



Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter

September/ October

Designated Teacher for Child Protection – Mrs J Thompson,
Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection – Mrs J Thompson, Mrs B Esler, and Mrs Cumberland



Happy Birthday for the first term!

Mrs McGuckin's class:

Melanie, Polly & MJ

Mrs Cumberland's class:

Alice, Zuzanna & Sam



It is the custom of the Nursery to celebrate all of the children's birthdays. This is a special day for your child and the Nursery Team enjoy making a fuss and helping your child to enjoy their day. The class will sing Happy Birthday, we will do a birthday activity (making cards/baking/etc.), and they will receive a birthday present to treasure from everyone at Nursery. All of these treats are purchased using the Nursery fund.



Celebrate Creativity

Your child has their own personal "home-time box". All items to go home (craft etc.) will be placed in their box and taken home at the end of the Nursery day. Please remember to collect your child's paintings, drawings and creations and celebrate their creativity by praising them for their efforts and displaying/sharing some of their craft at home. Your child will have worked hard on these creations and they may enjoy sharing them with you by telling you what they have done or the process they took part in.



To all the new children and parents/carers, welcome to Ballykeel Nursery Unit! We have welcomed the children into nursery, and they have done so well in their first few days at school, separating from parents and carers and having lots of fun in their new environment. Mrs Sheeran (the Principal), Mrs McGuckin (Head of the Nursery Unit), Mrs Cumberland, (Nursery Teacher), Mrs Richmond and Miss Cameron (Nursery Assistants) are looking forward to the year ahead and working with you.

We hope that your child is settling into life in the Nursery with ease, but don't be alarmed if they need a little extra support with this, it can be perfectly normal. Please be guided by the Nursery teachers if your child requires a longer period of time to settle in. If you have any worries, concerns or relevant information about your child please speak to their teacher.



Monthly Themes



During the months of September and October we will be focusing on settling in and gradually increasing the days and extending the time to the full session. Our theme for September will be 'All About Me'. We will be talking about ourselves, our features, our likes and dislikes, our families and our new friends in the Nursery. In October the theme will be 'Harvest'. We will be talking about various fruits and vegetables, where they come from, the season Autumn, and changes in weather. We will discuss and promote healthy eating through daily snack and dinner. Daily snack is purchased from the Nursery fund.

Name it....



Name it!! Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name (jumpers, coats, hats, etc.). Please also check that 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 or missing uniforms etc.



Nursery times

Week beginning Monday 2nd October all children should be in nursery by 9:15am each day. The school gates will open at 9:00am. Children are to be collected between 1:15 and 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).

Nursery Fund

ParentPay is a cashless system being used in school. You will receive a notification to sign up to ParentPay and a notification when it is time to transfer your child's nursery fund. Nursery fund can be paid in two different ways- monthly at £12.50 per month, or a one off payment of £110. Some examples of how Nursery Fund is used include:

- A range of healthy snacks each day
- Enhancement of children's experiences and learning opportunities in nursery (e.g. Birthday and Christmas presents, birthday cake, replacement of resources, etc.)
- Visitors to the nursery
- Annual nursery trip (including bus fares)

We appreciate your help to be able to provide these things for the nursery children.

If you choose to pay £12.50 monthly please see the dates below for your expected payments:

1 payment of £110 due by 15/09/2023. Monthly payments to be made by; 08/09/23, 06/10/23, 10/11/23, 01/12/23, 05/01/24, 02/02/24, 01/03/24, 12/04/24, 03/05/24, 07/06/24.

Please ensure that Nursery fund is paid on time.



Dates for your diary

- **Friday 15th Sept** - All children in nursery as one class from today onward (9.30am-12.00)
- **Week beginning Monday 18th Sept** - All children in nursery (9.00am-12.00)
- **Monday 25th - Thursday 28th Sept**- Half of the nursery children will go home at 12.00 as usual. Half of the children will begin to stay for dinner and go home at 1pm
- **Friday 29th Sept**- All children will stay for school dinners and go home at 1pm. (The day on which your child starts dinner will be decided by the class teacher after the initial settling in process).
- **Thursday 28th Sept**- 9.15-9.40am- Parents and children are invited to the Book Fair & Coffee morning (donations to McMillan are welcome)
- **Week beginning Monday 2nd Oct**- All children are in nursery full time, 9.00am-1.30pm. (Gates open at 9.00am- 9.15am in the morning and open again at 1.15-1.30pm.)
- **Monday 16th Oct**- School photographer 'Cool for School' photography company
- **Friday 20th October** - Jump, Jiggle and Jive visit Nursery from 9:30 - 10:30am
- **Thursday 26th October**-Nursery Pyjama evening- parents and children to attend. 5.00-5.45pm. Light supper will be provided for the children.
- **Monday 30th Oct- Thursday 2nd Nov**- Mid-Term break
- **Friday 3rd Nov** - School closed for staff training (school reopens 6th Nov)



School Dinner

School dinners will start the week beginning Monday the 25th September. Not all children will be starting on the same day, your teacher will notify you of your child's start date. The cost of a school meal is £2.50 per day / £12.50 per week. School dinners should be paid via ParentPay.

If your child is entitled to free school meals please make sure you have applied for this and make this known to the nursery team as dinners will be charged until written confirmation is received. Details can be found on the Gov.uk website

All children are encouraged to try a little of everything for dinner. The nursery team will keep you informed of your child's progress with the dinner routine.



Nursery News

The window beside each classroom door will be used to keep you up to date with any important news or notices (this will be in addition to notifications on Seesaw etc.) and we will also display some of our craft work here for you to see as the year progresses.



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 to raise money for school funds. Thank you!



Get Messy!!

Let your child explore and experiment. Your child's learning and experiences are important. Every year we try to encourage parents to let their children engage in messy play; painting activities, cutting and sticking, and lots of activities outdoors which may cause them, and their uniforms, to become unclean. Some parents find this difficult and worry about having to wash uniforms etc. PLEASE DON'T WORRY! Your child will experience some of the best learning and exploration through messy play, which is enriching to their overall development. Please try to avoid telling them not to paint or get dirty, this is like asking them not to learn! Please put your child in jogging bottoms or leggings which you don't mind getting dirty. Although we do encourage the children to wear aprons and protective wear, sometimes these aren't always 100% effective. If you would like to ask more about this or wish to talk with a member of staff, please feel free to do so.



Let's Help Each Other!

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 them through the newsletter, and any other relevant information, 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. Let's show the children that it's good to help others!

Communication



In Nursery we use Seesaw as our main means of communication with you. Messages, reminders and information will be sent via the inbox. The journal will generally be used to send you photographs or information about what your child has been doing in class.

It is very important you don't delete the Seesaw app, and that you have notifications turned on so you receive messages promptly. You can also contact your child's teacher using the inbox if you have any messages to pass on, or if you should have any queries.

Whole school letters and information are generally sent out via our school website (www.ballykellps.org.uk), and this is also linked to the NI schools App. Please ensure you are subscribed to the school website and have downloaded the app.

In the Nursery Unit section of the website, we usually add various posts with some photos of what we have been getting up to in Nursery- so please do remember to check it also.

The nursery Team are looking forward to a busy year with your children, with lots of learning and fun on the way. We would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation in working alongside us to better your child's experiences of Nursery and their overall development.

Mrs McGuckin & Mrs Cumberland

