

Castlereagh Nursery School
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

December 2024 Newsletter

Thank you!!

A massive heartfelt thank you for all the money you raised from the sponsored 'Welly Walk' on Friday 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...

£1475



This is an amazing amount of money, especially given the current financial situation for many families. We are hoping to use the money to purchase more ICT equipment for the children. Without your amazing support this would not be possible. Thank you so, so much. We will keep you posted as to when the new equipment arrives.

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 2021 and 1st July 2022 they will be eligible for a funded pre-school nursery place in September 2025.

Please remember P1 and pre-school nursery applications are now being completed online. The application process opens on Friday 10th January at 12 midday and will close on 24th 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 Thursday 5th December 2024.

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 4th 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 Wednesday 18th December at 11am. We will have a dress rehearsal on Tuesday 17th 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.

There will be enough seats for each child to have 2 adults attend the performance. However, we know lots of nanny's and granda's also want to watch, so there will be lots of standing room at the sides and at the back.

At the end of this newsletter you can find the words to the songs the children are singing, if you want to sing along.

Visit to Ark Farm

We are all very excited about our very first ever visit to the Ark Farm Christmas Experience this Friday. We will change the children into their welly boots when they arrive in nursery. The bus will be leaving promptly at 9.30am, please ensure your child is in nursery before this time. We know unavoidable things can happen in the morning, so if you think your child is going to be later than this, please contact the school as early as you can. We will be returning to school at 12.45 on the double decker bus, we kindly ask that parents allow the staff to walk the children back into school. Please do not take your child from a staff member outside the school grounds. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible and want all children back into the school building. We will hand them to their grown-up from the quiet room as normal.

Please be patient as this is one of the only days in the year where all children will be leaving at the same time, there will be added congestion in all areas, in and around the nursery.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you so much to all the parents who completed our settling in questionnaires. We have had 50% 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=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqGpjfPD3M5RMtp56ox4wCTFUMTdEMIEyMDE3SFNKREK5MTNaR1JYNdm3Vy4u>

Thank you for completing these.



Dates for your diary

December 2024 - March 2025

December	
W/B 2 nd December	Please bring something Green
2 nd December	Ellie the Litter Elf visiting nursery
Monday 2 nd Decemner	Christmas Pottery Stay and Play Mrs Morrow's CLASS
Tuesday 3 rd December	The Gathering Drum Workshop with Joe Loughin
Tuesday 3 rd December	Christmas Pottery Stay and Play Mrs Jones' Class
Friday 6 th December	Christmas Visit to the Ark Farm (Pick up from school will be at 12.45)
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 2024	
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
Friday 10 th January	Online Applications open for Nursery and Primary 1
Friday 17 th January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Friday 24 th Jan	Closing date for online applications for Nursery and Primary school
Friday 31 st January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills

February	
Monday 10 th February	Last day before half term - School closes at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's class 11.20am Mrs Jones' Class
Wednesday 17 th Feb	School Reopens for children
March	
Friday 7 th March	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Monday 17 th March	School Closes early for St Patrick's Day Mrs Morrow's class 11.10am Mrs Jones' Class 11.20am
Friday 21 st March	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Friday 4 th April	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Monday 7 th April	Parent Teacher Meetings Mrs Jones' Class
Tuesday 8 th April	Parent teacher Meetings Mrs Morrow's Class
Friday 11 th April	Mr Hullabaloo Easter Show
Friday 11 th April	Easter Egg Hunt Mrs Morrow's class 11am - 11.10am Mrs Jones' Class 11.20- 11.30am Last day before Easter Holidays
Monday 14 th April	School Development days School closed for children
Monday 28 th April	School Re-opens at normal time for the Summer Term

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!



Nativity Songs

'It's a Baby'

Please feel free to bring this song sheet along and join in the singing.

We've come to see the baby

We've come to see the baby,
We've come to see the baby,
We've come to see the baby,
Please will you let us come in.

We've seen a thousand angels,
You should have heard them sing
(woohoo),
They talked about a saviour,
What a great and wonderful thing.

Repeat chorus

Repeat verse

Repeat chorus

Tonight, Tonight

Little town of Bethlehem, watch the starry sky
You will see amazing things, on this special night.

Tonight, tonight, wonderful things will happen
Tonight, tonight, wonderful things you'll see

Little town of Bethlehem, hear the joyful news,
God has planned a great event, he has chosen
you.

Chorus x 2

Wise Men Three

Wise men three, clever are we,
Studied in astronomy
Saw a star, in the East,
Didn't know where it would lead us.

Wise men three, all agree,
Here's a great discovery,
Tell us please, where can we,
Find the baby King Jesus?

Innkeepers Song

My life is getting very busy,
My house is getting very full,
We've all been getting in a
'tizzy', We've not got any
room at all.

Everywhere around me,
Visitors surround me,
Happy to have found a place
to stay
All the girls and boys are
making such a noise, They're
getting in my way (Hey!)

It's A Baby

It's a Baby, We've had a baby,
It's a lovely little baby boy,
Its amazing, there's no mistaking,
It's a baby that they're going to enjoy.

X3

