

BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year to everyone and we trust you all enjoyed a peaceful and healthy Christmas holiday. Thank you very much for the lovely cards and gifts which the staff received at Christmas. We're ready to start our second term, with the children keen to get back to their school routine and see their friends again.

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

We tried to provide the children with a Christmas experience in Nursery, which was as traditional as possible, while still complying with Covid restrictions and guidelines. We would encourage all parents to send a photo of their child at Christmas **via Tapestry** - perhaps with a favourite gift.

Hopefully this will make the "show and tell" language experience a more relaxed and enjoyable time as the children recall their memories of Christmas.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Many thanks for your contributions to our Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £181 for Save the Children Fund and NSPCC.

ECO NEWS

Our thanks to Mrs. McMullan who works enthusiastically and tirelessly with the children and staff, as together we strive to maintain our ECO Award Status. Please continue to support our ECO work by re-cycling paper, plastic and cardboard.

GETTING READY TO LEARN (GRTL)

The Education Authority has invited Nurseries to take part in 4 Government initiatives - "Big Bed-time Read", "Education Works", "Healthy, Happy Children" and "Ages and Stages". These initiatives give exciting opportunities for parents to learn more about their child's pre-school development and how they can support their child's learning. GRTL information and home learning packs will be distributed to each child.

ENROLMENT 2020

The Education Authority on-line application process for admission to Nursery School and Primary School will open on Thursday 7th January at 12 noon. Please ensure that you submit your applications "punctually". Applications received after noon on Friday, 29th January will be viewed as LATE and may affect your choice of school. All applications are considered at the end of this period and the criteria will be applied. Please note that it is not a "first come, first served" system. Children who have another year at Nursery school are still required to re-apply through the on-line process.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES/CHILD PROTECTION

Please ensure that these sites feature only your own individual children and not photographs of other children engaged in Nursery School activities i.e. birthdays or nativity. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

CONTACT DETAILS NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

Please remember to inform the school of any new mobile contact numbers or change of address, so that we can update our records. If your child is unable to come to Nursery for any reason, please telephone the office to notify your

child's teacher and explain the reason for his/her absence. It is essential that we know this information particularly for track and trace purposes.

WINTER TIME (feeding the birds)

Please ensure the children bring warm coats and hats to school for outdoor play. **Scarves are not permitted and hats which require fastening under your child's chin will not be fastened in Nursery, to avoid choking hazards.** We hope to continue to feed the birds in the winter months; the children enjoy this activity and they may bring bird seed, bread, dried fruit or apples. NO NUTS please because of potential allergies.

SCHOOL FUND MONEY

Monthly school fund (£20) is now due. For those parents who opted to pay each term in advance, the amount now due is £60 (Jan-March).

We would once again urge parents to transfer the money directly into the school bank account, if possible, to minimise cash handling. (Bank details available upon request) A small number of parents are falling behind with payments. Please pay on the first school day of each month to avoid embarrassment. Remember that this money is used for the benefit of all the children - for daily

healthy snack, birthday and Christmas presents, baking ingredients and for replenishing lost/broken toys.

CAR PARKING

Thank you for respecting the staff and disabled car parking spaces. Please remember there is no parking permitted on the double yellow lines on Trostan Avenue.

FOCUS FOR LEARNING THIS MONTH

This month's focus of interest is WINTER, SNOW, ICE, HOT and COLD FEEDING THE BIRDS, CARING FOR PETS,

AREAS OF LEARNING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Please copy and paste the following link:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/road-reading> to view "The Road to Reading",.

This leaflet explores the developmental stages that children go through to become competent and enthusiastic readers and is part of the excellent free and downloadable "Learning Together" series, which is well worth a visit.

QUESTIONNAIRE/ PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

It is unfortunate that we have limited face to face contact with parents but we value your comments and suggestions. A paper questionnaire will be distributed within the next few days. Please return completed questionnaires to nursery a.s.a.p.

SHARING FROM THE START

Sharing from the start activities will be commencing shortly, but to date, only a few parents have returned their parental consent forms. If you have lost your form, please download a copy from the school web-site, complete and return A.S.A.P.



HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Advance notice that school will be closed for half-term on Monday Thursday 18th and Friday, 19th February.