

BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2021 - NEWSLETTER



We are delighted that the children are adjusting and settling into "the new normal" Nursery School one-way system and are becoming familiar with the daily routines.

Thank you for your patience and support during the vital settling in phase of nursery school.

Please continue to wear your face covering, follow our one way system, social distance and support our Covid mitigation efforts.

A free guide to settling young children into pre-school settings is available to download from Early Years - the organisation for young children. <http://www.early-years.org/parents>. Free parental membership is also available. Please read this newsletter carefully as it contains some important information and dates for your diary. Please continue to check our nursery website and your Tapestry posts regularly to keep up to date with the busy life of our nursery school.

EDUCATION MATTERS/SHARING FROM THE START/MEDIA INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN.

You may be aware of the initiatives endorsed by the Department of Education - "Education Matters".

www.nidirect.gov.uk/education-works. Peace IV initiative Sharing From the Start,

www.sharingfromthestart.org. and "Together in the park" respecting differences

www.earlyyears.org/bookstore/respectingdifference. We will be

implementing these programmes throughout the nursery year to support our pre-school and recovery curriculum. The format for the delivery of these programmes will be a "work in progress" during Covid restrictions, as we as a staff team develop alternative approaches, other than face to face contact with our friends from Castle Tower Nursery Unit and First Steps community Playgroup.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We missed being able to speak with you face to face during our parent induction sessions but trust you have all accessed the presentation posted on Tapestry on 28th September.

Thank you Mrs Mc Mullan for your ICT skills and presentation.

SELF-HELP SKILLS - HOW YOU CAN HELP support your child!

The children have shown great resilience by walking independently into school and they are learning to hang up their own coat. Please send an outdoor coat with your child and name all of their personal belongings. Please teach your child how to find the hood of their coat, and then the sleeves or arms of their coats.

We practice..... "Find your hood/ find your arms."

You can order name labels on-line on www.MyName tags.com quoting our nursery school identification 976. The nursery will receive 5% commission.

Please also practice putting on, and taking off shoes at home, in preparation for your child changing into their wellington boots when we introduce outdoor play. **Please provide Velcro fastening shoes** for your child because they will be unable to fasten laces or buckles. Your child will not appreciate being the last out to play if they are struggling with laces or buckles. With 26 children in each class, staff

will not be able to fasten laces or buckles of 52 sets of shoes or boots. Please make sure your child has a pair of welly boots in school with their name clearly marked on each boot.

Remember:- *The more you do for your pre-school child, the more your child will learn a sense of helplessness and learn to continue to rely on adult support.*

Self-help skills and self-esteem are intertwined and important life skills which support the development of physical skills and healthy, happy kids in line with our Education Works themes.

Please encourage your child to try self-help skills, support and congratulate them on their efforts.

Our self help song:-

"We always have to try, we always have to try. We're getting much bigger now, we always have to try!" (Tune:- The farmer wants a wife).

SCHOOL FUND MONEY

For those parents who have opted to pay monthly, £20 is now due for October. If possible, direct bank transfer is the preferred option to minimise handling of money. Bank details are available on request. **Please ensure that payment is made on the first school day of each month.** (Paper £10 notes are no longer legal tender so if paying, by cash, please do not use these.)

School fund money goes towards your child's healthy break, Christmas and birthday presents, playdough ingredients, etc. Please note that we follow DENI nutritional standards for healthy breaks - www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/early_years_standards

and Public Health Agency - www.publichealth.hscni.net

"Healthy breaks for pre-school children" and "Getting a good start healthy eating from one to five".

PARKING MATTERS

We have been strongly advised by the traffic wardens to inform parents that they should not park on the double yellow lines outside Nursery school on Trostan Avenue . Please use the Leisure Centre carpark, but please do not use the disabled spaces unless you are entitled to do so and please leave the staff car-parking spaces and yellow emergency access box clear. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

PARENT-TEACHER

CONSULTATIONS/ Settling in report

Nursery school will close on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th October for Parental consultations.

You will receive a ten minute appointment time from your class teacher. If you wish to avail of this opportunity to meet with your teacher, please wear a face covering and wait in your car or in the "welly

boot store" until your appointment time. Please do not bring your child or any other siblings along with you because your teacher will not discuss your child's progress with you if your child/children are present.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

School will be closed for Half-Term on Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th October.

School recommences Monday 1st November.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Any photographs of your child displayed in school for display purposes will be given to you throughout the year - happy memories.

ECO SCHOOLS AWARD

We are proud of our school's Green Flag Award. We would appreciate if parents and children would continue to pick up any litter you see around the school grounds and place in the bins provided.

FUND-RAISING/ Cash for Clothes

We plan to have a collection of clean old, unwanted clothes, hand bags, shoes, boots, belts etc to raise funds for school. We would encourage you to try and support this fund-raising effort.

Please bring your bags of unwanted clothes at the following times:
P.M. classes -Thursday 7th October
A.M. classes - Friday 8th October.

LEARNING FOCUS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MONTH

This month's focus of interest is AUTUMN, HARVEST and HIBERNATION. Our Nursery song sheet for September and October is on our nursery web-site.

TAPESTRY

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

AREAS OF LEARNING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

There are six areas of learning in the pre-school curricular guidance for N. Ireland Nursery curriculum. <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/curricular-guidance-pre-school-education>.

An excellent series of free downloadable leaflets ("Learning Together" series) is accessible at www.early-education.org.uk . This is a wonderful resource and it is well worth taking the time to visit this website. Topics covered include

"Helping Children with their Behaviour"; "Helping children cope with change"; "Going out to play and learn"; "Young children and technology" etc.

Other useful information if you have any concerns relating to your child's personal or social development, toileting or bedtime routines, can be found (www.publichealth.hscni.net)

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.ballymenanursery.co.uk

Please remember that in order to support our Eco-Schools Award, we will no longer be issuing paper copies of our newsletter. **Remember that it is your responsibility to log on to the web-site at the beginning of each new month to read the newsletter, song and rhyme sheet and take note of any important dates and up-coming activities or events.**