

Castlereagh Nursery School

'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

November 2024 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 15th 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. The welly walk has funded the purchase of 5 outdoor sheds, 2 additional ipads for the children to use and the 'Ipad Sofa Station' in the sunroom. More recently we have purchased 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. Last year was our biggest donation so far and we completely refurbished the sunroom, installing a new sub floor and waterproof flooring.

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 today, please fill this in and return any money collected by Friday 22nd 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!!

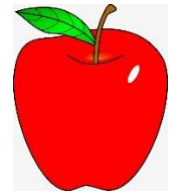
Don't forget to bring your child's sticker chart back to nursery once they have filled it up. They have been working very hard to get their stickers and when they bring it in they will receive a prize and a certificate.

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 2025 will be completed online via the Education Authority website.

The application process will open on Friday 10th January at 12 noon and will close on Friday 24th January at 12 noon. Please note that many schools' admissions criteria may change. Admissions criteria will be available on the EA website from Thursday 5th December 2024 <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

OPEN MORNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 ENROLMENT

Our nursery school will have its open day on Saturday 4th January for prospective parents and children due to start nursery in September 2025. If you have any friends or family members with children who will be 3 on or before 2nd July 2025 please make them aware of the date of our open morning.





The Ark Farm

We are delighted to be visiting The Ark Open Farm this year for our Christmas experience. On Friday 6th December. This is a new trip this year. We usually visit the pantomime, however we feel the children will really enjoy this new festive experience. We will travel by bus to The Ark Farm in Newtownards. The children will take part in a range of activities including;

Feeding Santa's real Reindeer

- A group visit to meet Santa in his house
- Making reindeer food to take home and leave out on Christmas Eve.
- A Farmyard Tour meeting lots of friendly animals
- All the farm fun including play area, Fairy-tale Forest and Jurassic Ark.

This year the gift includes a lovely Christmas plush toy (21 cm cuddly reindeer).

We will provide a picnic snack for the children to eat during a break in activities. We will not however be staying for lunch. If you think this is something your child would enjoy the cost is £15. This covers entrance to the Ark farm and part of the cost of the bus. School fund will cover the remainder of the bus and the goody bag. We will leave nursery at 9.15am and return to nursery at 12.45pm, children should be picked up at this time.

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 'It's A Baby'. 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 Wednesday 18th 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 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 so we can reuse them each year.



Health Visitor Interviews

You will find the health visitor Questionnaire in your child's cubby today. Castlereagh Nursery is very happy to be included in the Early Years Transformation Programme (EYTP) for the eighth year. This means we work very closely with a number of local Health Visitors and we offer interviews with a health visitor for you and your child here in the nursery. All our previous families have found this very beneficial, they can discuss and help you with many developmental issues you might have like, bedtime routines, sleeping, feeding or behavioural issues. A interview sheets will be placed in the front hall for you to select a day and time slot that suits you best. We would encourage you to take part in this opportunity to discuss your child with the health visitor.

If you cannot come to the nursery to put your name down at a date and time then simply ring us and we can let you know what times are left and book you in

Dates for your Diary

November - December 2024

We understand how busy family life can be so we have given you details of event dates and times for the remainder of this term. We hope this helps you to plan ahead.

All the staff thank you for your continued support!

November	
Monday 4 th November	School Development Day (Children do not attend)
Tuesday 7 th November	School re-opens at normal time
W/B 4 th Nov	Please bring something Blue
W/B 11 th Nov	Please bring something yellow
11 th - 15 th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week
Monday 11 th November	Debbie Dolittle Wildlife visiting nursery
Tuesday 12 th November	Lynn the Dental Nurse Visit
Friday 15 th November	Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk'
W/B 18 th Nov	Please bring something purple
Mon 18 th - Wed 20 th Nov	Health Visitor Interviews (booking sheets will be available from 5 th November)
Friday 22 nd November	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
W/B 25 th Nov	Please bring something White
December	
W/B 2 nd December	Please bring something Green
2 nd December	Ellie the Litter Elf visiting nursery
Tuesday 3 rd December	The Gathering Drum Workshop with Joe Loughin
Friday 6 th December	Christmas Visit to the Ark Farm (More details to follow)
W/B 9 th Dec	Please bring something Silver

Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation please
W/B 16 th Dec	Please bring something Gold
Tuesday 17 th Dec	Nativity dress rehearsal
Wednesday 18 th Dec	Nativity Performance - 11am in Lisnasharragh Primary School. Children go home straight afterwards
Thursday 19 th December	Visit from Santa SShhhhhh it's a surprise for the children
Friday 20 th 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	
Friday 3 rd January	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Saturday 4 th January	Open Morning for new parents and families due to start nursery in September 2025.
Monday 6 th January	School re-opens for children - Normal Time