

BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to another busy month at Nursery school, with lots of activities and dates for your diary. Please read this newsletter carefully and download a copy to keep for reference as it contains important information and dates for your diary.

FOCUS OF LEARNING

Our focus for learning this month will be mathematic development (through our Maths in a Bag lending programme and sharing games with our friends), World Around Us with Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, People who Help Us.

COLOUR DAY

Our next Colour Day will be on Friday 9th February. As usual, we ask that you don't go to any additional expense for this event but instead encourage you to help your child find the appropriate colours to wear on the day and generally when out and about. Our colours for this month are red and pink. Play will be particularly focused on these colours on Colour Day.

NURSERY FUND

For parents who pay monthly, please note that Nursery fund payments for February 2024 are now due. (£20) Please pay by direct bank transfer, if possible. Cash payments should be placed in an envelope, clearly named and placed in the low level post box at the front door. Payments should be made on the first school day of each month.

AH-TISSUE!

At the beginning of the school year, each family kindly donated a box of tissues and pack of baby wipes. The children have naturally been suffering with a lot of colds and sniffles and our stock of tissues is very low. With several more weeks of winter still ahead of us, we would be very grateful if each family could donate another box of tissues. Your help in this matter would be very much appreciated as always.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our recycling collection in January. We are waiting for our total but are very hopeful that a record-breaking amount will have been raised for nursery funds. I will keep you updated on Tapestry.

3+ REVIEWS

We apologise that the 3+ Reviews scheduled for January needed to be re-scheduled due to adverse weather. Thankfully we have managed to come to an arrangement with the Health Visitors for them to visit nursery on Wednesday 6th, Friday 8th and Tuesday 12th March. Please ONLY sign up for an appointment if your child is in their pre-school year. EVERY pre-school child in this age category must have a review appointment at this stage of their development. Sign up sheets will be on the Parents Notice board from Monday 5th February.

If you cannot find an appointment time to suit you a member of the health visiting team will be in touch with you directly to arrange a home visit.

In addition to the support the health visitors may offer you another useful support for any issues is ParentingNI - a charity which offers online podcasts, parenting programmes and workshops, parent guides, support lines (telephone & web chat) and app-based support which can be accessed anonymously if you would prefer. Please see our Parents noticeboard for further details.

www.parentingni.org or



PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

*For pre-school children only *

We plan to be available for parent-teacher meetings alongside the 3+ Review meetings. It is hoped that this will be more convenient for parents as, for most, only one trip to nursery should be needed to discuss both your child's health and educational developments. We will try to allocate you a time which ties in with your Health Visitor appointment. If your allocated appointment does not suit please speak to your child's class teacher and we will try to arrange a telephone appointment.

Wednesday 6th March - Mrs McKay's AM class appointments throughout the day

Friday 8th March - Mrs McGall's class appointments throughout the day

Monday 11th March - Mrs Kennedy's class appointments throughout the day

* Penultimate children *

Tuesday 12th March - Mrs McKay's class appointments throughout the day

Sign up sheets on the Parents Notice board

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

School will be closed for mid-term break for 3 days:-
Wednesday 14th-Friday 16th February inclusive

INTEGRATED EDUCATION

We have spent a considerable time exploring the prospect of transforming to become a Controlled Integrated Nursery School. Following a positive parental vote last year, we have now formally submitted our Case for Change and Transformation Action Plan to the Education Authority. We have now entered a period of consultation and hope to have a decision made regarding a change of status to a Controlled Integrated Nursery School by the Autumn of this year. If you or any of your friends or neighbours would consider sending your child to an Integrated Nursery School please help strengthen our case by completing a short poll via this link. Thank you so much in anticipation.

<https://forms.office.com/e/VS97UCkRrp>



MATHS IN A BAG

Following on from the success of our weekly Library, which we trust will have helped in your child's language development, we plan to start a maths in a bag lending service after half-term. This scheme will encourage and equip you and your child to explore and develop early maths concepts in a fun way. It will temporarily take the place of our Library service and will run until Easter. During this time we would encourage you to visit your local library and continue to enjoy sharing books with your little one.

If you would like to be involved in the cleaning, checking contents and distribution of these packs please speak to your child's class teacher for further details.

A consent form will be sent home with each child and **MUST** be completed if you want your child to benefit from these packs. Consent Forms should be completed and returned by Friday 9th February.

JO JINGLES

We have thoroughly enjoyed our music and movement sessions with Gillian and Jo and cannot believe that our time together ends on Tuesday 6th February! Thank you Gillian. Please watch out for opportunities to meet up with Gillian again as she hosts free sessions in the Fairhill Shopping Centre throughout the year or by enrolling for classes. Please see Jo Jingles Co. Antrim on Facebook for more information.

COMING UP... WORLD BOOK DAY

Every child will receive a World Book Day token which can be exchanged for books at your local bookshop.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th February - Sign up for 3+ Reviews opens

Wednesday 7th February - Visit from NI Fire and Rescue Service

Friday 9th February - Colour Day (Red/Pink)

Tuesday 13th February - Pancake Day

Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February - Half-term holidays

Monday 19th February - Maths in a Bag Scheme begins

Tuesday 20th February - Visit from Nurse Rachel

Thursday 22nd February - Visit from PSNI

ADVANCE NOTICES

Wednesday 6th March - NO AM class (Mrs McKay) to facilitate 3+ Reviews and Parent-Teacher Meetings

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Children and staff can dress up as a book character and bring a related book to Nursery. (No need to buy a costume - be creative and come up with your own!)

Friday 8th March - NO AM class (Mrs McGall) to facilitate 3+ Reviews and Parent-Teacher Meetings

Monday 11th March - NO PM class (Mrs McKay) to facilitate Parent-Teacher Meetings

Tuesday 12th March - NO PM class (Mrs Kennedy) to facilitate 3+ Reviews and Parent-Teacher Meetings

Friday 15th March - SCHOOL CLOSED to children - School Development Day

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