



Castlereagh Nursery School
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'



January 2024

Newsletter

A very warm welcome back after the Christmas break, we hope that you and your child had a wonderful, restful Christmas!

All the staff would like to thank you all for the beautiful gifts and cards we received before Christmas, they were very much appreciated by everyone.

We are so happy to welcome all the children back to school and hear all about their fantastic experiences at Christmas.

REMINDER

Nursery Applications

Application process for entry in September 2024 will go live on Tuesday 9th January. If you have any friends or relatives with children born between 2nd July 2020 and 1st July 2021, please let them know that the closing date for applications to nursery school is Friday 26th January at 12 noon.

All applications will now be made online via the website

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>.

Any applications received after this date and time will be marked 'late'. Please note that all verifying documents for ALL LISTED PREFERENCES must be uploaded to the portal by Wednesday 31st January 2024

Primary School Applications

The same online application process is open for children who are due to start P1 in September 2024. Closing date is again Friday 26th January. Please note that all verifying documents for ALL PREFERENCES must be uploaded to the portal by Wednesday 31st January 2023

All applications will now be made online via the website

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>.

Strike Action - Closure Date

I would like to give you advance notice of a further full day of strike action on Thursday 18th January 2024 alongside workers from across the entire public sector, including education, health and transport. Castlereagh Nursery School will therefore be closed for all pupils.



What are we learning this half term?



Winter, Opposites and Chinese New Year

We will be exploring the properties of ice in the water tray and looking for 'opposites' within our environment. Looking at light and dark, hot and cold. Investigating all the signs of Winter in our garden area outside. At the end of January we will also be learning about and celebrating Chinese New Year with the children. This will involve many new exciting activities and will compliment the curriculum area 'World Around Us'. Our monthly planning overview will be available on the parents board in the hall. Please have a look so that you can talk to your child about the relevant topics.

We will begin learning facts about simple 2D shapes in January. Just like the colour of the week we will be concentrating on a different shape each week. We would appreciate it if you could send a shaped item from home for display on our shape table each week.

Eco Schools

To support the role of Eco Schools we will be learning all about how to reduce, reuse and recycle. We will also be making bird feeders to help feed the many feathered visitors to our nursery garden.

The Gathering Drum

We are excited to be having our very first Gathering Drum workshop on Wednesday 24th January. Joe Loughlin will be visiting the nursery and giving every child the opportunity to take part in his Drumming circle.

He uses lots of the most popular stories, songs and curriculum themes to make his sessions engaging and energetic. You can find out more about Joe and The Gathering Drum using the link below.

<https://thegatheringdrum.com/about/>

Outdoor Play

Jack Frost is out and about but it is still important for us to go outside everyday. Please ensure your child comes to nursery with a warm NAMED coat and a hat. In each room we have 26 children to get ready for outdoor play. Try and encourage your child to put on and take off their own coat and hat independently. This means we have a longer time to explore and investigate outside. Please don't send scarves in with your child, when using the bikes and climbing frame these can get caught in the wheels and around the climbing frame.



Our class supply of tissues and baby wipes have almost run out, with all the coughs and colds going around. **Please could you send in one box of tissues and 1 packet of baby wipes in January. Thank you**

Songs and Rhymes for January

It's Raining It's Pouring

*It's raining, it's pouring.
The old man is snoring.
He bumped his head and went to bed
And he couldn't get up in the morning*

Open them, Shut them

Open them, shut them, open them, shut them
Give a little clap
Open them, shut them, open them, shut them
Lay them in your lap
Creep them, creep them, creep them
Right up to your chin
Open up your little mouth
But do not let them in
Roll them, roll them, roll them,
Just like this
Wave them, wave them, wave them,
Then blow a little kiss

Five Little Snowmen

*Five little snowmen standing in a line
One, Two, Three, Four, Five
So fine
Melt in the sunshine with a sigh
We'll see you next year
Bye Bye!*

Four little snowmen ..., etc

Little Jackie, Jack Frost

*Little Jackie, Jack Frost bites my nose,
Little Jackie, Jack Frost stings my toes,
Little Jackie, Jack Frost climbs the trees,
Little Jackie, Jack Frost paints the leaves.
Little Jackie, Jack Frost thinks its fun
Knocking all the leaves down one by one.
When the winter wind begins to blow,
Little Jackie runs away, Ho! Ho! Ho!*



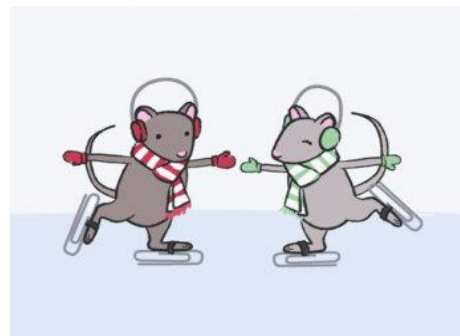
Little Penguins

*Little penguins black and white
On the ice, what a sight!
See them waddle, see them glide.
Watch them as they slip and slide.
Little penguins black and white
On the ice, what a sight!
(Tune - Twinkle, Twinkle little star)*

Five little mice skating on the ice

*Five little mice skating on the ice,
Polly-wolly woodle all the day,
The ice grew thin and one fell in,
Polly-wolly woodle all the day.*

Four little mice, etc.



**Confirmed Dates for your
Diary**

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
W/B 15 th January	Please bring an item in the shape of a Circle
Thursday 18 th	School Closed due to strike action
W/B 22 nd January	Please bring an item in the shape of a Triangle
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
W/B 29 th January	Please bring an item in the shape of a Square
February	
W/B 5 th February	Please bring an item in the shape of a Rectangle
Friday 9 th Feb	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
W/B 12 th Feb	Please bring an item in the shape of a Heart
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 Re-opens 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
Monday 18 th March	St Patrick's Day - School will close early Mrs Morrow's class 11.10am - 11.20am Mrs Jones' Class 11.20am- 11.30am No school dinners
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 No School Dinners
Tuesday 9 th and Wednesday 10 th April	School Development days (6 and 7) School closed for children
Friday 19 th April	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills

Thursday 25 th April	Notification of P1 placements and Nursery Placements
Monday 6 th May	School Closed - May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 10 th May	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Friday 17 th May	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Friday 24 th May	Induction day for new children starting in September 2024 - Nursery closed for current children
Mon 27 - Fri 31 st May	Bank Holiday and School Development Days School Closed
Monday 3 rd June	School Re-opens
Friday 7 th June	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Friday 14 th June	Sports Day Mrs Morrow's class 12.50pm - 1.05pm Mrs Jones class 1.15pm-1.30pm All parents are welcome to come and watch in the (Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre) 4G pitch beside the nursery.
Monday 24 th June	Mr Hullabaloo Interactive Theatre Visit to Nursery
Friday 28 th June	Last day of Nursery - Sing-a-long in the garden 11am - All parents welcome

Please check these dates each month as more activities will be added when confirmed.

Retirement

We would like to let you know that Mrs Pendleton will be retiring on Tuesday 13th February. Mrs Pendleton has taught in Castlereagh Nursery School since it opened its doors in September 1978. That is **46** years as a member of staff. She has seen more than 2,392 children come through the nursery and has had a massive impact on so many families during her time here. She has even very recently taught grand children of some of her very first pupils. It is safe to say that Castlereagh Nursery School will not be the same without her!! We will be so sad to see her go, and all the staff and Governors wish her a long and happy retirement.

