

BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL - JUNE NEWSLETTER



It's now June and it's hard to believe that this is the final newsletter for this school year. It has been another very challenging year for us all and we thank you for your support, understanding and compliance with Covid mitigation measures, restrictions and staff illnesses. We are thankful that the majority of the children have escaped the virus and enjoyed good health, flourished, and all of the children have gained huge benefits from their time in Nursery School. We are looking forward to lots more learning opportunities through fun-filled activities again this month as we continue to celebrate our 55th anniversary, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, NI 100, Pirates day (water safety) and continue our preparation and support for the children for transition to P1 or their new nursery classroom, or pre-school setting in September '22.

We plan to relax Covid restrictions in June and introduce opportunities for the children from different classes to play together in the playground from Monday 6th June (the first time since Covid restrictions and Education Authority mitigation guidelines were introduced.) We will continue our enhanced cleaning regime and will be fogging the classrooms and resources between morning and afternoon sessions.

We trust this will help to develop cross classroom play, and promote confidence for children who will be changing classrooms and support peer friendships among the children from the two morning and two afternoon classes who will be going to the same primary schools in September 2022. This should also introduce them to larger numbers in the playgrounds from 26 to 52 children.

P1 teachers/ principals from local primary schools will continue to visit Nursery school during the month of June to introduce themselves to the children and our home corners will be transformed from medieval castles to emulate primary school classrooms.

The children will have opportunities to role play, dress up in a range of local primary schools uniforms, pack and carry lunch boxes, fill pencil cases, mark-make using pencils and rulers, problem solve using calculators and there will be a wall display of photographs of their new receiving P1 teachers and classroom assistants. Our full transition policy is available upon request.

School fund/ recycling pre-worn/loved high quality used school uniforms/ wellie boots.

For those who pay monthly, £20 for our School Fund for June is now due .We are fully aware of the many challenges which the increase in the cost of living has raised for everyone and we wish to respond positively and appropriately. We plan to offer our new parents in September 2022 the opportunity to purchase good quality/ pre loved Ballymena Nursery School uniforms and welly boots at a reduced cost. If you wish to donate your child's pre-loved Ballymena Nursery School uniforms or welly boots please speak to your class teacher.

Focus for Learning for June 2022.

- Ballymena Nursery School 55th anniversary;
- NI 100 commemorative stone and time capsule;
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee;
- Care in the sun;
- Water safety/ Pirate theme;
- Transition to new nursery classroom, new pre-school setting, Primary school.

Annual Report to the Board of Governors 2021/22.

The Principal prepares an annual report to the Board of Governors and this will be presented on Tuesday 14th June 2022. A copy can be provided upon request.

Tapestry/ ICT co-ordinator.

Our thanks to Mrs McMullan for her excellent support on Tapestry and role as ICT co-ordinator. **Please download your child's photographic memories of Ballymena Nursery School for 21/22 before 10th June.** Mrs. McMullan will give you specific guidance via Tapestry. Following GDPR guidelines (General Data Protection Regulations) Tapestry will close on Friday 10th June 2022. It is your responsibility to access Tapestry, and please note that after this date, it will be impossible for anyone (staff or parent) to access Tapestry.

SENCO

After much thought and deliberation, Mrs McGall has resigned from her role and responsibility as SENCO, (Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator). Mrs. Coulter will resume the role of SENCO from September 2022. Many thanks to Mrs Mc Gall for her contributions, and commitment to the role of SENCO.

Welly-boot floral displays and on-going ground maintenance and gardening.

Many thanks to Mrs. McGall and Paul Burnside (former parent) and Harry our caretaker, who have collectively worked to maintain our nursery gardens, planting vegetables and filling welly boots to motivate/educate the children in the importance of growing and caring for our environments.

Imminent retirement of "Grandad Harry"

We are sad to report that our much loved "grandad Harry" is due to retire from his position as caretaker of Ballymena Nursery School in August 2022. Harry is a much loved member of staff, colleague and friend and we will miss him dearly. He has always gone above and beyond his duties - he has planted annual flowers, bulbs, filled hanging baskets, gone shopping for Nursery and was always willing to build flat pack deliveries... Saying thank you, seems inadequate..... but - thank you Harry.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: -

Wednesday 1st June, - Queen's Platinum jubilee and Ballymena Nursery School 55th Anniversary Party. Non uniform day.

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd June - Nursery Closed for Queen's Jubilee bank holidays.

Monday 6th June - Jo Jingles fun with music and movement (funded by Well-being fund)

Tuesday 7th June - Non Uniform day/ Pirate dressing up day/ water safety.

Wednesday 8th June, Transition reports will be sent home to parents to read, sign and return to Nursery.

Friday 10th June - transition reports to be returned to Nursery School and Tapestry closes.

Monday 13th June - Jo Jingles music and movement

Thursday 16th June - notification of outcome of Stage 2 applications for Nursery school for September 2022.

Friday 17th June - Eco Schools/ Fund raising cash for clothes/ Bric a brac.
Morning classes should bring their contributions from 8.30 am and afternoon classes from 12.15pm. Darren from ID clothing will be in the car park from 8.30 am and 12.15pm.

Monday 20th June - Jo Jingles

Wednesday 29th June - Last day of school for afternoon classes.
End of year party.

Thursday 30th June - Last day of school for morning classes.
End of year party and last day.

and FINALLY.....

May we take this opportunity to thank you all very much for your support throughout the year. We know that the children have all enjoyed their Nursery School year and we trust you will all look back on your time here with fond memories.

Wishing you all continued good health and a lovely summer break!

Best wishes from Mrs Coulter and all the staff of Ballymena Nursery School.