



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 7th January. If you have any friends or relatives with children born between 2nd July 2022 and 1st July 2023, please let them know that the closing date for applications to nursery school is Wednesday 21st 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 26th 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 21st January. Please note that all verifying documents for ALL PREFERENCES must be uploaded to the portal by Monday 26th 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 2nd 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

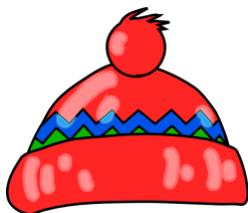
Jack Frost is out and about but it is still important for us to go outside everyday. Please ensure your child comes to nursery with a warm NAMED coat and a hat. In each room we have 26 children to get ready for outdoor play. Try and encourage your child to put on and take off their own coat and hat independently. 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 5th 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!*

Four little snowmen ..., etc

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.

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 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 12 th Jan | Please bring something in the shape of a circle |
| Monday 19 th January | Cool 4 School individual child photographs and class photographs will be taken. |
| Monday 19 th Jan | Please bring something in the shape of a triangle |
| Wednesday 21 st Jan | Closing date for online applications for Nursery and Primary school |
| Monday 26 th January | Please bring something in the shape of a square |
| 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 |
| Monday 2 nd February | Please bring something in the shape of a rectangle |
| 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 |

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 5 th February | Last day before half term - Children can wear something red or pink (non-uniform day) 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 |
| March | |
| Thursday 5 th March | The Gathering Drum Workshop |
| Friday 6 th March | Sonal Sports Physical skills |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Make a Sound - Music and Movement |
| Tuesday 17 th March | St Patrick's Day - School will close at 11.10am - Mrs Morrow's Class 11.20am - Mrs Jones' Class |
| Thursday 19 th March | 2 nd Shared Education Visit Room 1 travelling to Holy Rosary Nursery School |
| Friday 20 th March | 2 nd Shared Education Visit Room 2 travelling to Holy Rosary Nursery School |
| Monday 23 rd March | Make a Sound - Sensory Story |
| Thursday 26 th March | Mr Hullabaloo Easter Show - Interactive theatre |
| Tuesday 31 st March | Easter Egg Hunt Mrs Morrow's class 11am - 11.10am Mrs Jones' Class 11.20- 11.30am Last day before Easter Holidays |

Thank you for your continued support