

# BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL



## MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

It is hard to believe that we are in the month of May and still accommodating Covid restrictions. Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation. As a dedicated staff, we are committed to providing the best pre-school experiences for your children, with increasing emphasis in May and June, on preparing your children for their transition to 'Big School', P1, their new nursery class or to another pre-school setting.

### **Eco-Schools/ Re-cycling and Cash for Clothes/Fund-raising**

There will be an opportunity for you, your extended families and friends to help support our Nursery school by collecting unwanted, used, children's and adults' clothes/bedding/curtains/ toys/ prams/ bicycles, for school funds. We will receive 50p per kilo. Please place in plastic bags and leave in the pram shed at the front door of Nursery school.

Please ensure that you bring filled bags on/before: **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May (afternoon classes)**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May (morning classes)**

### **SAFETY IN THE SUN!**

We are looking forward to some warm summer days ahead with lots of fun outdoors in the playground and nursery gardens. We actively promote care in the sun and a copy of our Care in the Sun Policy is included. There are a few Ballymena Nursery School 'legionnaire style' sun hats available for sale for £5. Your child can wear their own sun hat (**please ensure hat is clearly labelled with child's name.**)

**Name labels are available from [www.MyNametags.com](http://www.MyNametags.com) Please use our ID 976 when ordering and Nursery will receive commission on each purchase.**

The children will enjoy meeting ***Percy Pig and Dora Duck*** (friendly puppets) from the Health Promotion Agency to help reinforce sun safety in a fun, play-based way.

### SCHOOL TEXTING/TAPESTRY

As you are aware, we regularly use our school texting and tapestry services to communicate important messages and reminders to parents. It is absolutely essential that you **keep us aware of any change to your number or if you wish us to use an alternative number.**

Please do not attempt to reply to any text messages - if you have any queries please telephone the school office. 028 25 652011.

If you change your e-mail address or need your tapestry account re-activated, please e-mail Mrs. McMullan our school ICT co-ordinator - [smcmullan206@ballymenans.ballymena.ni.sch.uk](mailto:smcmullan206@ballymenans.ballymena.ni.sch.uk)

### DISABLED PARKING SPACES

Thank you for respecting the car-parking facilities reserved for genuine users of disabled parking spaces. Please do not park in the spaces reserved for Nursery School staff or in the yellow box, which must be kept clear for emergency vehicles -or park on the double yellow lines at the roundabout on Trostan Avenue.

### WANTED!!!

Please continue to provide any of the following items :- any old wellington boots (both children's and adult sizes) for our planting;

old glasses, mobile telephones, keys, Barbie and Ken dolls' clothes and used outgrown school uniforms for our treasure chest of spare clothes.

### SCHOOL FUND MONEY

Many thanks to those parents who regularly and promptly pay the £20 monthly school fund money on the **first school day of each new month.** However, there remain a few parents who are in arrears. We are a non-profit nursery school and with additional Covid expenses and further cuts to our school budget, we rely heavily on this nursery fund money to purchase additional PPE, cleaning materials, birthday gifts, Christmas presents, Easter eggs, baking ingredients, printing photographs etc., **We would ask that all current and outstanding school fund money be paid on the first school day of each month.**

**Unfortunately in the past, a number of parents did not make the final payment for June, so we would ask, if possible, that May and June be paid together, in order to avoid any embarrassment to either parents or staff.**

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARY and SCHOOL  
CLOSURES**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** - Nursery closed- May Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May** - Nursery closed for Staff training

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May** - Nursery closed- May bank Holiday

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** - Copy of children's transition forms given to parents

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - Signed transition reports to be returned to nursery school.

**FOCUS OF INTEREST AND  
LEARNING FOR THIS MONTH**

We are continuing our focus of interest in medieval life and castles with our historical link with the former Ballymena Castle. Our Nursery was built and opened on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 1967, on the grounds of the former Ballymena Castle site. We will continue to develop our learning about mini-beasts with the planned release of our butterflies. We will also focus on care in the sun, and preparation for transition to a new nursery classroom/new pre-school setting or Primary 1.



# BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL

## POLICY FOR SUN SAFETY

### Nursery Principles

In Ballymena Nursery, the staff are aware of the need to ensure that the children are safe in the outdoor environment. This includes paying attention to safety in the sun. We aim to raise awareness of the need for sun protection and to encourage parents and children to adopt responsible behaviours while in the sun.

### Guiding Principles

This policy has been written, using information received from the Regional Care in the Sun Group for N. Ireland. It is widely recognised that young children have very sun-sensitive skin and that prolonged exposure and sunburn in childhood can result in damage that cannot be repaired.

### Statement of Intent

The nursery team will educate children and inform parents of the ill effects of over exposure to the sun and of preventative action that can be taken to avoid sun burn, so that children and staff may use the outdoor area safely and effectively.

### Procedures

- In the third term, teachers will plan to teach the children, through the use of Percy the Pig and Dora the Duck puppets and stories. They will learn about the ill-effects of excessive exposure to the sun and about ways of keeping safe and healthy in the sun.
- Parents will receive information in the newsletter and on notice boards, concerning safety in the sun and what they can do to protect their children.

- Staff will place toys in the shade when possible and create shaded areas with portable sun umbrellas/pop-up play tents etc.
- All children will be encouraged to wear a sun-hat.
- Parents will be asked to apply sun cream (factor 30+) to their children's skin **before** bringing them to nursery.

Parents will be encouraged to dress their children in clothing which will give the greatest protection against sun exposure. The nursery uniform will allow for adequate protection (high collar t-shirt, jogging bottoms or sun dress, sweatshirt or cardigan to cover arms).

- All staff will be encouraged to wear suitable clothing which will protect against sun exposure and a sun hat in order to set an example to the children.
- If a child does not have a sun hat or if sun cream has not been applied by parents, they will be encouraged to take breaks from the sun by playing in the designated indoor room for short periods.
- Drinking water will be available at all times, both indoors and outdoors.