

Castlereagh Nursery School
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

December 2025 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 4000 steps. The total money raised stands at...

£2407.50



This is an amazing amount of money, the most we have ever raised, thank you so, so much!!!!

We are hoping to use the money to purchase more equipment and resources 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 2022 and 1st July 2023 they will be eligible for a funded pre-school nursery place in September 2026.

Please remember P1 and pre-school nursery applications are now being completed online. The application process opens on Wednesday 7th January at 12 midday and will close on 21st 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 Wednesday 10th December 2025.

Further information is available on the EA website under the Admissions section at - <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Shared Education - ASPIRE PEACE PLUS

We are delighted to be accepted onto the shared education programme this year. This is a funded programme where we are paired with another local nursery - Holy Rosary Nursery School. We receive funding to participate in school trips to each other's nursery in class swaps and also the funding will pay for the entire end of year trip to Streamvale Open Farm.

The purpose of the programme is to build meaningful relationships with others from different cultural backgrounds.

Before the first trip which is planned for February we will require all parents to fill in the ASPIRE permissions form. We will put these in your child's book bag on Friday. Please return these on Monday. Thank you

Open Morning

We are holding our nursery open morning on Saturday 10th January 11am - 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 Tuesday 16th December at 11am. We will have a dress rehearsal on 15th 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 recording of the nativity 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 visit to the Ark Farm Christmas Experience this Friday. If your child is unwell and unable to attend, we will refund their payment. We will change the children into their welly boots when they arrive in nursery. The bus will be leaving promptly at **9.15am**, 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 **12.45pm** on the coach, 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 the nursery to go home at the same time, there will be added congestion in all areas, in and around the nursery.

Sickness

As I'm sure you are aware, in many local schools, the levels of sickness and viruses is very high in both children and staff. We too, are experiencing high levels of pupil absences due to seasonal flu's and viruses. As a staff we thank you for keeping your child off school when they are unwell. This helps protect staff and stop the spread of the germs to other children through cross infection.

Nursery Settling in Questionnaire

Please click the link below to fill in the nursery settling in questionnaire. It should only take a few minutes and will help shape our future settling in experiences for our children and families.

[November Settling in Parental Questionnaire 2025 – Fill in form](#)

Safety on the roads and paths outside nursery!

Please be vigilant when pulling up to park on the roads around the nursery. A parent was almost knocked down when walking out of the entry along the side of the nursery this morning. Another carer had pulled up and drove onto the footpath, narrowly missing the adult. Had this been a child it might have been very different. The mornings are darker and the roads are very busy at drop off times, we want to keep everyone safe.

Please drive slowly!

Dates for your diary

December 2025 - January 2026

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
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 (on the app)
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 from Lisnasharragh Primary School
Wednesday 17 th December	'Make a sound' Music and movement session
Thursday 18 th December	Visit from Santa SShhhhhh it's a surprise for the children
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 Ross' 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
Wed 7 th January	EANI admissions portal opens for Nursery and P1 applications
Friday 9 th January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Saturday 10 th January	Open Morning for new parents and families due to start nursery in September 2026. The nursery will be open from 11am - 1pm Everyone Welcome!!
Monday 19 th January	Cool 4 School individual child photographs and class photographs will be taken.

Wednesday 21 st Jan	Closing date for online applications for Nursery and Primary school
Friday 30 th January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills

February	
Monday 2 nd February	1 st Shared Education trip to Holy Rosary Nursery School (Room 1 travel to HRNS) Room 2 host 2 nd class from Holy Rosary Nursery School
Wednesday 4 th February	2 nd Shared Education trip to Holy Rosary Nursery School (Room 2 travel to HRNS) Room 1 host 1 st class from Holy Rosary Nursery School
Thursday 5 th February	Last day before half term - School closes at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's class 11.20am Mrs Ross' Class
Friday 6 th February	School Development Day - Children do not attend school
Monday 16 th Feb	School Reopens for children - Normal time

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.

Knock Knock

Knock Knock knock at the door
Knock Knock is anyone there
Knock knock knock at the door
We need a place to stay
(Repeat Chorus)

3 rooms left, all the other rooms are full
3 rooms left, sorry that is all.
3 rooms left, all the other rooms are full,
3 rooms left, sorry that is all.

Chorus
2 rooms left.....
Chorus
1 room left.....

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?

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

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

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!)

