



Welcome to Castlereagh Nursery School

'Hand in hand we learn together'

September 2024 Newsletter

We are all so excited to welcome you and your little one to Castlereagh Nursery School. Throughout your child's time in our nursery we aim to promote independence, help them to build friendships and to help your child feel secure and valued.

During your child's year in nursery they will experience a carefully planned curriculum, based on the 6 key areas of learning from the Pre-School curriculum and guidance (Department of Education, 2018):

- Personal Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development
- Physical Development and Movement
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The Arts
- The World Around Us

We use a thematic approach to planning for your child and September is all about Settling in and getting to know one another. Please could you send in a photo of your child's family. We will discuss this with your child and display them in your child's gallery space.

Independence

Please help us to help your child, encourage them to put on and take off their coats themselves. By letting them hang their own coat up in the mornings lets them know where their peg is and makes getting ready to go outside to our garden easier during the session. During the nursery day your child will be given every opportunity to be independent, this might include pouring their



own milk or water during snack time, mopping spills and brushing up sand. They will become more independent using the bathroom, washing hands, brushing teeth and following various routines during the day.

How you can help Us

In the morning

Please arrive promptly at your drop off time. Once your child has settled and is happy coming to nursery, we would like carers to pass their child to a member of staff at the front door. This will minimise the number of adults in the entrance hall.

Room 1 (Mrs Morrow's class) 8.50am - 9.00am

Room 2 (Mrs Jones' class) 9.00am - 9.10am

It is extremely important that you arrive at these times, this is to ensure there is adequate parking outside the nursery. Also to ease any congestion in the entrance hall once all 52 children are attending. **Room 2 parents, please do not enter the nursery until 9.00am, this is to ensure everyone's safety.**

In the afternoon

Until your child starts dinner the doors will be opened

Room 1 (Mrs Morrow) 11.50am - 12.00pm

Room 2 (Mrs Jones) 12.00pm - 12.10pm

Please advise anyone who might be picking your child up of this routine. Please ensure you are on time when collecting your child. If for any reason you are going to be late, you can telephone the nursery and we will be able to reassure your child. Children who are continually left until last can become fretful and get upset.

If your child is going to be absent from nursery for any reason, please contact the nursery by telephone (02890 704539) before the commencement of the school day. We call the dinner numbers through to the meals kitchen before 9.45. Thank you



Car park

Parents are reminded that **the car park is strictly for staff cars only.** When dropping off and picking up please do not drive into the campus. The nursery is very busy at these times and this will ensure that all children are kept safe when walking to and from nursery.

Please be respectful to our local residents. The morning is a busy time for everyone and most people are trying to get children out and themselves out to work.



Please do not park across residents' driveways at any time. The nursery received a number of complaints last year where parents had parked in front of driveways restricting access for residents cars.

Please be courteous at all times.

All items of clothing should be named, and all children should have a FULL change of clothes in a drawstring bag which remains on their peg.

How we can help you

If you have any worries or questions about your child, staff are available at the beginning and the end of each session to talk to you. We work in close partnership with all our parents to ensure your child gets the most out of their time in nursery. Alternatively, a suitable time can be arranged to speak in private if and when the need arises.

Settling in interviews will take place during week beginning 21st October, before we break up for Halloween. These are meetings where your child's teacher will discuss how your child has settled and show you some photographs of what your child has been doing during their time in school.

The **holiday list** for the academic year 2024-2025 is on the website. You may sync your phone with the calendar also so you do not miss any important dates.

Scrap Books



Please remember to begin your child's scrap book as soon as possible. Glue and scissors are available at all times in the hallway. Staff will update the class folders weekly, these are also located in the hallway outside each classroom. This is a record of your child's time in nursery. Feel free to add any certificates/achievement badges they receive from outside nursery too.

Early Mathematical Focus

During the first term (once all the children have started) we will be focusing on one colour per week. Parents will receive a text on the Friday letting them know what the colour will be the following week. It is also noted on the dates for your diary page at the end of this newsletter. Please use this as a learning opportunity to share with your child, talking about the relevant shape/colour at home will reinforce what we are doing in nursery. If possible we would love it if you could send in a small item from home for our weekly colour display, these will be returned each Friday.

All the staff at Castlereagh Nursery School look forward to working closely with you and your child during the year ahead. Thank you for your support

A Morrow (Principal)

Songs and Rhymes for September

These are some of our regular songs we sing at specific times of the day. Your child will already be able to help you with the tunes.



Good Morning Song

Good Morning, Good Morning
Good Morning to you,
Good Morning, Good Morning
Good Morning to you,
The day is beginning,
There's so much to do,
Good Morning, Good Morning
Good Morning to you!

Time to Go Home Song

Time to Go Home,
Time to Go Home,
Mummies and Daddies are waiting for you,
Time to Go Home,
Time to Go Home
We are all waving goodbye, goodbye,
goodbye, goodbye



Lunchtime Song

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God for everything!

Days of the Week

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday too,
1,2,3,4,5,6,7 days,
Each day different and every day new!

Dates for your Diary

September - December

(more dates will be added as they are confirmed)

| October | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 26 th September | Cool For School Photography Individual Children's Photos |
| Monday 14 th October | Halloween Stay and Play Mrs Morrow's Class |
| Tuesday 15 th October | Halloween Stay and Play Mrs Jones' Class |
| Wednesday 16 th October | Curriculum Evening 6.45pm - 7.30pm |
| Mon 21 st October | Parent / teacher consultations (Mrs Jones' Class) |
| Tues 22 nd October | Parent / teacher consultations (Mrs Morrow's Class) |
| Friday 25 th October | Funsie in a Onesie (wear your Onesie pyjamas to school) £1 donation in aid of Air Ambulance NI |
| Friday 25 th October | School closes at 11.20-11.30am for half term (No School Dinners) |
| November | |
| Tuesday 5 th November | School re-opens at normal time |
| Monday 11 th November | Debbie Dolittle Wildlife |
| Friday 15 th November | Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk' (Details to follow) |
| December | |
| Friday 13 th December | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Tuesday 17 th December | Nativity Dress Rehearsal |
| Wednesday 18 th December | Nativity in Lisnasharragh Primary School 11.00am (children go home straight after) |
| Thursday 19 th December | 'Special Visitor' to see the children |
| Friday 20 th December | Christmas Party - Non uniform School closes at 11.20am - 11.30am for the Christmas Holidays |
| January | |
| Friday 3 rd January | School Development Day (Children do not attend) |
| Saturday 4 th January | Open Morning for Children starting in September 2025 |
| Monday 6 th January | Children Return to Nursery |

Charity of the Year

Each year Castlereagh Nursery School supports a local charity. This year we have chosen Dementia NI. Please have a look on their website for further details

www.Dementiani.org