



Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter



March / April

Designated Teacher for child protection - Mr J Fisher, Deputy designated teachers for child protection - Mrs J Thompson & Mrs S Müller

Welcome back to nursery everyone! It's great to see all the children back together in the classroom. Once again, thank you to all the parents for their efforts in remote learning during the lockdown, it was great to see so many embrace the activities and log on to the website to share in the daily stories, creative activities, baking and songs, etc. As we approach the spring season we look forward to the better weather arriving to enjoy, more extensively, the full benefits of the nursery outdoor play facilities and the range of equipment (let's hope the sunshine arrives soon!).

OUR FOCUS OF INTEREST

During March we will continue to talk about people who help us and will look forward to hearing all about the children's interests and experiences surrounding this area of discussion. We will be focusing on Mother's day, St. Patrick's day, Spring, growing and Easter - It's going to be a busy time! Normally we would encourage you to get involved in nursery life, coming in to read stories, share songs, show off a talent, help with our lending library, etc. but unfortunately the restrictions around Covid-19 mean that we are unable to welcome you into the classroom. However, we would be delighted if anyone would like to contribute to the children's learning and development by emailing in a video which would enhance the children's experiences (reading a book, singing, playing guitar, etc.). Don't be shy! ☺



Happy Birthday to... Jake, Lily, William, Alfie, Lexi,
Tommy and Rey! (Mrs Muller's class)



AND ... Olivia, Logan and Harrison! (Mrs Esler's class)

School uniform, foot wear and jewellery policy

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name or initials. Please also check names after each wash as they do fade. Please adhere to the school uniform and jewellery policies (watches, necklaces and bracelets should NOT be worn in nursery due to the increased risk of injury). Sensible school shoes must be worn (no open toed sandals or boots). Policies are available on request.

School Website and SeeSaw App

Don't forget to look at the school website to see up to date information on nursery and primary school activities. Here you'll see a small glimpse of school life! Newsletters and dinner menus can also be access on the website: www.ballykeelps.org.uk.



Please feel free to 'like' and comment on your child's photographs and posts on Seesaw. Often the children will help us to send their photo through to you and we do read them your responses, it's a lovely way for your child to feel connected and valued, and proud of their work and efforts. It's also a great way for parents to interact around the children's shared experiences!

Celebrate Creativity



Please remember to collect your child's paintings, drawings and creations and celebrate their creativity by asking them about their work and praising them for their efforts. These types of conversations will help to develop your child's confidence to talk about new subjects and their interests. 'Circle Time' will progress in term three, after Easter, and this will encourage the children to increase and extend their confidence when speaking in small groups.

Recycling We would just like to draw your attention to the recycling banks (green and red) in the school car park at the main entrance to the school, where you can dispose of unused or unwanted CD's, DVD's, clothes and books. Proceeds from this facility benefit the school. As always, we thank you for any support you give to the school.

The nursery children will continue to attend school right up until the Easter break on Friday 26th March. Please note that children can wear non-uniform on this day and they will finish at their usual home time, 1.30pm. Term 3 will start on Monday 12th April.

If you have any old computer monitors/keyboard/mouse, sets of locks and keys, dressing up items, baby dolls clothes, or items for our mud kitchen or craft areas you can donate them to nursery for imaginative play for the children (please note: any suitable items which are donated will be quarantined and sanitised before use in either nursery bubble).

How to help at home...

Speech and language development: We would encourage all parents and carers to take time at home and talk with your child. This may seem like a simple thing but the benefits to your child are huge. Speech and Language will develop at a far greater rate when you interact with your child and model how to speak clearly. Here are some ideas to try (if you aren't already); turn the TV off, share information from nursery on the seesaw app, play with your child, talk at the dinner table, read bed time stories, share poems and rhymes, sing songs and talk, talk, talk! Then watch as your child develops in their confidence and ability to extend their language and vocabulary. It's easy and your child will love it!

In term 3 there will be a greater focus on your child being able to identify their own name, and to make some attempts at forming some of the letters of their name. Many of you tried some of the remote learning activities which will strengthen your child's abilities with these tasks. At home you can continue to spend some time with your to look at the letters in their name and pick their name out amongst other names/words. Remember to provide lots of praise for their efforts (even though they might not have got it right! E.g. "That word says _____, that was a good guess though, would you like to try again?" etc.).

Self-help skills: Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves at home, put on and take off their jumpers and coats, and zip them up. The children are coming along well with their independence at nursery and we want to keep developing these skills. If you can, allow enough time for your child to dress themselves in the morning (even if it's every few days or at the weekend, we understand the mornings can be a busy time!). Talk them through what you do to help them, "You lift your arm up and gently push it through your sleeve", etc. Let them try to do it by themselves (giving them time to try, make mistakes and correct themselves independently), and provide a little support if needed. Over time they will progress to needing less help, then eventually none!

Mathematical development: In nursery we will be encouraging the children to count to 10 (and above if they can), count up to 5 objects (or more if they can), recognise numbers 1-5, their colours and basic 2d shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond, oval, star and heart). You can do these things at home with your child as well! Just try to incorporate these into everyday life, or an activity that your child is interested in - it should be fun for them so don't make them sit down and 'learn' at the kitchen table... unless they want to.

Covid-19

Once again, we take the opportunity to remind everyone to please follow the regulations for nursery for Covid-19;

- Please limit the number of people bringing/collecting children from nursery to one (anyone collecting a nursery child must be 16+ years old).
- Please wear face coverings when on school premises, unless medically exempt.
- Use the sanitiser provided outside the classroom door before your child enters the classroom.
- Be mindful of social distancing with other parents and staff, and adhere to government guidelines.
- Please keep personal belongings (toys and comforters, etc.) at home. A teacher will liaise with you if it is felt that your child would benefit from extra provision to support their transition into the classroom.
- If your child is not feeling well or displaying **ANY** symptoms of Covid-19 please keep them at home - a new or continuous cough, high temperature or change/loss in taste or smell.
- Please do not give your child medication which might mask a temperature before coming into school (this may prohibit staff from identifying symptoms of concern during the nursery session).

Thank you for your continued co-operation, understanding and support in keeping the children, parents and staff safe ☺

We hope you all have a lovely, peaceful rest over the Easter holidays, and we look forward to seeing everyone back safely to hopefully enjoy a warm and sunny summer term in April!

Take care everyone ☺

Songs and Rhymes



(Tune of What will we do with the drunken sailor)

What will you do for mother's day, what will you do
for mother's day, what will you do for mother's
day to show that she is special?

I will give her a kiss and a hug, I will give her a
kiss and a hug, I will give her a kiss and a hug to
show that she is special!

5 little Easter Eggs.

5 Easter Eggs, lovely colours they wore.
Mother ate the blue one, and then there were 4.
4 little Easter Eggs, 2 and 2 you see,
Daddy ate the red one, and then there were 3!
3 little Easter Eggs, before I knew,
Sister ate the yellow one, and then there were 2!
2 little Easter eggs, oh what fun!
Brother ate the purple one, and then there was 1!
1 little Easter Egg, see me run.
I ate the green one, and then there were none!

Five Shiny Eggs

5 shiny eggs, golden and brown,
Listen and you will hear a sound.
Tapping away, tapping away,
1 little chick is born today.

4 shiny eggs, golden and brown,
Listen and you will hear a sound.
Tapping away, tapping away,
1 little chick is born today.

3 shiny eggs... (continue as before)
2 shiny eggs... (continue as before)

1 shiny egg, golden and brown,
Listen and you will hear a sound.
Tapping away, tapping away,
5 little chicks have hatched today!

Easter Bunny

The Easter bunny's running, running, running,
The Easter bunny's running;
He's looking for Easter eggs.

Now his whiskers are twitching, twitching, twitching,
Now his whiskers are twitching;
He's looking for Easter eggs.

Now his nose is sniffing....

Now his eyes are looking...

Now his ears are listening...

The Easter bunny's running, running, running,
The Easter bunny's running;
He's looking for Easter eggs.

Funny Bunny Hop

Funny, little bunny goes hop, hop, hop!
Funny little bunny, please stop, stop, stop!
Wiggle your ears and crinkle your nose.
Then wiggle, wiggle, wiggle right down to your toes.

Hop, Little Rabbit

Hop, little rabbit, hop, hop, hop,
Hop, little rabbit, don't you stop.
Hop, little rabbit, one, two, three.
Hop, little rabbit, hop to me.

Hop, Little Rabbit

1 little, 2 little, 3 little bunnies,
4 little, 5 little, 6 little bunnies,
7 little, 8 little, 9 little bunnies,
10 little bunnies hopping up and down.

A Tiny Seed Was Sleeping

A tiny seed was sleeping underneath the ground.
A tiny seed was sleeping underneath the ground.
And the rain came, drip, drop,
And the sun shone down.

A little shot came peeping out of the seed.
A little shot came peeping out of the seed.
And the rain came, drip, drop,
And the sun shone down.

It grew up into leaves of green, swaying in the breeze...
(...continue)
And from the leaves there grew a flower, yellow and bright...
(...continue)

And the rain came, drip, drop,
And the sun shone down.



Happy Easter Everyone!