



# Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter



November/December 2018

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

[www.ballykeelps.org.uk](http://www.ballykeelps.org.uk)

Dear parents, we are delighted to have the children all settled into a sound nursery routine. Your patience and assistance during the vital settling in period was invaluable, thank you. Your attendance at the parent teacher meeting also demonstrates the commitment and interest you have in your child's early educational development. Please remember if you do have any worries, concerns or relevant information about your child, please speak to their teacher at any time throughout the year.

This is the second half of the first term and it is one of the most exciting, and busiest times in Ballykeel Nursery Unit! This is a perfect time to start feeling festive and share in the children's excitement which surrounds the run up to Christmas. We have lots of events and activities taking place in nursery, we hope you're ready to get involved!



Happy Birthday to...

Annie, Jorja, Faye and Beth! (Mrs McGuckin & Ritchie's class)



Monthly themes



As well as other subjects which may emerge from the children's interests, we will plan to look at the following themes:

Over the next few weeks we will continue to talk about and investigate **signs of autumn**; colours observed in the outdoor environments, changes in weather, and items and objects which can be found at this time of year. The children will be using autumnal colours: brown, yellow, red and orange, in their creative activities and will be encouraged to bring in items and share their experiences to contribute to the learning and understanding of autumn. We will continue to talk about **preparing for winter** in autumn (both people and animals). We will be sharing a selection of stories about woodland and various animals with the children and will also talk and learn about **migration and hibernation**. We will look at the changes in the weather and the need to dress appropriately according to these changes (coat, hat, gloves, etc. as the weather gets colder and waterproofs for wet weather).

In November and December, we will be talking about **Christmas** and **the nativity**. We will continue to look at the change in the weather - you never know, we may even see some frost/snow! We will talk about the Christmas story and the meaning of Christmas. We will also be practising for our nursery Christmas show which we will look forward to performing for you all on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec (AM)! The children will be writing letters to Santa, creating pieces of festive art and craft and sharing their experiences with one-another. We have a busy time ahead with events and activities and we hope to see all of our school community taking part and having a good time. Our annual nursery Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall from 6.30pm-8.30pm. There will be a raffle at the fair which has LOTS of FANTASTIC prizes available to win!

**Name it!!**

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name or initials. Please also check 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 uniforms, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE!** The way in which parents apply for pre-school and primary places is changing. Online applications are being introduced for admission to pre-school and to primary school for the 2019/2020 school year.

Please see; [www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides) from the end of November for more information on how to apply.

**We would like to remind carers that all children should be in school by 9.15am and can be collected from 1.15pm-1.30pm.** (If you will be late in leaving your child to school or need to collect them before 1.15pm please speak to a member of the nursery team.).

## Important Information;

- We try to get **outside every day** for a short time. If your child is not well enough to be outdoors, or is on a course of medication, then it is best that they remain at home as there are insufficient numbers of staff to supervise one or two children indoors during this time.
- The **Lending Library** starts on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. Each child will be encouraged to select a few books to bring home weekly to share with their parents/carer. This is a great opportunity for you to enhance your child's learning and development, potentially across all areas of the curriculum. It is also a great, and inexpensive way for your child to experience and explore a wide range of books and stories! Each child will bring a book bag home every Friday, with their library book in it, and we request that library books and bags are **returned every Tuesday**. 
- As well as the children's lending library we run an **Adult's Lending Library** in the foyer of the nursery. Please feel free to have a browse through the range of general interest, child development and self-help books in the book stand. Simply enter your name and the book in the blue note book provided and enjoy the range of materials available to you.
- Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the parent meetings in October, we hope you found this as valuable and informative as we did. A copy of your child's term one report will be sent home for your records. Please remember the staff are here at any time to discuss any concerns or answer questions as best we can.
- Breakfast club is now open to all nursery children and we have many who are availing of this in the mornings.



## Dates for your Diary



- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November** - Lending library starts.
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November** - Kindness day. As part of anti-bullying week in the primary school we will be celebrating kindness and caring for each other.
- **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - Open afternoon in Nursery Unit 1.30pm-3.00pm. Nursery children will leave early on this day. **Home time will be 12noon** on this day to facilitate preparation. Lunch will be served as normal in nursery. Thank you for your co-operation with this.
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Nursery Christmas Show, 9.30am in the school assembly hall.
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Open morning for parents whose children are going into P.1 in Sept 2019. This will take place in the primary school, directly after the nursery performance (nursery children return to class for a party after the show).
- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Fair 6.30pm-8.30pm in the school assembly hall.
- **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** - Visit from the health visitor for 4 year review (in nursery, for parents).
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - The nursery children will attend the carol service hosted by the primary school children during normal school hours (please note this is an additional performance held for the school children).
- **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - **School finishes at 11.30am** for nursery children. (nursery school children can be collected from 11.15am. There will be no school dinners provided on this day). Primary school closes at 12noon.
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - Term two commences. Nursery children start back to school at 9am as usual.



## 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 raise money for school funds. Thank you!

## Lets Help Eachother!

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 through the newsletter 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 and go through the information on the newsletters or notice boards. Let's show the children that it's good to help others!



*If you would like to get involved in the preparations for the Christmas fair; collecting items for the raffle, sourcing prizes for the children for the stalls, making cakes, etc. or any other part of nursery life, then please get in touch with a member of staff. We always welcome a pair of helping hands!*



## SONGS & RHYMES

Below is a selection of some of our rhymes & songs, associated with our themes. Join in and sing with you child at home!

### **One Little Hedgehog**

One little hedgehog hiding in  
the leaves  
Snuffle snuffle, sniff sniff  
Tickle, wriggle, sneeze.

### **Autumn Leaves**

Orange Leaves are falling down,  
Spinning, spinning all around  
Floating by without a sound  
So catch them if you can.

Yellow leaves are falling down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Golden leaves are falling down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Red leaves are falling down.....  
So catch them if you can.

Autumn leaves are falling down.....  
So catch them if you can.

### **The Owl**

Something is sitting up in a tree,  
With two big eyes staring at me.  
Something is sitting up in a tree,  
It's the owl!

Tu-whit, tu-whoo,  
I'm watching you,  
Tu-whit, tu-whoo,  
I'm watching you,  
Tu-whit, tu-whoo.

Wise old owl in the tree,  
Looking around for his tea.  
Wise old owl in the tree,  
It's the owl.  
Tu-whit, tu-whoo, .....

Something is sitting up in a tree,  
With two big eyes staring at me.  
Something is sitting up in a tree,  
It's the owl!  
Tu-whit, tu-whoo, .....

### **Five Little Leaves**

Five little leaves so bright and gay (Hold up five fingers)  
Were dancing about on a tree one day. (Wiggle fingers on one hand)  
The wind came blowing through the town. (Cup hand around mouth, make wind noises)  
Oooooooooo.....Oooooooooooooo.....  
One little leaf came tumbling down. (Bend down one finger)

Four little leaves so bright and.....etc  
Three little leaves so bright and.....etc.

### **Santa's Toys**

Tune Old MacDonald

Santa had a sack full of toys  
Oh! What a lot!  
And in that sack he had some bears  
Oh! What a lot!  
With a big bear here, and a small bear there  
Here a bear, there a bear  
Everywhere a cuddly bear  
Santa had a sack full of toys  
Oh! What a lot!

(Add other verses such as cars/ fast cars/ slow cars etc., have fun, be creative!)

Here comes the Postman  
down our street  
I can hear the noise  
of his big feet  
I can hear the click  
of the garden gate  
He's got some letters  
I just can't wait!!

### **Christmas pudding**

Christmas pudding, Christmas pudding  
steaming hot, steaming hot,  
Sprinkle on the sugar, sprinkle on the  
sugar,  
Eat the lot, eat the lot.

### **Goldilocks**

When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears  
Oh what did her blue eyes see?  
A chair that was HUGE  
A chair that was small  
And a chair that was tiny  
And that was all  
She counted them 1, 2, 3.  
When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears  
Oh what did her blue eyes see?  
A bowl that was HUGE  
A bowl that was small  
And a bowl that was tiny  
And that was all  
She counted them 1, 2, 3.  
When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears  
Oh what did her blue eyes see?  
A bed that was HUGE  
A bed that was small  
And a bed that was tiny  
And that was all  
She counted them 1, 2, 3.

When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears  
Oh what did her blue eyes see?  
A bear that was HUGE  
A bear that was small  
And a bear that was tiny  
And that was all  
They growled at her Grr Grr Grr.

### **Five Little Snowmen**

5 little snowmen fat  
Each had a funny hat  
The sun came out and melted 1  
Oh how sad was that!  
4,3,2,1 etc

### **Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger,  
No crib for a bed,  
The little lord Jesus,  
Lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky,  
Look down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus,  
Asleep on the hay.

# Merry Christmas!

# From the team at Ballykeel Nursery Unit