



# Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter



January / February

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

Happy new year and welcome back to nursery! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas. Term two is now underway, the children have settled back into nursery life and we look forward to yet more enjoyable and educational experiences for you and your child. We would like to thank you all sincerely for your support during our Christmas Fair fund raising event. The money raised will be used solely for the benefit of the children of the Nursery and to purchase equipment, and maintain a high quality of educational standards.



A very **Happy Birthday** to... **Adam, Tommy W, Harry, Sophia,**  
**Daniel, and Dayna** (Mrs Muller's class)  
AND ... **Reeva and Alex** (Mrs Esler's class)



## Name it!!

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name or initials; jumper's, coats, hats, etc. Please also check names after each wash as they do fade. Nursery staff cannot take responsibility for misplaced uniforms etc. but we do try our best to ensure they are placed in the child's box or on their hanger for home time.



## celebrate Creativity



Please remember to collect your child's paintings, drawings and craft on a Friday and celebrate their creativity by praising them for their efforts and displaying them at home. Your child has worked hard on these creations and may enjoy telling you all about them!

**SeeSaw** The Seesaw app is a brilliant tool for communication between nursery and home. Parents and carers can be kept up to date with their child's progress, interests and life in nursery via photographs, videos and notes. These can be accessed on your phone or computer. If you are struggling with the app or would like any further information on how to use Seesaw, then please speak to a member of the nursery team who will be happy to help you. *(Please note: being connected to Seesaw will allow you to download your child's photographs/profile at the end of the year and keep it as a record of their time and achievements at nursery).*

Don't forget to keep an eye on the school website to keep up to date with recent nursery events and photographs during term two. The nursery newsletter, dinner menu and photographs are posted on the website too ([www.ballykeeps.org.uk](http://www.ballykeeps.org.uk)).

During the month of January our focus of interest will be 'Winter' & 'Arctic Animals', and in February, 'People Who Help Us'. We will also talk about Chinese New Year and Valentine's day. We will discuss how to keep safe and warm in winter, feeding the birds, people in the community who help us, cultural differences around the world, and we will support the children's recognition of colours, patterns and shapes. Please work with us in supporting your child's learning by encouraging them to identify and match colours and shapes. Our numeracy focus in pre-school includes counting to 10, and above if the child is able, and to recognise some numbers. We will also be encouraging the children to count objects, focusing on 1-5 this term, and above if the child is able. You can encourage your child at home by getting them to count, e.g. their birthday candles, their toys, fingers or toes, etc.

## Mid-Term Break

Please note that school will be closed from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February for the mid-term break. School will reopen on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for the second half of term two. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable break!

## Self Help Skills

The children are settling into a good lunch time routine and becoming quite independent with other Nursery routines as well. We would ask that together, we support your child's developing self-help skills. Encourage them to put on and take off their own coat, use their knife and fork, set the table or tidy away their toys after play times, help to dress themselves, be more independent in their own toileting needs, etc. at home as well as at nursery. Often parents are pleasantly surprised at just how much their young child can do!

### Covid-19

As there has been a significant increase in the number of cases of Covid across Northern Ireland, we would like to remind you to please follow the regulations for Covid-19 around Nursery;

- Please limit the number of people bringing/collecting children from nursery to one (anyone collecting a nursery child must be 16+ years old).
- Please wear face coverings when on school premises, unless medically exempt.
- Use the sanitiser provided outside the classroom door before your child enters the classroom.
- Be mindful of social distancing with other parents and staff, and adhere to government guidelines.
- Please keep personal belongings (toys and comforters, etc.) at home. A teacher will liaise with you if it is felt that your child would benefit from extra provision to support their transition into the classroom.
- If your child is not feeling well or displaying **ANY** symptoms of Covid-19 please keep them at home - a new or continuous cough, high temperature or change/loss in taste or smell.
- Please do not give your child medication which might mask a temperature before coming into school (this may prohibit staff from identifying symptoms of concern during the nursery session).

Thank you for your continued understanding and support in keeping the children, parents and staff safe ☺

The songs and rhymes for this month's topics are on a separate page (below). We hope you enjoy listening to them and singing along with your child!

### Have You Updated the School?

Please make sure we have your most up-to-date details including mobile number, email address and house address. This will help us to keep you updated on any relevant information and events.

# Songs and Rhymes



I'm a Little Penguin (tune of I'm a little teapot)

I'm a little penguin in the snow,  
I slide on my tummy to and fro.  
I eat the fish from the deep blue sea,  
I'm black and white so look at me!

## Roses are Red

Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Sugar is sweet and so are you!

## Chinese New Year Dragon

There's a brightly coloured dragon,  
swaying down the street,  
Stomping and kicking up its feet.

There's a multi- coloured dragon,  
-green and gold and red-  
Twisting and twirling and shaking its head.

## The gruffalo

He has terrible tusks and terrible claws  
and terrible teeth in his terrible jaws.  
He's the gruffalo, gruffalo, gruffalo.  
He's the gruffalo.

He has knobbly knees and turned-out toes  
And a poisonous wart at the end of his nose.  
He's the gruffalo, gruffalo, gruffalo.  
He's the gruffalo.

His eyes are orange. His tongue is black.  
He has purple prickles all over his back.  
He's the gruffalo, gruffalo, gruffalo.  
He's the gruffalo, gruffalo, gruffalo.  
He's the grr..rr..rr..rr..ruffalo.  
HE'S THE GRUFFALO!

## Where did the pancake go?

Mix some flour and eggs and milk,  
And cook them in a pan.  
Toss your pancake in the air,  
Then catch it if you can.

*Chorus: Oh, where did the pancake go?  
Where did the pancake go?  
Where did it go, Nobody knows,  
Oh, where did the pancake go?*

Get more flour and eggs and milk,  
And cook thm in a pan.  
Toss your pancake in the air,  
then catch it if you can.  
*Chorus*

## Blow your nose

When your nose is  
feeling runny,  
Please don't sniff.  
Though you think it's  
very funny,  
Please don't sniff.  
Take a tissue, hold  
it flat,  
Place it on your nose  
like that,  
Blow a little, wipe it  
well,  
Blow, blow, blow!

*Repeat...*

## I can do it for myself

When i wake up i get out of bed,  
I find myself some clothes to wear.  
I brush my teeth and wash my face,  
And i can even comb my hair.

*Chorus: I don't need anyone to do it for me,  
I can do it for myself.  
I don't need anyone to do it for me,  
I can do it for myself.*

When i go out i put on my shoes,  
I use the loo before we're gone,  
And when i get into the car,  
I can put my seatbelt on.

*Chorus...*

When I come home I hang up my coat,  
I find myself a game to play.  
I wash my hands before my tea,  
And I can put my toys away.  
*Chorus x2*

## Here we go round the Mulberry Bush

Here we go round the Mulberry Bush,  
The Mulberry Bush, the Mulberry Bush,  
Here we go round the Mulberry Bush,  
On a cold and frosty morning.

This is the way we put on our gloves,  
Put on our scarves, put on our boots.  
This is the way we put on our clothes,  
On a cold and frosty morning.

## Dance with your Fingers

Dance with your fingers, dance with your toes,  
Dance with your elbows, anything goes.  
Sway to the left and sway to the right.  
If you really want, you can dance all night!

*Repeat 3 times...*