



Castlereagh Nursery School
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

October 2025 Newsletter

Thank you to everyone for your support during this settling in time.

All of your children have now settled happily into the routines in Castlereagh Nursery School. The staff are enjoying getting to know all the children and our new families. Many have made new friends and are growing in confidence each day. Now that they have all settled well, we would ask that you ensure in the morning that you hand your child over to a member of staff at the door of each room.

We are also delighted that the children are beginning to experience the dinner routine. They are excited about this part of the nursery day and those who have stayed are settling well into the new routine.

We have a very busy month ahead with lots of exciting learning opportunities for your child. Please help us by talking about these activities at home.

Apologies for the length of this newsletter but we have a very busy time before Christmas so please read the information in the newsletter carefully. We always have a handy dairy dates page at the end as an overview of the months ahead to help you plan events into your already busy family life. You can sync the calendar with your smart device so you never miss an important date.

REMINDERS

Please do not park in the carpark outside the nursery, this is for staff cars only.

Please send your children into school in **shoes with no laces** (Velcro is best), we are encouraging your child to become independent and laces can be very tricky for small fingers. The children change their shoes into their welly boots daily. Please encourage your child to take off and put on their shoes independently. If your child is ill, please either e-mail the nursery or ring the office to let their teacher know before 8.45am.

Dinner money is payable on a SUNDAY EVENING or MONDAY morning via the SCHOOL MONEY APP

The snack/school enrichment fund money is now due for October - from 1st October to 25th October

£3.50 per week x 4 weeks = Total £14 for school fund.

£12.50 per week for dinners.

If your child is sick and the school has been notified before 10am when the dinner numbers have been sent through then dinner will not need to be paid for that day.

Your account can be topped up at any time and Kathryn (secretary) will deduct each day's dinner when they attend.

As you will be able to see from the diary dates at the end of this newsletter, we provide lots of different visitors into the nursery, Sonal Sports, Mr Hullabaloo, Debbie Dolittle, Make a Sound etc. These visitors are paid for from the snack/enrichment fund. Without the parents' contributions we would not be able to provide these experiences for your children. Thank you so much for supporting the nursery in this way.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We will be holding our Settling in meetings on

**Monday 20th October (Mrs Ross' Class) and
Tuesday 21st October (Mrs Morrow's Class).**

These will last for 10 minutes and the teachers will share your child's settling in profile and also photographs of what they have been doing during their first 6-8 weeks of school. Interview sheets will be placed outside each classroom on Wednesday 8th October. Please choose the timeslot that suits you best. These are normal days for the children.

Miss Murphy will be teaching in Mrs Morrow's room most Tuesday's from now until the end of June. This is to allow Mrs Morrow to work in the office. Mrs Morrow will still be available in school at drop off and pick up times on these days.



Welly Walk

On Friday 7th November we will be embarking on our main fundraising event of the year - Our Welly Walk!!! This is a very exciting day for our children as we have lots of fun outdoor activities planned. Altogether the children can walk the whole way around the perimeter of the nursery 4 or maybe even 5 times!!! In the past our parents have been very generous with their sponsorship of this event and to all those past parents we thank you.

Over the past couple of years we have been able to purchase 2 new reading Wig-Wams for the outdoor garden and Ipads for the children to record their own learning. Last year we were able to replace the entire flooring of the sunroom with a new vinyl waterproof floor.

This year we would like to further enhance our outdoor areas, developing more areas for the children to use. We may need some help throughout the year from willing parents/grandparents to paint/dig/weed some areas. We will keep you updated as to when these events will be happening.

Sponsor forms for the Welly Walk will be sent out before half term.

Website

Please have a look at our website, here you can find the calendar that you can synchronise with your smart phone. It's handy to keep track and set reminders for important events. Monthly newsletters are available here as well and also the dinner menu.

Stay and Play Sessions

You are invited to stay and play with your child and decorate a clay Halloween decoration. Pumpkins and bats can be reserved and paid for in advance using the school money app from this Friday. This is at a cost of £2.50. Samples of these items will be on display in the hallway. These are small items, the pumpkins and bats both hold a tealight.

Mrs Morrow's Class (child and parent/carer) will be able to stay on Wednesday 22nd October from 1.10pm - 1.30pm. All equipment will be provided.

Mrs Ross' Class (child and parent/carer) will be able to stay on Thursday 23rd October from 1.20pm - 1.40pm.

Themes for October

Nursery Rhymes and Autumn

We will be spending time this month learning lots of familiar and perhaps new nursery rhymes. Research has shown that the ability to use rhyming words i.e in nursery rhymes at an early age has a significant influence in future reading success. You will be sent home a laminated nursery rhyme sheet, this is yours to keep, please sing these at home with your child.

Curriculum Evening

We are holding our annual Curriculum evening on Wednesday 15th October 6.30pm - 7.15pm. This is a fun and interactive evening for parents to attend. It is especially useful for parents who have their first child attending Castlereagh Nursery School. It will also give you an insight into a day in Nursery, also what and how your child learns through play. We will also be discussing with you the 'Focus Child' observation process we use in nursery.

We would love to see you there.

Autumn is such an exciting sensory time of year for us all. Please take your child for walks in the park and discuss what they can hear, smell, touch and see. We would be delighted if you could bring into nursery some of the interesting things you find. A bag will be sent home next week for you to collect some Autumnal 'treasures'.

We will be talking to the children about the changes that are happening all around them, changes in the weather, nights getting darker, leaves changing colours and falling off the trees. Most importantly, how to stay safe at Halloween.

Shared Education

We are so excited to be included for the first time in the ASPIRE Peace + project. Our cross community partner school is Holy Rosary Nursery School.

We will be meeting up for a planning session this month and will have some fantastic shared education opportunities throughout this year for your children.

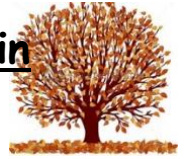
Christmas Outing

I know Christmas seems so far away at the moment but we just wanted to let you know what we have planned for this year. In the past we have visited the Theatre to watch Mr Hullabaloo's Christmas Panto, however not all children enjoyed this experience as much as we had hoped. We have decided to visit the Ark Farm and to take part in their Christmas Event.

This will take place on Friday 5th December during nursery. We will travel by bus to the Ark Farm where the children will be able to take part in all the activities and meet Santa at the end of the experience. They will each also receive a little 21cm plush Reindeer cuddly toy.



Things you can help with at home with your child in October.



Go for a walk - Discuss the textures, shapes, sizes of what you find. Look up the names for things you are unsure of together.

Encourage your child to take off and put on their own coat / shoes / hat / gloves

We will be starting our 'Colour of the Week' next week. Please help your child to choose an interesting item from home, these will be displayed on our colour table. We will be starting next week (Monday 13th October) please send in something



Please see the dates for your diary sheet to stay up to date with weekly coloured objects.

School Lending Library

Help to build the excitement around our launch of our 'BIG BEDTIME READ'. We are dressing up on the last day of term in our Onesies to promote bedtime stories! Proceeds will be in aid of British Liver Trust. On the last day of term we will begin our Book Lending Library. Children can choose 3 books to share at home each week. (2 fiction and 1 non-fiction book). The book bags remain the property of the nursery, please do not write your child's name on these. We have them named and numbered to ensure your child gets the same bag home each week.



The countdown is on!!!!

Parents and carers may also be interested in visiting the Rub a Dub Hub section of the NI Libraries website where there is some helpful info <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/sites/radh/Pages/default.aspx>

Focus Children

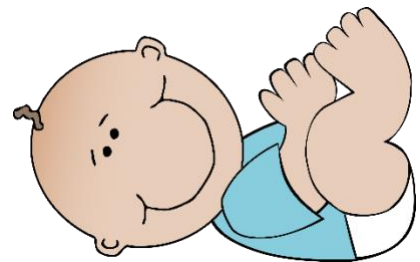
We will begin our focus children this week. This is where we observe 3 children really closely in all 6 areas of the curriculum and send all these observations home via parent share on the Evidence Me app. The Friday before your child is one of the focus children you will be asked to record up to 4 recent experiences. These can be anything from a visit to the park, or an ice cream shop or a family member coming to visit. You can upload photographs and a short explanation of these experiences onto the evidence me app. If you have any questions at all about how to do this, please speak to your child's teacher.

Scrap Books

Your child's scrap book is available in the hall. Each class has their own black folder at the classroom door. Staff will place any pictures your child has requested to 'keep for their scrapbook'. Each child has their own section in the black folder. Please check this regularly when you get a chance and stick them into their scrap book. Staff will aim to keep at least 1 piece of art work per month. Feel free to add any other masterpieces they bring home. Even certificates from gymnastics or swimming competitions etc can be placed in the scrap book. This is a place to keep everything as a record of your child's year in nursery..

Congratulations Mrs Jones!!

Mrs Jones started her maternity leave mid September, she had her little baby boy shortly after. He was born on 16th September. He's called Louis William Jones.



Thank you for taking the time to read through all the information in this Newsletter. If you have any questions please just ask a member of staff.

October - December 2025

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

October	
Wednesday 8 th October	Make a Sound - Music and Movement
Thursday 9 th October	Make a sound - Sensory Story
W/B 13 th Oct	Please bring something Red
Wednesday 15 th October	Curriculum Evening 6.30pm - 7.15pm everyone welcome
Friday 17 th October	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
W/B 20 th Oct	Please bring something Black
Monday 20 th October	Mr Hulabaloo - Interactive Autumn Show
Monday 20 th October	Parent teacher meetings (Mrs Ross' Class)
Tuesday 21 st October	Parent teacher meetings (Mrs Morrow's class)
Wednesday 22 nd October	Stay and Play (Halloween Pumpkins) Mrs Morrow's class
Thursday 23 rd October	Eco Schools - Belfast City Council Litter talk
Thursday 23 rd October	Stay and Play (Halloween Pumpkins) Mrs Ross' class
Friday 24 th October	Funsie in a Onesie (wear your Onesie pyjamas to school) £1 donation in aid of British Liver Trust payable on the app from 23/10/25
Friday 24 th October	School closes at 11.10am for Mrs Morrow's class and 11.20am for Mrs Ross' class for half term (No School Dinners)
November	
Monday 3 rd November	School re-opens at normal time
W/B 3 rd Nov	Please bring something Blue
Thursday 6 th November	Joe from The gathering Drum Visit - Drumming workshop
Friday 7 th November	Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk' (Details to follow)
W/B 10 th Nov	Please bring something yellow
10 th - 14 th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week
Tuesday 11 th November	Lynn the Dental Nurse Visit
Friday 14 th November	Sonal Sports - Physical skills
W/B 18 th Nov	Please bring something purple
Mon 17 th - Wed 19 th Nov	Health Visitor Interviews (booking sheets will be available from 11 th November)
Friday 21 st November	Debbie Dolittle Wildlife visiting nursery
W/B 24 th Nov	Please bring something 
December	
W/B 1st December	Please bring something Green
Tuesday 2 nd December	Belfast City Council - Litter Elf
Friday 5 th December	Christmas Visit to the Ark Farm (More details to follow)
W/B 8 th Dec	Please bring something Silver
Friday 12 th December	Sonal Sports - Physical Skills

Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation please
W/B 15 th Dec	Please bring something Gold
Monday 15 th Dec	Nativity dress rehearsal
Tuesday 16 th Dec	Nativity Performance - 11am in Lisnasharragh Primary School. Children go home straight afterwards
Wednesday 17 th December	Visit from Santa SShhhhhh it's a surprise for the children
Wednesday 17 th December	'Make a sound' Music and movement session
Thursday 18 th December	'Make a sound' Sensory story
Friday 19 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	
Monday 5 th January	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Tues 6 th January	School re-opens for children - Normal Time
Saturday 10 th January	Open Morning for new parents and families due to start nursery in September 2026.

All the staff thank you for your continued support!