

BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



It's December already and Christmas is coming, with the children full of excitement helping to decorate their classroom Christmas trees and looking forward to taking part in their nursery nativities. Please read the newsletter carefully as it contains some important dates.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Thank you for your support, understanding and patience with our 'new normal' in nursery school. Please continue to adhere to the one-way systems for entering and exiting school for the safety of our whole nursery community.

Please remember that only parents of children in Mrs. McGall's classes should use the gate coming in from the leisure centre car-park and parents of children in Mrs Coulter's and Mrs. Mc Mullan's classes should use the Trostan Avenue gate.
Thank you.

Thank you to those parents who supported our fund-raising Fire side Quiz.

While we had a disappointing number of returns (less than 50%), we raised the sum of £588.

The winner of the 1st prize of a limited edition Nursery bear is

-[Lucy Magee](#)

2nd prize - £10 - [Hannah Woods](#)

3rd Prize - £5 - [Marek Szymanik](#)

4th prize - box of sweets -

[Karen Farrell](#)

Fundraising is essential and gives us the opportunity to boost our funds, allowing us to buy more resources and offer more opportunities for your children.

The sale of poppies/bracelets and stationery for the Royal British Legion raised £135.20 and your donations towards Children in Need amounted to £172.50. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY/SING-ALONG

It is with great regret that due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to invite you to join us in Nursery School to watch the children's Christmas performances, however a recording will be made which will then be sent out to you via our Tapestry app before the end of term. Please note that these recordings are for your eyes only and **MUST NOT** be shared on any social media.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

- **Friday, 11th December.**

We would encourage children to wear their Christmas jumpers for this special day. Please do not go to any additional expense - simply add some festive decorations to your child's own jumper. A £1 donation from parents will go towards Save the Children Fund and NSPCC

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Parents have often requested class lists to help them write personalised Christmas cards to their child's friends. We would suggest and encourage you however, to either write or make **ONE** card with your child for all of their friends, to be displayed on our Christmas card display boards.

ENROLMENT 2021

The digital application process for admission to both Nursery and Primary school for September 2021 opens at 12 noon on **Thursday 7th January** and closes at 12 noon on **Friday, 29th January 2021.**

Please note that children in their penultimate year who are currently enrolled here and plan to return to Ballymena Nursery School for their pre-school year will need to re-apply.

Parents of current nursery children should now be considering their choice of primary school. A number of local schools are having on-line Open Days - details of some of these are on Tapestry.

GETTING READY TO LEARN & SHARING FROM THE START

We are looking forward to 'Sharing from the Start' virtual activities with the children from Castle Tower Nursery Unit and First Steps Playgroup in the New Year. Details of dates and photographs of our Sharing from the Start activities will be regularly updated on our nursery website

www.ballymenanursery.co.uk.

Please sign and return the consent permission form for your child to take part in Sharing from the Start activities.

Getting Ready to Learn

Initiative:-

We are organising home packs for you to get involved, keep and enjoy at home to develop our Getting Ready to Learn themes.

www.gettingreadytolearn.co.uk.

These packs will act as a substitute for our lending library, 'Big Bedtime Read' and parent meetings due to Covid-19 restrictions.

"Get Involved because Education Works" nidirect.gov.uk/education-works

Scissor skills.

If you wish to borrow safety scissors, spring loaded scissors or left-handed scissors, please contact the school office.

TAPESTRY

If you need help or advice, please e-mail Mrs. McMullan, our ICT co-ordinator.

smcmullan206@c2kni.net

PARKING MATTERS

Please refrain from using the disabled car parking spaces, (unless you are entitled to do so), or the spaces designated for staff use only.

SCHOOL FUND MONEY

For those who have opted to pay monthly, £20 is now due for December.

School fund money should be paid promptly on the first school day of each month.

Once again, can I encourage parents, if possible, to pay this by direct bank transfer, to minimise cash handling. Unfortunately, there remains a small number of parents who are in arrears. We believe you would all agree that Nursery is well worth £1 per day!

LEARNING FOCUS FOR THIS MONTH

This month's focus of interest is WINTER, CHRISTMAS, and THE NATIVITY.

AREAS OF LEARNING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Please copy and paste the following link: <https://www.early-education.org.uk/going-out-play-and-learn>

This is part of the excellent free and downloadable "Learning Together" series, which is well worth a visit.

SNOW CLOSURES

In the event of the school having to close due to adverse weather conditions, the information will be posted, where possible, on the BBC's Digital Text Service and on BBC News Ni website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsni>.

We will also use our school texting service to keep you updated.

Please ensure that you notify us of any change to your designated telephone number

School Development Day Closure;

Please remember Nursery will be closed on Friday 4th December for staff training.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

School finishes for afternoon classes on **Thursday, 17th December** and for morning classes on **Friday, 18th December**
School will re-open for all children on **Monday 4th January, 2021.**

On behalf of all the staff, may we wish you all a safe, and fun filled family time at Christmas and a Happy New Year.

