



# Newsletter



Happy New Year to everyone and we trust most of you enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday. To those of you still battling colds and viruses, get well soon.

If you have received a new mobile telephone in recent days and your mobile telephone number or your work or home contact address has changed, please notify the school office (028 2565 2011), or your class teacher. It is essential that we have the correct information in case of emergencies.

## Focus for learning in January

We will continue to deliver our pre-school nursery curriculum with a focus of interest on seasonal changes of winter, snow, ice, temperature changes of hot and cold, freezing and melting, Polar Lands and animals, feeding the birds and caring for pets (pets are not just for Christmas).

## School Fund Money

January monthly school fund of £20 is now due. Please pay promptly on the first school day of each month and if possible, please pay by direct bank transfer.

If you have opted to pay termly, the amount now due is £60 (January - March).

## 3+ Reviews

Reminder for all parents of pre-school children - appointments should be made to meet with a Health Visitor in Nursery school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please sign up on the sheets on the Parents' Board in the hall or call the school office to book an appointment a.s.a.p. Anyone unable to make these dates will be contacted by their health visitor to arrange a home visit. This appointment allows you to discuss your child's development in preparation for beginning Primary School.

### Memories of Christmas

Starting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, we will be hosting a special Christmas "show and tell" week. Your child's class teacher will send home a timetable via Tapestry so every child will have their allocated time to share their news. By doing this, it is hoped that the children will only need to sit for 10 mins or so each day to see what their friends have enjoyed doing or receiving at Christmas. This will help the teachers engage in meaningful "show and tell" language experiences during small and whole group times.

We encourage you to send a photograph via Tapestry - photographs of their Christmas walk, sharing a Christmas story, or their favourite Christmas gift. Please do not send toys into school, as this can lead to upset among the children, as they naturally want to play with the toys.

Experience has taught us that sharing a photograph is the best approach.

### Women's Aid Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your support of providing Christmas gifts supporting mothers and children through Women's Aid. They were very gratefully received and were used to create a Christmas shop in the refuge, allowing the children to select and wrap a gift for their mum. Please continue to provide any toiletries such as toothpaste, soap, deodorant, or any unwanted Christmas presents to the Women's Aid collection box provided in the entrance hallway. All of the gifts go directly to Women's Aid, to help prepare welcome packs for the mothers and children living in the refuge in Ballymena.

### Our journey towards Integrated Education

As we continue to work with Jessica from Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and Alice from Integrated Education Fund (IEF) with the hope of becoming an Integrated Nursery School by September 2024, we are aware that many of you missed out on opportunities to engage with the team and ask questions. We hope to address this in the near future by having information sessions on the process and where we are on our journey. We will keep you posted on Tapestry of any developments. You can find out more about integrated education on [integratemyschool.com](https://www.integratemyschool.com)

### Open enrolment 2024/25

Information and full details on how to apply, together with the published admissions criteria of pre-school/schools for the school year September 2024 - June 2025 is available on:

[www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions)

Please complete your online applications for Nursery and Primary school between Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to ensure that your application is on time.

### Eco Schools/recycling

Thank you to those of you who have been contributing to our Kicks Count recycling bin in the hallway. The items collected are sent to be sorted and recycled, raising money for this worthwhile baby charity while helping our environment. To find out more, follow the link below:-

### [Recycle for KC Northern Ireland - Facebook](#)

\*\*Please note that the chocolate and sweets wrapper stream of this scheme is no longer running, but these can be recycled with your soft plastics at the local supermarkets.

To those of you looking forward to a New Year's clear out (used clothing, bedding, toys, CD's and DVD's etc) - we hope to have a collection for ID clothing before the end of January. We will keep you posted via Tapestry as soon as we confirm a date with Darren from ID clothing. All proceeds go to school funds.

### Winter time and feeding the birds

Please ensure the children bring warm coats, hats and mittens to Nursery 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 potential choking hazards. Mittens are more manageable for the children to put on and off independently, but if your child can manage gloves with fingers, that is amazing! We encourage the children to feed the birds in Winter, in preparation for our RSPB "Big Garden Bird Watch" at the end of January. The children enjoy this activity and you may send dried fruit, bird seed, bread or apples with your child. No nuts please due to nut allergies.

### Jo Jingles

We look forward to beginning a 6 week block of weekly visits from Gillian and Jo Jingles. Gillian provides very well-prepared and topic-related "music and movement" sessions which everyone enjoys and looks forward to. Our first session will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Why not ask your child about it afterwards?

### Dates for your Diary.

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January:-	Nursery school re-opens after the Christmas break
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January:-	Portal opens for online applications for primary school/nursery school First of 6 weekly visits from Jo Jingles

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January:-

Health Visitor 3+ Review Appointments

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January:-

Health Visitor 3+ Review Appointments

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January:-

Health Visitor 3+ Review Appointments

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January:-

Portal closes for applications for Primary/Nursery school.  
Any applications made after 12 noon on this date will be marked as late.

RSPB Big Bird Watch