



Newsletter

June 2020

Dear Parents and Children

While it has been good to keep in touch through our Tapestry App with you, we are so disappointed that we are unable to carry out the majority of our planned activities with you.

Please be assured of our continued support of you and your children. We firmly believe that teaching is a “relationship-based profession” and we will continue to keep in touch until the end of the summer term, (25th June 2020) via our Tapestry app, our school web-site www.ballymenanursery.co.uk and our school e-mail info@ballymenans.ballymena.ni.sch.uk

Please find below some points which we had planned to include in our normal newsletter. These should help and inform you and assist you in motivating your children to engage in what would have been the planned focus for learning for this month. Our June song-sheet is also available for download from the web-site.

- **Continuation of preparation for transition to Primary 1, another classroom or pre-school setting.**
- **Care in the Sun**
- **Father’s Day**
- **Pirate Day**
- **Raising butterflies from live caterpillars (www.insectlore.co.uk)**
- **Visit to Nursery from Kidz Farm**
- **Media Initiative – completing our family of persona puppets.**

We had planned to introduce Bukola to Tom, Jim, Jenny, Kim, Lucy and Kathleen (early-years.org/respecting-difference) Bukola moved with his family to the countryside from Nigeria and Lucy, his new friend, sat beside him on the school bus which helped Bukola grow in confidence and settle at this new school. (n.b. you can view all of the Media Initiative videos on the Early Years Youtube channel).

Many primary schools continue using the media puppets with Key Stage 1 pupils which helps to support the children with transition when they enter their new classroom and see the familiar puppets there.

- **Family Fun Activity Day** – we are unable to join together in Nursery School for this fun day but Mrs. McMullan is working on a virtual, home Fun Activity Day. More information will be posted on Friday, 12th June on Tapestry.
- **Collection of children’s items/returning Nursery items** - when it is safe to visit Nursery School, please do call and collect any belongings which were left in Nursery prior to lockdown – asthma inhalers; change of clothes; wellington boots; photographs from Nursery wall displays. We would also ask you to return any library books or Maths in a Bag and would also be grateful for any donations of surplus Nursery sweat-shirts.
- **Tapestry Photos** - From 1st June, your Tapestry photos from September to the end of March, will be added to the children’s online journals. You will receive an email on how to download and keep them. This will come from Tapestry and has A LIMITED PERIOD OF ONLY THREE WEEKS. It is advisable to download your photos to a laptop or desktop computer as you can then “extract all” from the file and save all individual photos to your hard drive before choosing individual photos to print for yourself at home or stick on a pen drive and print at most pharmacies. If you have already saved your photos, thank you so much. Please remind your nursery friends and families to do the same. If you have any difficulty saving your photos, please contact Mrs McMullan directly with the email provided below **BEFORE 13th JUNE!**
AFTER 20th JUNE THESE PHOTOS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD
TAPESTRY ACCOUNTS WILL CLOSE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH
 smcmullan206@c2kni.net"
- **Returning to school** - All teachers are currently engaged in preparing for recovery from pandemic (Covid19) by working from guidance from the Education Authority (EA), Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI) and school, students’ and teachers’ network on a “Recovery Curriculum” (www.ssatuk.co.uk)

We will be in contact by e-mail with parents of children who are returning to us next year, as soon as a phased return is finalised by the EA, DENI and the Board of Governors.

- [End of year reports](#) – In line with the announcement and guidelines from the Minister for Education regarding “temporary modification” of pupil reporting regulations for Northern Ireland, there will be no end of year or transition reports.

Can I, on behalf of all the staff and members of the Board of Governors of Ballymena Nursery School, send best wishes to you, your children and extended family circles and wish you all continued good health, protection and safety.

Regards.

Mrs. J. Coulter

Principal