

Castlereagh Nursery School

'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

November 2023 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 Thursday 16th 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. 4 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 before half term please fill this in and return any money collected by Friday 24th 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.

Open Enrolment

Please be advised, all applications for Nursery AND PRIMARY SCHOOL for September 2024 will be completed online via the Education Authority website.

The application process will open on Tuesday 9th January at 12 noon and will close on Friday 26th January at 12 noon. Please note that many schools' admissions criteria may change. Admissions criteria will be available on the EA website from Tuesday 12th December 2023 <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

OPEN MORNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 ENROLMENT

Our nursery school will have its open day on Saturday 6th January for prospective parents and children due to start nursery in September 2024. If you have any friends or family members with children who will be 3 on or before 2nd July 2024 please make them aware of the date of our open morning.



Pantomime

We are delighted to be visiting the theatre this year again. On Friday 8th December. This is a trip that most of the children really enjoy. The Pantomime this year is Jack and the Beanstalk 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 adult:child ratio there will be no provision for those children not attending the trip to be in school.

Christmas Nativity

Each year the children participate in our school production of the Nativity. This year our Nativity is called 'A Miracle In Town'. The children will be learning the songs over the next few weeks. We are grateful to Lisnasharragh Primary School for letting us use their hall for the morning. The children are always fantastic and love performing for their family and grown-ups. The date we have agreed this year is Tuesday 19th December at 11am. The children should attend nursery as normal that morning and we will walk them over to Lisnasharragh PS. The performance will last until approx. 11.30am and they can be taken home straight afterwards.



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, 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 each Monday, 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.

Dates for your Diary

November – December 2023

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.

All the staff thank you for your continued support!

November	
Monday 6 th November	School Development Day (Children do not attend)
Tuesday 7 th November	School re-opens at normal time
W/B 7 th Nov	Please bring something Blue
Friday 10 th November	Mr Hullaballoo Interactive Theatre Co. Autumn Show
W/B 13 th Nov	Please bring something yellow
13 th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week
Thursday 16 th November	Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk'
Friday 17 th November	Sonal Sports – Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills

W/B 20 th Nov	Please bring something purple
Friday 24 th November	Debbie Dolittle Wildlife visiting nursery
W/B 27 th Nov	Please bring something White
December	
Friday 1 st December	Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation Air Ambulance NI)
W/B 5 th December	Please bring something Green
Friday 8 th December	Visit to Courtyard Theatre - Jack and The Beanstalk Pantomime
W/B 11 th Dec	Please bring something Silver
Friday 15 th December	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
W/B 18 th Dec	Please bring something Gold
Monday 18 th December	Nativity dress rehearsal at Lisnasharragh Primary Shool
Tuesday 19 th December	"A Miracle In Town" Nativity performance 11am Lisnasharragh Primary School.
Thursday 21st December	Visit from Santa SShhhhhh it's a surprise for the children
Friday 22nd December	Christmas Party - Non uniform School closes at 11.10am for Mrs Morrow's Class and 11.20 am for Mrs Jones' class for the Christmas Holidays
Friday 5 th January	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Saturday 6 th January	OPEN MORNING For all new children who will be 3 before 2 nd July 2024
Monday 8 th January	School re-opens for children - Normal Time