

# Ballykeel Primary School

January – February



## Happy New Year!



**Dear Parent,**

**Welcome back after the holidays – we hope Santa came!**

**This term we will be covering the theme “Helping Hands”. This introduces your child to people in the community who can help them.**

**Please continue to support your child with their learning as possible at home, as this really makes a difference! Children who are helped at home perform better in school.**

**Thank you,**

**K. Henry and K. McGlaughlin**



# Helping Hands

We are going to be learning about people who help us. We will learn about the roles of a teacher, the school cook, a fire fighter, a doctor and nurse and the police. We will have some visitors in the classroom and we will act out the various roles at playtime.



Maybe you could point out some people who help in the community when you're out and about with your child? Talk about where they work e.g. fire station and if they wear a special uniform.



## How about learning this song?

Miss Polly had a dolly,  
Who was sick, sick, sick,  
She called for the doctor,  
To come quick, quick, quick.  
The doctor came with his bag and his hat,  
And he knocked at the door with a rat-a-tat-tat.  
He looked at the dolly and he shook his head,  
And he said "Miss Polly, put her straight to bed!"  
He wrote on a paper for a pill, pill, pill,  
I'll be back in the morning with my bill, bill, bill.



**\*\*We would appreciate it if you could send in any of the following items\*\***

- Any toys / vehicles e.g. fire engine, doctor sets
- Dressing up costumes e.g. nurse, fireman
- Books about people who help us



# We Love Literacy

Reading is going well! We are very encouraged by the children's progress, thank you for helping with this at home! 😊

Just keep practising at home each night. Make sure your child recognises the key words in each book e.g. and, a, the, is, it, had.

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

If there is a word your child is unsure of, encourage them to use their Jolly Phonics skills to “sound it out” and then have a go at reading it.

If they're really stuck, remember to use the picture for a clue!



Remember:  
reading must be  
practised every  
night!

## Jolly Phonics

Jolly Phonics is well on its way!

Continue to practise the sounds and handwriting. **The correct formation of each letter must be continually reinforced** – don't let them get into bad habits as this is harder to correct as time goes on!

Why not call out some sounds and see if your child can write the letter.

They might even be able to read and spell some simple 3-letter words e.g. cat, hat, rat. You'll be surprised at what they can achieve!! 😊



## Mad about Maths

We will be learning how to write the numbers 6 – 10. Again, we use the little rhymes to help the children remember the correct formation.

Keep practising these at home – we always say that practice makes perfect!

**6** – down we go and make a loop, number 6 makes a hoop.

**7** – across the sky and down from heaven, that's the way we make a 7

**8** – make a 's' and do not wait, that's the way we make an 8

**9** – make a loop and then a line, that's the way we make a 9

**10** – first a one, then a zero, number 10 is our hero!

## Maths Challenge

Why not see if your child can name “the number after” ?  
For example, what number comes after 4.



This will help them when we start to add on one in the summer term

Measure your child's height – ask them to find things that are taller than them,  
and things that are shorter than them



## Media Initiative for N.I.

I'm sure you have heard about our partnership with St. Brigid's P.S. We are very excited about being involved in this. Over the next few months the children in P1 will be introduced to the characters through puppets in class. Please encourage them to tell you all about Jim and his friends.



## Dates for the Diary

16 <sup>th</sup> January	Shared Education Activity
W/c 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Interview Week
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term Break
19 <sup>th</sup> February	School recommences