

# BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



Welcome back to Nursery after our extended half-term break. Please read this newsletter carefully as it contains some important information and dates. Please continue to keep up to date by checking your Tapestry account and viewing the school web-site regularly [www.ballymenanursery.co.uk](http://www.ballymenanursery.co.uk).

### PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We miss our face to face contact with you and we apologise that due to Covid-19 restrictions and our compliance with the Department for Education directive, we had no alternative but to postpone our telephone parental consultations. We will make every effort to contact those parents who had requested telephone consultations over the course of the next few days/weeks.

### PARENTING N.I CELEBRATING PARENTING IN CHALLENGING TIMES.

While we are focusing on the Recovery Curriculum for the children, we are fully mindful of the wonderful job, you the parents are doing in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions. Information and support from [parentingni.org](http://parentingni.org) [www.mindingyourhead](http://www.mindingyourhead)

Take 5, "Give Be active ConnectKeep Learning Take Notice."

### CHRISTMAS FIRE -SIDE QUIZ

One of our grandparents has kindly prepared a Christmas Fireside Quiz, to be distributed to each child to help raise Nursery School funds. As you can appreciate, we have been required to purchase additional cleaning materials and two fogging machines , costing £1,000. We are using £15 per week (on average) on cleaning materials and have employed two temporary additional assistants to help with the supervision of hand washing, cleaning and help with the children. We would encourage each family to try and sell 10 fireside quizzes (or more) among family and friends to help recover these additional costs. ***"Together we can get through this."***

### OUTDOOR PLAY AND SELF HELP SKILLS

Responding to Covid-19 guidelines which require the children to remain in their class bubbles, we have been introducing outdoor play in a cyclical pattern. We are teaching the children the routine of putting on/taking off coats/welly boots as well as the safety rules of the garden, e.g.

- "feet first" down the slide; always look in the direction they are running in and coming into the welly boot store when they hear their teacher's musical instrument.

As the weather gets colder, the children will need warmer coats for outdoor play. Winter hats which tie under the child's chin and scarves are **not** allowed in the nursery playground for health and safety reasons. Please ensure that all clothing is named.

### SCHOOL FUND MONEY

For those who have opted to pay monthly, £20 is now due for November. We are a non-profit nursery school and the school fund money is used entirely for your children i.e. birthday/Christmas presents, photographs, baking/playdough ingredients, healthy snack, fruit, vegetables, pumpkins etc. as well as contributing to the day to day running cost of the Nursery. Please pay promptly and pay directly by bank transfer if possible.

### LOST, FOUND & RECLAIM.

A number of school sweatshirts have gone missing as well as a boys "dinosaur" coat. Please check you have not accidentally taken another child's item of clothing. Please ensure all items are clearly named.

### FURTHER UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need, and World Kindness Day.**

This is a non uniform day when the children can wear their casual clothes or anything "Spotty"..... Please do not go to any additional expense. You can be creative and cut out dots from coloured paper! The

children will help us decorate their individual buns and biscuits for our Teddy Bears' picnic and the staff will prepare sandwiches for the children.

Nursery staff will check with parents who have indicated their children have special dietary requirements. We would suggest a parental contribution of £1 for Children in Need.

### **Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November - School Photographer**

-Individual school photographs will be taken. Class photographs will be taken, later in the school year.

### ADVANCE NOTICE.

Nursery will be closed on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December for a School Development Day for planned staff training.

### LEARNING POTENTIAL & FOCUS OF INTEREST FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Our focus will continue with Autumn, Nursery rhymes, Children in Need, bears, frozen lands, winter and Christmas. Don't forget to download our November and December song and rhyme sheet to sing along with your child at home!

### CHILD PROTECTION & TEXTING SERVICE.

Please remember to inform us **immediately** of any change of mobile telephone numbers or amendments to the list of adults who can collect your child.

### TAPESTRY

If you are experiencing any difficulties with the Tapestry app, please e-mail Mrs. McMullan, our ICT co-ordinator - smcmullan206@c2kni.net.

AREAS OF LEARNING AND CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT

Please copy and paste the following link:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/helping-children-cope-change> to view "Helping Children Cope with

Change", which explores the challenges of children's behaviour and coping mechanisms for parents and carers. This is part of the excellent free and downloadable "Learning Together" series, which is well worth a visit.

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[www.ballymenanursery.co.uk](http://www.ballymenanursery.co.uk)