

Ballymena Nursery School

May 2022 Newsletter



It's hard to believe we are in the month of May and in the summer term of Nursery School. Thank you for your continued patience and co-operation with our on-going covid mitigation measures of one way systems and classroom bubbles, as we continue to exercise due care and attention with increased cleaning and fogging regimes between morning and afternoon sessions.

Eco School/re-cycling with ID clothing and humanitarian fund raising for Ukraine.

Thank you for supporting our recent fund-raising and eco recycling for humanitarian relief for Ukraine which raised £100; ID clothing matched our fund raising with £100 which brought our monetary gift for Ukraine to £200. Please continue to collect your unwanted items of clothing and bric-a-brac for our next collection for ID clothing planned for June 2022.

Safety in the Sun

We are looking forward to the summer season and would draw your attention to our Care in the Sun policy which is included with this newsletter. Please provide your child with a sunhat and apply sun protection **before** they join us in nursery school. Please put your child's name on his/her sun hat. Name labels are available from www.MyNameTags.com. Please use Ballymena Nursery ID 976 when ordering on line for the nursery school to receive commission on all purchases of name labels.

There are a few legionnaire style Ballymena Nursery hats available for sale in Nursery costing £5.

School Texting / Tapestry Posts

It is absolutely essential that you keep the school informed of any changes to your mobile number or address (school tel. no. - 028 2565 2011) and please speak to Mrs. McMullan, our ICT co-ordinator with any change of e-mail address or queries regarding Tapestry. smcmullan206@ballymenans.ballymena.ni.sch.uk

Our Tapestry home school journal will close on **Friday, 10th June**- Mrs. McMullan will give you guidance shortly on how to download your child's complete nursery year collection of photographs. Please ensure you download your photographs before Tapestry closes. **We have no way of retrieving the photographs after the closing date.**

Nursery School Fund.

For those who pay monthly, £20 for May is now due. For those who opted to pay termly, the amount now due is £40. We would encourage those families who have fallen into arrears of their school fund to speak to their class teachers.

Pre-loved School uniforms:

Due to the increasing cost of living, it is our intention to provide the opportunity for families of children starting in September, to purchase pre-loved school uniforms. If you wish to donate your child's nursery uniforms at the end of the school year, this would be very much appreciated.

Focus of Interest and Learning Potential for May.

- 55th Anniversary of Ballymena Nursery School which opened in May 1967;
- Medieval / historical/ local links with our Nursery and Castle Tower schools being built on the grounds of the former Ballymena Castle;
- NI 100 celebrations; unveiling of NI 100 commemoration stone in Nursery garden (Dates to be confirmed)
- Time capsule (please send in an empty "Pringles" tube for your child to decorate their personal time capsule and fill with memorabilia of their unique year in Nursery School);
- Sowing of carrot, sunflower, "Magic beans", and potatoes. Please save any old wellington boots (children's and adult sizes) for Mrs. McGall, our green fingered keen gardener, to use in the creation of a floral display in the Nursery garden.
- Care in the sun and sun safety; (please read our Care in the Sun Policy with this newsletter);
- Mini beasts; raising butterflies from caterpillars;
- Important transition preparation for Primary 1, new nursery classroom/ or new pre-school setting.
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Important dates for your diary and school closures.

Monday 2nd May - Bank Holiday - Nursery closed

Monday 30th May - commencement of 4 weekly Jo-Jingles music and movement sessions funded through the Education Authority Well-being Fund.

Advance notice:-

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd June - Nursery closed for Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Wednesday 8th June - Transition reports will be issued to parents.

Friday 10th June - transition reports must be signed and returned to Nursery School to enable forwarding on to receiving Primary school/ pre-school setting.



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.

