**Ballymena Nursery School**

April 2024 Newsletter



Welcome back to our final term of Nursery School! Can you believe it? As I wrote on our last newsletter, we are hoping that the weather will improve and we will be able to be outside for lots of play experiences this term. Please make sure your child comes to nursery with a coat every day and is well enough to spend prolonged periods outdoors as we continue to explore our focus of learning.

Please read this newsletter carefully and note the important dates coming up this month.

**Focus of interest for learning in April**

The World Around Us including planting and growth, lifecycles and healthy lifestyles.

**School Fund**

For those who pay £20 school fund money monthly, March fees are now due. Please remember that although these payments are voluntary, they serve to enhance your child’s learning experiences by paying for visitors, treats, play resources etc

If you are in arrears and are struggling to pay these monthly contributions please speak to your child’s teacher who will arrange a suitable repayment plan.

**Maths in a Bag**

We trust you enjoyed our Maths in a Bag programme last half term. It has now ended and we will resume our lending library with topic related books and stories. If you have any outstanding maths bags please return them asap. Thank you.

**Colour Day**

Our next colour day will be on Friday 19th April. 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 colour to wear on the day and generally when out and about. Our colour for this month is yellow. Play will be particularly focused on yellow on colour day.

**Our Journey towards Integrated Education**

The public consultation phase for our Case for Change of status is now complete and we are now waiting for the Department for Education to consider our Development proposal and subsequently make a decision regarding our change of status to become an officially Integrated Nursery School. While we know this will not dramatically change our practice here at Ballymena Nursery School as we consider ourselves to be already very diverse and inclusive, we welcome the opportunity to join the community of Integrated schools in Northern Ireland. We will keep you updated on our progress.

**Getting Ready to Learn**

As you will be aware we have been engaging in the Getting Ready to Learn programme throughout this year at nursery. You were invited to bring your child to nursery for our Big Bedtime Read in the Autumn, we have encouraged your child to keep active through our daily outdoor play and music and movement sessions (Jo Jingles & Energy to Burn) and have introduced The Daily Mile through our Santa Run in December. We have also signposted you to support networks and workshops via Tapestry as we believe that Education Works best when we do it together. Take a look at the attached flyer which will give you ideas of activities to try at home and a bit of an insight into what we will be doing in nursery over the next few weeks.

**[..\Downloads\Spring Activity Ideas for Website.pdf](../Downloads/Spring%20Activity%20Ideas%20for%20Website.pdf)**

**Calling all parents…**

Unfortunately we needed to postpone our planting activities before Easter due to the extremely wet weather. We are hopeful that we will be able to make up for lost time during this month. If you would like to be involved in any of these activities with small groups of children and a member of staff, please speak to your child’s class teacher so we can arrange a suitable time.

If planting is not really your ‘thing’ please be assured that we will also need painters, tidy-uppers and everyone will have the opportunity to sign up to ‘stay and play’ before the end of the month.

**Stay and Play**

Ever wished you could be a fly on the wall at nursery? Well now is your opportunity to stay and play with your child. We welcome you to sign up for a suitable time to join us at nursery for an hour of our session. Sign up sheets on the Parents Notice board. We want to try to accommodate as many of you as possible so please only sign up for ONE slot per family. (Only one adult at a time please) Please be aware that your slot may be during outdoor play so be prepared to be outside - a coat and old shoes/boots are advisable.

\*\*Unfortunately for insurance purposes we cannot allow any siblings to attend during these times (this also makes your child’s time with Mum/Dad at nursery more special).

**Recycling/Eco Schools**

A recycling collection has been arranged for Tuesday 30th April. If you have any old/new clothes or toys that you would like to donate to raise funds for the nursery school, please bring them along on Tuesday 30th April and leave with Darren from I.D. clothing who will be parked up at the school gate from 8.30-9am and 12.15-12.45pm. This has been a great fundraiser in the past and we thank you for your support.

**Dates for your diary:-**

Monday 15th – Wednesday 1st May Stay and Play dates

Friday 19th April Yellow Day

Tuesday 30th April I.D. Clothing Collection

**Advance Notice**

**Nursery will be closed on the dates below**

**Monday 6th May**

**Thursday 23rd May**

**Friday 24th May**

**Monday 27th May**