

# Ballykeel Primary School

March - April



**Spring has  
Sprung!**



**Dear Parent,**

**It's hard to believe your child is now more than halfway through their year in Primary One! They're growing as fast as the Spring flowers we're beginning to see in the garden.**

**We have really noticed how much the children have come along since they started school in September – their work is improving day by day. We're sure you're amazed at what they can do!**

**Thank you for all the effort you have put in at home and please continue to keep this up.**

**Thank you,  
K. Brown and K. McGlaughlin**



# Old McDonald

Our new theme is “Old McDonald had a farm”. We will be learning about the role of a farmer, baby animals and their mothers, where our food comes from and we will be looking out for signs of Spring!



## Springwatch!

Why not have a look around your surroundings when you're out and about with your child and see what signs of Spring you can spot. We'd love to hear all about them in school!



## **How about learning this song?**

Old McDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O,  
And on that farm he had a lamb,  
E-I-E-I-O,  
With a baa-baa here, and a baa-baa  
there, here a baa, there a baa,  
everywhere a baa-baa,  
Old McDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O...



What other verses can you think of?  
Try to use the names of the baby animals e.g. puppy, piglet, duckling, calf etc.

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

- Any farm toys: tractors, animals, sheds
- Books about the farm (fiction or non-fiction)
- DVDs about the farm

# We Love Literacy

We are working on Grammar in P1.

This is what the children will be learning – it is really just the “first steps” of good grammar.

- Holding a book correctly
- Holding a pencil correctly
- Knowing to start reading and writing from the left hand side
- Correct letter formation
- Putting a space between each word
- Ensure the sentence makes sense
- Understand what a full stop, question mark and exclamation mark means.



Remember to keep practising reading at home – especially the key words!

## Don't forget!!

Our “Lending Library” for literacy and numeracy activities is still running! It is open each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in the school library from 1.30pm until 2.15pm. Please call in and visit!

We have lots of beautiful, educational games and activities for you to try out at home with your child.

**Please make use of this service** as it will really enhance your child's learning, and provide opportunities for some family bonding too!

Have fun!! 😊



## Jolly Phonics

We have finished learning all the Jolly Phonics sounds in P1. We are now emphasising correct letter formation and blending sounds to make words.

Why not help your child read some 3 letter words at home –

e.g. cat, pen, tap, bed, pin, red, mop, dog, hat

They could also try writing simple words like these!



## Target:

Maybe your child could manage to write a simple sentence?  
e.g. a cat and a dog.

Keep the sentence simple so as not to discourage your child!

## Mad about Maths

In numeracy we will be learning to count and write the numbers 10 – 15. Help your child count forwards and backwards – they love to pretend a rocket is blasting off after zero!



If you are baking at home, get your child to help weigh out the ingredients – we have been doing this in school recently, using the words heavier and lighter.



We will be learning about money very soon. To give your child a head start, why not teach them to **recognise** each coin. However, we will only be using 1p coins to make our “purchases” in school.

**\*\* We would appreciate it if all parents could please send in ten 1p coins – watch out for the money bag to put these in. It is much more beneficial to use real coins when teaching money \*\***



## Dates for the Diary

15 <sup>th</sup> March-	St. Patrick's celebration with St. Brigid's P.S. at Ballykeel
5 <sup>th</sup> April-	P1 to People's Park with St Brigid's PS
7 <sup>th</sup> April-	School closes for Easter holidays at 12 noon
24 <sup>th</sup> April-	School re-opens