



Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter



September / October 2018

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

Welcome to all the new parents/carers and children of Ballykeel Nursery Unit. This is a very exciting time for the nursery. Mrs Sheeran (the principal) Mrs Müller (head of the nursery unit), Mrs McGuckin and Mrs Ritchie (nursery teachers) and the nursery team are looking forward to the year ahead and working with you. We hope that your child has settled into life in the nursery with ease but don't be alarmed if they need a little support with this, it can be perfectly normal. Please be guided by the nursery teachers if your child requires a longer period of time to settle in. If you have any worries, concerns or relevant information about your child please speak to their teacher; Mrs Müller or Mrs McGuckin and Mrs Ritchie.

Happy Birthday for September and October!



Mrs Müller's class; **Jack, Alice, Tom, Arianna, Robbie, Lacy and Roman.**
Mrs McGuckin and Mrs Ritchie's class; **Dee, Emily, Hannah, Faith and Daniel.**



It is the custom of the Nursery to celebrate all of the children's birthdays. The school canteen will make your child a home baked birthday cake on the day of their birthday, or the closest weekday to it, to be shared with their friends in class. This is a special day for your child and the nursery team enjoy making a fuss and helping your child to enjoy their day. They will also receive a birthday present to treasure from everyone at nursery. *All of these treats are purchased using the nursery fund.*

During the months of September and October we will be focusing on settling in and gradually extending the time to the full session. Our theme for September will be 'All About Me'. We will be talking about ourselves, our features, our likes and dislikes, our families and our new friends in the Nursery. In October the theme will be 'Harvest'. We will be talking about various fruits and vegetables, where they come from, the season Autumn, and changes in weather. We will discuss and promote healthy eating through daily snack and dinner.

Name it!!

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name or initials (jumpers, coats, etc.). Please also check that their name is clear on the label after each wash as they do fade. Although we do try, nursery staff cannot take responsibility for misplaced or missing uniforms etc.



Celebrate Creativity



Please remember to collect your child's paintings, drawings and creations and celebrate their creativity by praising them for their efforts and displaying/sharing some of their craft at home. Your child will have worked hard on these creations and they may enjoy sharing them with you by telling you what they have done or the process they took part in.

Your child has their own personal tray in the hallway across from the classrooms, their "home-time box". All items to go home (craft, notes, letters, etc.) will be placed in their tray ready for collection at home time. Please ensure you/your child only lifts items out of the correct box with their name/symbol on it.

'Nursery News' This board is for guardians, carers, grandparents, child-minders, and friends of the nursery. It is located outside the classroom doors on the wall. Please remember to read information shared daily on the white board outside the classrooms and keep up to date with nursery life.

Nursery fund - Nursery fund should be contributed every Monday morning and given to the nursery assistant who will be in the entrance hall. Nursery fund is £2 per week. Please bring the correct change, in a marked envelope. Envelopes will be available to purchase from the primary school office or from the nursery assistants every Monday (£1.50 per pack). If you prefer to pay nursery fund for term one (£26), or the whole school year (£78) please bring this on Monday 3rd September. This money is spent solely on your child for daily snack, birthday cakes/presents, parties, trips, visitors to the nursery, Christmas presents, etc. and we appreciate your help to be able to provide this for the nursery children.

Suggestion Box - **We value your input in your child's education and any ideas and suggestions are very welcome.** The suggestion box is located in the nursery entrance hall. Please note that you can also speak to the class teacher or head of nursery, Mrs Müller, at any time.

Ballykeel Community notice board and **Your Space** are located beside the TV in the nursery entrance hall. This is a facility for parents/carers to keep up to date with community life by adding anything that you may want to share, e.g. advertise items you may wish to sell or purchase, community activities, if you are available to childmind, garden, share travel arrangements, etc.

Nursery Times When all the children have settled in, the official time for our full day nursery session is **9.00am - 1.30pm**. All children should be in the nursery by 9.15am. During the last 15 minutes of the session, each day, you can come and play with your child. Children can also be collected from 1.15pm - everyone should be with their carer by 1.30pm. If another adult is collecting your child please ensure that they know the collection times. Please come to the nursery room to collect your child. It will be an opportunity for you to see them in their new environment and to watch, over time, as the room comes to life as displays go up and craft, produced by your child, is celebrated in their classroom. In the interest of the children's safety please inform a member of staff before you leave with your child.



Dates for your Diary



Week beginning Monday 24th September

Nursery children will begin to stay for dinner.

(The day on which your child starts will be decided by the class teacher after the initial settling in process).

Monday 1st October

School photographer - individual school photographs. Also family evening session (details to follow).

Week beginning 22nd October

Parent/carer meetings with the teacher. Time slots will be made available closer to the time.

Monday 29th - Thursday 1st November

Mid-Term Break - school closed (school reopens on Monday 6th Nov).

Friday 2nd November

School closed - Staff Training.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Please make use of the green and red recycling banks in the nursery car park to deposit all old or unwanted clothes, curtains, bed linen, books & CDs etc. This helps to raise money for school funds. Thank you!

School Dinners



School dinners will start the week beginning Monday the 24th September. Not all children will be starting on the same day, your teacher will notify you of your child's start date. The cost of a school meal is £2.50 per day / £12.50 per week. This must be paid every Monday in cash; cheques unfortunately cannot be accepted for lunches. Please try to have the correct amount if possible. Envelopes can be purchased at the cost of £1.50 from the primary school office, or from the nursery assistants every Monday morning. **If your child is entitled to free school meals please make this known as dinners will be charged until written confirmation is received.** All children are encouraged to try a little of everything for dinner. The nursery team will keep you informed of your child's progress with the dinner routine.

You can contribute too!

Young children love to handle natural materials such as wood, stones and pebbles, shells, leaves and pine cones. When out walking encourage your child to look at and talk about these things. In autumn, natural materials are welcomed in nursery and if you find clean, dry leaves or autumn materials please encourage your child to bring them in for our Autumn theme. Children also enjoy messy play with junk art materials, using lots of glue, sticky tape, pasta, buttons, dried peas etc. You can help by bringing in clean empty cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes (NOT THE INSIDE OF TOILET ROLL TUBES PLEASE) small scraps of materials, odd pieces of wool, coloured buttons or anything else you can think of!

Please do not leave plastic bags in the junk art box or items which may have been in contact with NUTS, for health and safety reasons.

Get Messy!! Let your child explore and experiment.



Your child's learning and experiences are important. Every year we try to encourage parents to let their children engage in messy play; painting activities, cutting and sticking, water play and lots of activities outdoors which may cause them, and their uniforms, to become unclean. Some parents find this difficult and worry about having to wash uniforms etc. PLEASE DON'T! Your child will experience some of the best learning and exploration through messy play, which is enriching to their overall development. Please try to avoid telling them not to paint or play in the water tray, this is like asking them not to learn! Their jumper does not have to be washed after each mess - you won't be judged by this, the staff will know your child is not being neglected and has just been involved in messy play (a child in messy play is usually smiling!). If you would like to ask more about this or wish to talk with a member of staff, please feel free to do so.

The Nursery Climbing Frame

We were due to have our new climbing frame installed over the summer ready for term one. Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of our control, this was not able to take place. The company have given us a new date in October so we will be very excited to have our outdoor area finalised and ready for the children to explore the new equipment in the second half of the term.

Lets Help Each other!

If you, or anyone you know (other parents or carers), have difficulty in reading English, or reading in general, please let them know that the nursery staff are happy to meet and talk them through the newsletter, and any other relevant information, so they have an understanding of what is going on in their child's life at nursery. If you have a good relationship with them or are keen to help you could also support them. Let's show the children that it's good to help others!



The nursery team are looking forward to a busy year with your children, with lots of learning and fun on the way.

We would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation in working alongside us to better your child's experiences of nursery and their overall development.



Songs and Rhymes

September/October



I'm happy when I run outside.
I'm happy when I jump and slide.
I'm happy when I climb and swing.
I'm happy when I laugh and sing.
And when I curl up in my bed,
I'm happy to lay down my head!

I wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle my toes,
I wiggle my shoulders
And I wiggle my nose.
Now there are no more wiggles in me.
I will be as still, as still as can be!

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases.
When you cough and when you sneeze,
Always use a tissue please.

Soap and water, soap and water.
Wash your hands, wash your hands.
Rub them both together, rub them both
together.
Wash them well. Wash them well.

Sitting on the carpet (STORY TIME SONG)

Clap your hands 1,2,3
Now set them on your knee.
Nod your head 1,2,3
Now look right up at me.

Eight pink fingers standing up tall,
Two little ears to hear you when you call;
One little nose that I can blow,
Ten pink toes all in a row.
Two little thumbs that wiggle up and down;
Two little feet to stamp on the ground;
Hands to clap and eyes to see,
What fun it is to be just me!

5 little leaves so bright and gay.
Were dancing about on a tree one day.
The wind came howling through the town
Ooooooooooh..... Ooooooooooh.....
1 little leaf came tumbling down!
4 little leaves etc.

2 prickly hedgehogs, rolled in a ball.
1 quite big, the other quite small.
Out popped their snouts, they began to sniff!
What's that smell? Is it some girls and boys?
So the 2 prickly Hedgehogs rolled in a ball,
1 quite big and 1 quite small.

Can you help me please
Sometimes things are hard to do...
put your coat on, put your coat on
Sometimes things are not so easy,
Can you help me please, can you help me
please.

Sometimes things are hard to do...
Tie your laces, tie your laces
...(carry on as in verse one)

Sometimes things are hard to do...
Paint a picture, paint a picture
...(carry on as in verse one)

(Tune of my bonny lies over the ocean)
In our nursery we have many children,
We're different but really the same.
In our nursery we have many children
And sometimes we share the same name,
But inside, inside
But inside our hearts we're the same, the same
But inside, inside
But inside our hearts we're the same!

The nursery team look forward to a happy, educational and memorable Nursery Year!