

Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter

May-June

Designated Teacher for child protection - Mr J Fisher, Deputy designated teacher for child protection - Mrs J Thompson

We can't believe it's term three already and we are fast approaching the end of the nursery year! They do say that time flies when you're having fun ☺ We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of the nursery and in your child's experiences and development this year. This year has been different, operating around and being effected by Covid-19 restrictions, but the children have enjoyed it every bit as much as any other year, as have the nursery team. It's been a busy year, and the fun isn't over just yet. This month we will continue to provide more enriching learning experiences and prepare the children for their transition to P.1!



Happy Birthday for May, June, July and August!



Mrs Müller's class; Noah, Alexa, Georgia, Charli, Kodi, Billy, and Lily McK!
Mrs Esler's class; Anna, Layla, Elijah, Rickson, Ava M, Isaac, Corey and Cillian!

It is the custom of the Nursery to celebrate all of the children's birthdays. Therefore, we will hold a "Special Birthday" party as part of our last day of term for all of the children who have birthdays during the summer months. This ensures that all of the children will have enjoyed their birthday celebration in school, and will have received a gift from Nursery in their year with us!

Areas of focus!

In May we will be paying particular focus to; mini-beasts, life cycles (butterflies and frogs), growing, road safety and the farm. If you have any items of interest (photographs or objects) which support our themes, please feel free to share these with us (email or speak to your class teacher).

In June we will be focusing on; summer, holidays, sun safety, under the sea, and transitions. Hopefully we will be enjoying more sunny weather and will be able to explore further learning experiences in the outdoor environment! Please remember to put sun cream on your child before bringing them to nursery if the weather is likely to be warm. Staff cannot apply cream to your child in nursery so it is important for them to be protected before their day starts. If you are sending a sun hat to school with your child, please make sure it is clearly labelled with their name. We will do our best to ensure your child stays safe in the sun when in nursery, as highlighted in our policy (policies are available on request).

Transition to Primary School

A full copy of the Nursery Transition Policy is available in Nursery if you would wish to have a copy.

All of the staff at Ballykeel Primary School and Nursery Unit support the smooth transition from nursery into Primary. This year we are working in line with the Coronavirus guidance for educational settings in order to support and prepare your child for 'big school'. For those children going to Ballykeel Primary School; on 11th June you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and assistant when you collect their induction folder from 2-3pm at the Primary School. During the transition period your child's P.1 teacher will also post a video on the school website to introduce herself and read your child a story. A virtual tour will also be posted of your child's new classroom and outdoor area so they can experience what their surroundings will be like in P.1, and become more familiar with the new adults as well.

Soon the nursery team will be busily preparing the children's end of year transition forms which will be available for you to read, and sign before the end of June. The Principal, Mrs. Sheeran will read and sign each report and you will be given a copy of the transition form for your personal record. A copy will also be forwarded to the Primary 1 teachers in Ballykeel Primary School. **If your child is not going to attend Ballykeel Primary your class teacher will forward your child's transition form to their new school - please inform the teacher of which school your child will be attending to aid this process.** We have also been preparing your child's art folder which will contain samples of their work from the start of the year. You will also receive instructions on how you can download your child's seesaw profile and photographs to treasure. We hope these things will all give you many happy memories of your child's year at Ballykeel Nursery (Please bear in mind that some children have chosen to access the craft area more regularly than others during the year but we hope you will all enjoy the reflection of your child's time spent at the nursery.)

Dates for your diary!

This document can be downloaded or printed off so you have a copy of the dates handy ☺

(Dates are also displayed on the classroom window.

- Monday 3rd May Bank Holiday - school and nursery closed
- Monday 31st May Bank Holiday- school and nursery closed
- Tuesday 1st June School Holiday - school and nursery closed
- Wed 2nd - Fri 4th June Staff training- school and nursery closed
- Friday 11th June Induction folders for Ballykeel P.1 to be collected from 2-3pm at the primary school
- Tuesday 29th June Last day of nursery/End of term.

Help your child at home!

With the better weather creeping in and the transition into primary school approaching, you can support your child to further develop their skills and abilities outside of nursery too.

Physical development: You can encourage your child to look at their name and try to form some of the letters. Many children are showing an interest in letters in the nursery and some are already writing their names! Please try to use lower case letters when writing your child's name (apart from the first letter which should be a capital). An easy way to start is to write your child's name in pencil, with large letters and well spaced out, and let them draw over it in felt tip. You can also form their name in a dot-to-dot style and let them use the pencil or felt tip to connect the dots on each letter. If your child finds this easy let them copy their name under the example you have provided.

With the good weather arriving (and hopefully staying!) it's the perfect opportunity to get your children outside and moving! Working and strengthening all the gross muscles in the body will not only help to keep them active and healthy but the strength filters down through to enhance other smaller abilities like; being able to sit up straight for longer periods of time (which aids concentration), allows them better strength to hold their writing tools in the correct way and mark make/write with better control, helps them with self-help skills such as dressing, pouring a drink, cutting their food using their knife and fork, etc. It also develops their awareness of their bodies and what they are able to do and what they need to practice and perfect.

The arts: Our children are expressive by nature and they enjoy many different styles of creativity. Some take part in dancing, singing or just listen to music, some like to explore sounds and the various musical instruments, others enjoy role play in the home corner and dressing up or making models with the construction resources, playdough junk art or paint and draw at the craft table. These are all things which you can encourage and take part in at home. It doesn't have to be planned - children are fantastic at finding a use for everything (they amaze us at the use of their imagination at times!). Pop on their favourite song and sing/dance along, let them draw or paint their favourite superhero or give them a cardboard box and some crayons and let them create their own pirate ship or fairy castle. Let them take the lead and be amazed at the ideas and interests which follow.

World around us: Science, the environment, our community and living things all feature in our children's everyday lives. Take time to talk to your child about what's going on around them, even as you walk or drive to school, point out the leaves that are growing back on the trees, the need for their sunhat in the summer sun, where milk comes from or the ingredients in bread when you're doing the shopping, etc. Teaching about the world around us is all about talking, answering the children's questions and letting them observe, experience and experiment where they are (e.g. in nursery we take some heavy and light objects and a basin of water, we talk about sinking and floating and predicted which objects will do what. The children love testing their predictions and learn about these, first hand. The teacher aims to guide the discussion and activity so that everyone has a turn but makes sure that it is the children who have the opportunity to use their hands and their heads).

Join In...

Our songs and rhymes relate to our many focuses of interest in May and June; Healthy Eating, Exercise, Care in the Sun, Summertime, and Transition to Primary School. Share these with your children at home and encourage them to talk about what's going on in nursery and the new experiences they are encountering. Children love listening to stories and they don't always have to be from a book - why don't you tell them about some of the good memories you have about starting primary school! All of these things will help to extend your child's understanding of our focuses of interest, strengthen their language and creative development and help to extend their song and rhyme repertoire, all in a fun way!

Don't forget to visit the School website www.ballykeelps.org.uk and take a look inside Ballykeel Primary School and Nursery Unit.

We wish you and your child every happiness and success in Primary school. You are always welcome to pop by and say hello ☺
Have a wonderful, peaceful summer break and we thank you for the lovely year we've had with your children.

-The Nursery Team



Songs and Rhymes



Care in the Sun – Slip / Slop / Slap

Here is a rule we love to teach. Slip on a tee-shirt at the beach.
Slop on that sun cream, don't be a fool. Always remember the "Golden Rule!"
Slap on a hat in the Summer Sun. Then your holiday will be - Fun! Fun! Fun!

Building Castles (Tune I'm a little teapot)

I love building castles on the shore, Every time I finish one, I build one more!
Digging in the sand is where I'll be, Grab your spade and dig with me! (repeat 1st 2 lines)

When we go swimming (Tune Sing a song of sixpence)

When we all go swimming at the beach each day. We are very careful how we swim and play.
We always swim together. We never swim away! If we remember all the rules we'll all be safe each day!

Sing a song of Summer (Tune sing a song of sixpence)

Sing a song of Summer a pocket full of sand.
Sing a song of summer an ice-cream in my hand.
Sing a song of Summer a pocket full of rhymes
Sing a song of Summer I love the Summer time!

5 Colourful Parrots

5 colourful parrots sitting on a wall.
2 were very big and 3 were very small;
Along came the wind and caused 1 to fall.
That left 4 colourful parrots sitting on the wall.

4,3,& 2 etc.

1 colourful parrot sitting on the wall,
Left on his own, with no parrots at all;
So it flew off, before it would fall.
Leaving no colourful parrots sitting on the wall.

Picnic

We're going on a picnic,
What shall we have?
Sandwiches and sausage rolls,
Put them in the bag.

We're going on a picnic, what shall we have?.... Chicken and ham and strawberry jam, put them in the bag.
... Ginger biscuits and cherry cake, put them in the bag.
... Crisps and apples and lots of cheese, put them in the bag.

Please remember to read the rhymes and encourage your child to join you in sharing them on a regular basis and discuss our topics of interest. Enjoy! If you have any favourite story books, poems, rhymes or songs you would like to share with us please bring them in. Thank you

