event dates and times for this term. We hope this helps you to plan ahead.

October	
W/B 10 th Oct	Please bring something Red
W/B 17 th Oct	Please bring something Black
Monday 17 th October	Parent teacher meetings (Mrs Jones' Class)
Tuesday 18 th October	Parent teacher meetings (Mrs Morrow's class)
W/B 24 th	Please bring something Orange
Monday 24 th October	Cool For School Photography taking school photos
Monday 24 th October	Stay and Play (Halloween Pumpkins) Mrs Morrow's class
Tuesday 25 th October	Stay and Play (Halloween Pumpkins) Mrs Jones' class
Friday 28 th October	Mr Hullabaloo Interactive Theatre Co. Autumn Show
Friday 28 th October	Funsie in a Onesie (wear your Onesie pyjamas to school) £1 donation in aid of Cash for Kids NI
Friday 28 th October	School closes at 11.30am for half term (No School Dinners)
November	
W/B 7 th Nov	Please bring something Blue
Monday 7 th November	School Development Day (Children do not attend)
Tuesday 8 th November	School re-opens at normal time
Thursday 10 th November	Curriculum Evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm everyone welcome
Friday 11 th November	Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk' (Details to follow)
W/B 14 th Nov	Please bring something yellow
W/B 14 th Nov	World nursery Rhyme week
W/B 21 st Nov	Please bring something purple
Friday 25 th November	Debbie Dolittle Wildlife visiting nursery
W/B 28 th Nov	Please bring something White
Tuesday 29 th Nov	Jo Jingles - Interactive music session
December	
W/B 5 th December	Please bring something Green
Thursday 8 th December	Visit to Courtyard Theatre - Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day £1 (Cash for Kids NI)
W/B 12 th Dec	Please bring something Silver
W/B 19 th Dec	Please bring something Gold
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Party - Non uniform School closes at 11.30am for the Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 4 th January	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 5 th January	School re-opens for children - Normal Time

All the staff thank you for your continued support!