

Castlereagh Nursery School
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

December 2023 Newsletter

Thank you!!

A massive heartfelt thank you for all the money you raised from the sponsored 'Welly Walk' on Wednesday 15th November. The children had a fantastic day, and the weather wasn't too bad for most of the morning. The children walked, jumped, skipped and ran over 3500 steps. The total money raised stands at...

£2091.85



This is an amazing amount of money, especially given the current financial situation. We are hoping to use the money to replace the floor in the sunroom, currently the Education Authority is not agreeing to any minor works applications and the floor is lifting badly in places. Without your amazing support this would not be possible. Thank you so, so much. We will keep you posted as to when the works will be going ahead.

What we are learning in December

As you will see from our 'Dates for your Diary' page, December is an exciting and very busy month for the nursery. The children are learning all about the Celebration of Christmas, being thankful and being kind to others.



Be Kind

Links with Primary schools

If you are undecided as to what Primary School you would like your child to transfer to, please log on to each school's website. Many schools are uploading virtual 3D tours as well as holding Open Days/evenings. Many local schools will send us information and we pass this on in the children's cubby holes. If you have any questions about particular schools, just give them a ring, the staff in each school will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

If you have a child, or know someone who has a child who was born on or between 2nd July 2020 and 1st July 2021 they will be eligible for a funded pre-school nursery place in September 2024.

Please remember P1 and pre-school nursery applications are now being completed online. The application process opens on Tuesday 9th January at 12 midday and will close on 26th January at 12 midday (any applications after this time will be marked 'late').

Admissions criteria for each school will be available on the EA website from Tuesday 12th December 2023.

Further information is available on the EA website under the Admissions section at - <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Open Morning

We are holding our nursery open morning on Saturday 6th January 10.30 am - 1pm. If you know anyone who would be interested in their child attending Castlereagh Nursery, please let them know. All the staff will be available that morning to answer any questions they might have.

Remember

Please send a warm coat into school everyday with your child. Even though the weather is getting colder we still go outside everyday (unless it is extremely wet). You may also send in a named hat with your child, but please do not send scarves, these are dangerous when the children are climbing or pedalling trikes.



Christmas Celebrations

We are looking forward to many Christmas celebrations this year. The nativity will be performed in Lisnasharragh Primary School Hall on Tuesday 19th December at 11am. We will have a rehearsal on Monday 18th December and we will record the performance then. No phones or recording devices will be permitted on the morning of the performance due to safeguarding issues. The performance will be posted (password protected) on our website, after the performance.

Change to Dinner Menu

On the dinner menu each Monday was Curry and Rice, after a number of weeks it was evident this was not a popular meal. The school meals kitchen in Lisnasharragh have changed this to Creamy Chicken with rice and nann bread. This has been going down well with all the children.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you so much to all the parents who completed our settling in questionnaires. We have had 48% of parents complete and comment on this questionnaire. The link below will be open for another week, we would love to have your views about settling in at Castlereagh Nursery School.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqGpjfPD3M5RMtp56ox4wCTFUQjdDUUQwRjVGNDg4T0pCWDINRkwwQkkyQy4u>

Thank you for completing these.



Dates for your diary

December - March

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 Please bring back all library book bags
W/B 18 th Dec	Please bring something Gold
Monday 18 th December	Nativity dress rehearsal at Lisnasharragh Primary School
Tuesday 19 th December	"A Miracle In Town" Nativity performance 11am Lisnasharragh Primary School.
Thursday 21 st December	Visit from Santa SShhhhhh it's a surprise for the children
Friday 22 nd 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
January 2024	
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
Tuesday 9 th January	Online Applications open for Nursery and Primary 1
Friday 12 th January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Wednesday 24 th Jan	Gathering Drum Interactive Workshop
Friday 26 th January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills Closing date for online applications for Nursery and Primary school
February	
Friday 9 th Feb	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Tuesday 13 th February	Last day before half term - School closes at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's class 11.20am Mrs Jones' Class

Monday 19 th Tuesday 20 th February	School development day (4 and 5) School closed for children
Wednesday 21 st Feb	School Reopens for children
March	
Friday 1 st March	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Friday 15 th March	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Wednesday 27 th March	Easter Egg Hunt Mrs Morrow's class 11am - 11.10am Mrs Jones' Class 11.20- 11.30am Last day before Easter Holidays
Tuesday 9 th and Wednesday 10 th April	School Development days (6 and 7) School closed for children

Please note the early closure days in **Bold**

**All the Staff thank you for your continued support and wish you
a Happy and Safe Christmas!!**