



Castlereagh Nursery School
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'



January 2025

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 2025 will go live on Friday 10th January. If you have any friends or relatives with children born between 2nd July 2021 and 1st July 2022, please let them know that the closing date for applications to nursery school is Friday 24th January at 12 noon.

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 29th January 2025

Primary School Applications

The same online application process is open for children who are due to start P1 in September 2025. Closing date is again Friday 24th January. Please note that all verifying documents for ALL PREFERENCES must be uploaded to the portal by Wednesday 29th January 2025

All applications will now be made online via the website

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

Observations

By now a number of parents will have received their child's 'focus week' observation report. We hope you have been finding these insightful into your child's time here in nursery. We are around half way through our classes so, if you have not received one yet, you will do so in the next 5-6 weeks. We send out notifications on the Monday of the week we are focusing on your child. When you receive the notification please use the evidence me app to send in some photos of your child at home, so we can show them to and discuss these with your child.

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.

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	
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 10th January	Online Applications open for Nursery and Primary 1
W/B 13 th Jan	Please bring something in the shape of a circle
Friday 17 th January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
W/B 20 th January	Please bring something in the shape of a triangle
Friday 24 th Jan	Closing date for online applications for Nursery and Primary school
W/B 27 th January	Please bring something in the shape of a Square
Friday 31 st January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
February	
W/B 3 rd February	Please bring something in the shape of a heart
Monday 10 th February	Last day before half term - School closes at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's class 11.20am Mrs Jones' Class
Monday 17 th February	School Reopens for children
W/B 17 th February	Please bring something in the shape of a rectangle
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
April	
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