

# Castlereagh Nursery School

'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

## November 2022 Newsletter

We hope everyone had a safe, healthy and restful half term break. All the children have now settled really well into the nursery routines and activities and we are looking forward to the busy months ahead. On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November we will be carrying out our main fund raising event of the year, 'Our Welly Walk'.

Please ensure your child has a pair of welly boots to use in school on this day.



In previous years the nursery has been able to use this money to purchase fantastic additional resources for the children to enjoy. 3 years ago the parents raised enough money to purchase 5 outdoor sheds. These will be used for many years to come. 2 years ago all the parents were able to purchase 2 additional ipads and the 'Ipad Sofa Station' in the sunroom.

Last year we bought some more large scale resources for our all weather grass area in the nursery garden. These were in the form of large Teepee structures to be used for roleplay and reading nooks. These resources obviously not only benefit your child in nursery today, but also siblings or other family members that might come in future years. This is why we ask you to fully support our main fundraising event as much as you can. Without your amazing support and contributions we could not provide these fantastic resources for your child.

You will have received the Welly Walk sponsor form yesterday (Tuesday) please fill this in and return any money collected by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. We completely understand that it is a very difficult time financially for many families. Any money raised, no matter how small, will be very greatly appreciated. Keep an eye out on the parents info board outside, we will update you with our total raised so far!!

Don't forget to bring your child's sticker chart back to nursery once they have filled it up. They have been working very hard to get their stickers and when they bring it in they will receive a prize and a certificate.

## Settling in Questionnaires

Next week you will receive a link to the settling in Questionnaire. It will contain questions regarding the settling in process and dinner routine. Please fill this in as soon as you can. It shouldn't take any longer than a few minutes. These questionnaires are very important to us and help us as a nursery to self evaluate and inform our 3 year School Development Plan.



## What we are learning in nursery



This month we will be continuing our topic of Autumn and looking at fruits and vegetables in more detail. We will be making vegetable soup and using various foods in lots of different ways. We will be learning about different animals that hibernate. The change in the evenings getting darker and Road Safety.

## Curriculum Evening

We are delighted to hold our curriculum evening in person again. This is an informal, fun and interactive evening where parents can find out what their child is learning in Nursery and what the nursery curriculum involves. This evening is particularly aimed at parents who have their first child at nursery or who have not attended a curriculum evening in Castlereagh Nursery before. Everyone is welcome and we would like to see as many parents as possible on Thursday evening at 6.30 pm- 7.15pm

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## \*Open Enrolment\*

Please be advised, all applications for Nursery AND PRIMARY SCHOOL for September 2023 will be completed online via the Education Authority website.

The application process will open on Tuesday 10th January at 12 noon and will close on 27<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon. Please note that many schools' admissions

criteria may change. Admissions criteria will be available on the EA website from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

## **OPEN MORNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 ENROLMENT**

Our nursery school will have its open day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January for prospective parents and children due to start nursery in September 2023. If you have any friends or family members with children who will be 3 on or before 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 please make them aware of the date of our open morning.

## **Pantomime**

We are delighted to be visiting the theatre this year again. This is a trip that most of the children really enjoy. The Pantomime this year is Sleeping Beauty and is written and produced by Mr Hullabaloo. We travel by bus to the Courtyard Theatre in Newtownabbey and have a goody bag to eat during the intermission. The children then visit Santa on the way out of the theatre. If you think this is something your child would enjoy the cost is £15. This covers entrance to the theatre and part of the cost of the bus. School fund will cover the remainder of the bus and the goody bag.

If you do not think your child would enjoy this trip please speak to a member of staff. Unfortunately, as all staff will be needed for pupil:adult ratio there will be no provision for those children not attending the trip to be in school.

## **Dundonald Foodbank**

We are a referring agent for the new Dundonald Foodbank Castlereagh Centre at Orangefield Presbyterian Church. These are challenging times for many people, however we are here to help. If you know of a family that is struggling, or indeed you are struggling as a family please get in touch with us. All contact will be held in the strictest confidence and we will support you in every way we can. We can issue a food voucher which will be placed in an envelope in your child's cubby, this can then be presented to the foodbank and it will give access to 1 week of food to help the family.

## Lending Library - Big Bedtime Read

We will be sending home the book bags on Friday, please read these books throughout the week with your child. They will receive 3 books each week that they can choose. 2 will be fiction and one will be a non-fiction or information book.

All book bags should be returned on the following Friday and will be given out every Monday thereafter.

Please do not write on the bags. Each bag has a number corresponding to your child's name rather than named so we can reuse them each year.

## Christmas

We would like to acknowledge that financially times are very difficult for many families. We know in the past, parents have bought gifts at Christmas for the nursery staff. We would like to say that this is not something we expect and we would really like all our parents to focus on your own families at this time.

## November - 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.

November	
W/B 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Please bring something Blue
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	School Development Day (Children do not attend)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	School re-opens at normal time
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Curriculum Evening 6.30pm - 7.15pm everyone welcome
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk'
W/B 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Please bring something yellow
W/B 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Health Visitor Interviews with parent and child

	Please sign up for a time which suits you best. Appointment sheets are available in the entrance hall.
W/B 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	World nursery Rhyme week and Road Safety Week
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Coach Paul from Sonal Sports (Football skills)
W/B 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Please bring something purple
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Debbie Dolittle Wildlife visiting nursery
W/B 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Please bring something White
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Jo Jingles - Interactive music session
<b>December</b>	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Coach Paul from Sonal Sports (Football skills)
W/B 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Please bring something Green
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Visit to Courtyard Theatre - Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day £1 (Cash for Kids NI)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Coach Paul from Sonal Sports (Football skills)
W/B 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Please bring something Silver
W/B 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Please bring something Gold
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity - 11am  This will be held in Lisnasharragh Primary School
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Special visitor for the children  (SHHHHHH !!!!!!! it's a surprise)
Wednesday 21st December	Christmas Party - Non uniform  School closes at 11.30am for the Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens for children - Normal Time

**All the staff thank you for your continued support!**