

# Ballykeel Primary School

November – December



## P1 Parents' Newsletter



Dear Parent,

It's hard to believe the first half term is over! The children have settled in well, and are now more secure in the routines of school.

Leading up to Christmas, our theme in P1 will be "A Special Baby". Our Newsletter will outline how you can help out at home with this topic.

Please support your child with their learning as much as possible at home. It really is so important, as it does make a big difference to what they can achieve!

Thank you,

K.Carruthers and K.Henry



# A Special Baby

In our theme, we will be learning about how each of us is special, we have our own talents, comparing items we needed as babies to things we need now, how we have grown up and what we can do now that we couldn't as babies.

Please talk to your child, telling them about what they were like as babies so they can join in with our class discussions! They will love to hear little stories – and so will we!!



We will be thinking about the most special baby the world has ever known – Baby Jesus!

## **Please help!**

**We would appreciate it if you could send in the following items as soon as possible:**

- baby / toddler photographs of your child
- baby clothes
- any baby items / toys they have e.g. rattles, hospital wristbands
- a written explanation of why they were given their name / any special stories about them as babies
- **all of the items MUST be labelled clearly**

# We Love Literacy

The children are so excited... they are getting their very first **reading book**!!

The first few books will have no words. We will tell the children the story in school, and they will have to **re-tell the story at home**, and in school the next day.

Make sure your child can hold the book correctly, turn the pages, and speak clearly – so they can be heard!

Very soon you will meet the characters – mum, dad, Kipper, Chip, Biff and Floppy. There will be simple key words (e.g. and, a, the) in these books. **Please help your child learn these key words.**



Remember:  
reading must be  
practised **every**  
**night!**



## **Jolly Phonics**



### **Jolly Phonics has started!**

We're sure you're wondering what all these strange sounds and actions are at home, but before long you will become as good as your children if you practise together!

We will be learning **3 sounds each week**. Make sure they know each sound in their sounds book, and can write the sound in their handwriting homework book. **Please check over your child's work to ensure each letter is correctly formed.**

Ensure homeworks are completed on time and brought to school everyday. The teachers mark them and return them. Homeworks must be completed with a **writing pencil**.

Very soon we will try to join the sounds together to make words – we call this “**sounding out**” e.g. c-a-t ..... cat! Have a go with this at home, or practise some robot talking e.g. “Where is your school b-a-g?” This will really help your child grasp reading.



## Mad about Maths

We have been learning how to write the numbers 1 – 5. We are doing really well – our teachers are pleased!

Keep practising these at home – we always say that **practice makes perfect!** We teach the children little rhymes to go with each number...

- 1 – start at the top, and down you run, that's the way we make a 1
- 2 – round and back on a railway track, two, two, two
- 3 – around a tree and round a tree, that's the way we make a 3
- 4 – down and over, and down some more, that's the way we make a 4
- 5 – down and around and a flag on high, that's the way we make a 5

## “Have a go” Page

Why not have a go at writing the numbers:

## Dates for the Diary

6th November	Back to School
10th November	Lending Library begins
13th- 17th November	Anti- Bullying week (BLUE day 17th Nov and
Nursery Open day)	
1st December	Tinsel and Treats day
6th December	Nursery Nativity / Open Morning / Christmas
Dinner	
12th /13th December	P1 / P2 Nativity
18th December	P1-P3 Christmas Party
21st December	School closes 12.00

