

# Ballymoney Nursery School January 2024 Newsletter



## Happy New Year

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2024 year. We hope you have all had an enjoyable festive season with your loved ones. All of our staff would like to sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness at Christmas through kind words, cards and gifts. Your kindness was very much appreciated by everyone.

## Learning within the Nursery School

### Christmas

We were very busy last month with our preparations for Christmas. The children enjoyed writing their letters to Santa and then walking to the post office to post them. Our pre schoolers walked to the special post box at the school gates and will get to walk to the Post Office next Christmas when they are in pre school. We were very fortunate Santa received them in time to send his replies along to our Christmas parties! All the children enjoyed their Christmas party, learning the different games that were played, dancing and of course not forgetting the party food! The children worked hard practising their songs for their performances and we hope that everyone who came along enjoyed them. I am sure you are as proud of the children as we are.



We were also very fortunate that the pre school classes visited the Ballymoney Museum's Old Toys exhibition and had the opportunity to take part in lots of Christmas craft activities that had been set up for the children.

### Banyan Theatre

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 all of the classes enjoyed watching a performance of 'The Gingerbread Man' which was performed by Karen from Banyan Theatre.



### Fun with Drums

We look forward to welcoming Fun with Drums to the nursery on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 who will be leading each of the classes in a drumming workshop.

## Nursery-Primary Partnership



We are all striving to prepare our children for the next stage in their educational journey - Primary School. We have been very fortunate that this year, two local Primary Schools have approached us about participating in Stay and Play sessions at their Primary School. All Pre Schoolers will have the opportunity to visit the schools and take part in activities. Whilst this will be most beneficial to the children who are hoping to attend these schools, it will of benefit to all pre schoolers to have the experience of spending time in a Primary School.

**Leaney Primary School** are kindly funding a bus to transport all our pre school children to their school on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

The pre school classes will then visit 'next door' at **Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School** on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

## Parental Partnership

### Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas hampers, sold tickets for our Christmas raffle and to those that bought them. We are still counting the money you helped us raise and will give you the grand total soon. This money will help us buy new items for the children to use within the Nursery School and we will let you know what we have purchased when we have placed the orders.



### Christmas Jumper Day



Thank you to everyone who participated in and kindly donated to the Cancer Fund for Children during our Christmas jumper day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Together, you helped us raise £108.00 for a very worthwhile local charity.

### Eco-Schools

As we continue with our initiative to encourage less waste and more recycling, we would invite you to bring in any used Christmas cards which the children can use for craft activities.



## Important Information

### Parking

Gentle reminder to everyone to be careful when they are approaching and parking out with the school gates. We know it can be busy especially with the Primary School traffic as well. **Please be mindful**

that it is **illegal** to park on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates. Please consider the safety of all our children and others and refrain from parking on the zig zags.

## Pre School Admissions for 2024-25

Application forms for admission to the Nursery School in September 2024 will be available to complete online at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) from **12noon on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. Online forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.



Children born on or between 2 July 2020 and 1 July 2021 are eligible to apply for admission to a funded pre-school place.

Children born on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 are eligible to apply for admission to a penultimate (underage) place. These are allocated if there are still any funded places available after target age (pre-school) children are admitted.

**Please note, that all our current pre pre-school children need to reapply to attend here for their pre-school year.**

## Primary School Admissions for 2024-25

Application forms for admission to Primary School in September 2024 will also be available to complete online at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) from **12 noon on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. Forms must be submitted by **12 noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. There are videos on the EA website which show you how to upload your child's birth certificate.

## Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs

If your child has **received** a Statement of Special Educational Needs then you **do not need to apply** through the online admissions system. Your child's choice of Primary school will be discussed with the Special Education team at your child's annual review which will be taking place on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024** and they are responsible for placing your child in a Primary School for September 2024. I will be in touch with all the parents/carers who will be taking part in these reviews nearer the time to confirm the time of your meeting and whether it will be held in school or via Zoom.

Please note if your child is going through the process of a Statement of Special Educational Needs and **has not** had a final statement issued then you **still need to apply** via the online application.

## Absences

Although Nursery is not compulsory, we ask that you inform us if your child will not be in school. This can be done either by messaging the teacher on Seesaw; telephoning the school or using the school absence section on the school website. The safety of all our children is paramount to us. If a child has not arrived at Nursery and we haven't heard from the parents/carers, we will telephone to check that everything is okay.

## Unwell children



In the event of your child being ill, especially with a vomiting/diarrhoea bug, please do not send him/her to school. The Public Health Agency advises that **48 hours has passed** from the last episode of illness before your child returns to school. In addition, if your child is on an **antibiotic they must not attend school until the course is completed.**

## Child Protection

If you have any concerns about any child in the school please either request to speak with myself, Mrs Muller or write a letter to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Walker c/o Ballymoney Nursery School. If Mrs Muller or myself are unavailable, please speak with Mrs Jarvis (Deputy Designated Officer for Child Protection) or any member of staff who will relay your message on to a member of the safeguarding team.

## School Fund

**School fund** for this term is £40 and is now due. This money is used to purchase the daily snack, purchase resources for the children and pay for treats for the children throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their donation, it is very much appreciated.

## Forthcoming Teacher Strike Action

We have been informed of a full day of teacher strike action on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Therefore, I am informing you that we will closed to all children on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. We are aware of the disruption, which this may cause, but once again we would like to thank you for your understanding, patience and support.



## Forthcoming Dates for your diary



- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - School Development Day - School closed to children**
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 1.00-2.30pm - Open Afternoon for pre school and pre pre school children starting in September 2024**
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - School closed to children due to teacher strike action**

Best wishes

*Mrs Muller*

Mrs Trimmings and all the Ballymoney Nursery School Team