



Castlereagh Nursery School  
'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'



January 2026

## 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 2026 will go live on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. If you have any friends or relatives with children born between 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, please let them know that the closing date for applications to nursery school is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### **Primary School Applications**

The same online application process is open for children who are due to start P1 in September 2026. Closing date is again Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Please note that all verifying documents for ALL PREFERENCES must be uploaded to the portal by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**All applications will now be made online via the website**

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

### **Observations**

By now almost all 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 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. We will be beginning our 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle at the beginning of February.

## 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**



### Mrs Jones Return from Maternity

We are very thankful for the amazing job Mrs Ross has done with the children in Room 2 when Mrs Jones has been off on maternity leave. We will really miss her. Mrs Jones will be returning for the hand over on the last day of this half term Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. This will be Mrs Ross' last day.



## 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*

### 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 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!*

### Five little mice skating on the ice

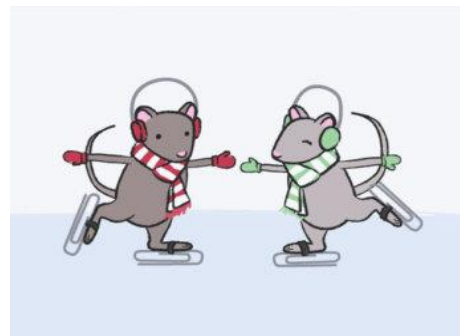
*Five little mice skating on the ice,  
Polly-wolly woodle all the day,  
The ice grew thin and one fell in,  
Polly-wolly woodle all the day.*

*Four little mice ....., etc.*

*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!*



## Confirmed Dates for your Diary

January	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>School re-opens for children - Normal Time</b>
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> January	EANI admissions portal opens for Nursery and P1 applications
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> 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 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Please bring something in the shape of a circle
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Cool 4 School individual child photographs and class photographs will be taken.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Please bring something in the shape of a triangle
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Closing date for online applications for Nursery and Primary school
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Please bring something in the shape of a square
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Sonal Sports - Coach Paul teaching physical ball skills

February	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> Shared Education trip to Holy Rosary Nursery School (Room 1 travel to HRNS) Room 2 host 2 <sup>nd</sup> class from Holy Rosary Nursery School
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Please bring something in the shape of a rectangle
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shared Education trip to Holy Rosary Nursery School (Room 2 travel to HRNS) Room 1 host 1 <sup>st</sup> class from Holy Rosary Nursery School

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day before half term - Children can wear something red or pink (non-uniform day) <b>School closes at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's class</b> <b>11.20am Mrs Ross' Class</b>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	School Development Day - Children do not attend school
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School Reopens for children - Normal time
<b>March</b>	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	The Gathering Drum Workshop
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Sonal Sports Physical skills
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Make a Sound - Music and Movement
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Day - School will close at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's Class 11.20am - Mrs Jones' Class
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shared Education Visit Room 1 travelling to Holy Rosary Nursery School
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shared Education Visit Room 2 travelling to Holy Rosary Nursery School
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Make a Sound - Sensory Story
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr Hullabaloo Easter Show - Interactive theatre
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Egg Hunt <b>Mrs Morrow's class 11am - 11.10am</b> <b>Mrs Jones' Class 11.20- 11.30am</b> Last day before Easter Holidays

**Thank you for your continued support**