



Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter



March / April

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

What a great start to 2018! The children have really enjoyed our topics so far and have been fully involved in all the learning and experiences which have been provided in January and February. We have yet more fun and learning on the way in March and April. As we approach the spring season we look forward to the better weather arriving to enjoy, more extensively, the full benefits of the nursery outdoor play facilities and the range of equipment (let's hope the sunshine arrives soon!).

OUR FOCUS OF INTEREST

During March we will continue to talk about people who help us as our visitors to the nursery continue to share their jobs with us. We will be focusing on Mother's day, St. Patrick's day, Spring, growing and Easter. If you have any items of interest, or know any songs or rhymes you could share to help support these topics please speak to your class teacher. Your child would love to have you volunteer to come into Nursery to lead an activity, share a talent or help us with our busy days (there's always something to do!).

Home time We would like to remind you that you are very welcome to come into the classroom and spend some time with your child in their environment from 1.15pm daily until 1.30pm. You can also collect your child from 1.15pm and all children must be collected by 1.30pm.



Happy Birthday to... Olive, Noah, Callum, Rory
and Troy! (Mrs Muller's class)



AND ... Freya, Rosie, Tobias and Daylin! (Mrs McGuckin's class)

School uniform, foot wear and jewellery policy

Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name or initials. Please also check names after each wash as they do fade. Please adhere to the school uniform and jewellery policies (watches, necklaces and bracelets should NOT be worn in nursery due to the increased risk of injuries). Sensible school shoes must be worn (no open toed sandals or boots). Policies are displayed in the entrance hall.

School Website and SeeSaw App

Don't forget to look at the school website with up to date information on nursery and primary school activities. Here you'll see a small glimpse of school life! Newsletters and dinner menus can also be access on the school website www.ballykeelps.org.uk. We have also launched our trial of the 'SeeSaw' app. We are already receiving great feedback from everyone who is using it to gain more insight into their child's day at nursery as well as their learning and general development in the early years across the curriculum! Please feel free to comment on your child's photographs or tell us what you think of the app so far (we are keen to know your experiences and thoughts so we can continue to work together for your child and their development).



Celebrate Creativity



Please remember to collect your child's paintings, drawings and creations and celebrate their creativity by asking them about their work and praising them for their efforts. These types of conversations will help to develop your child's confidence to talk about new subjects and their interests. 'Show and Tell' will begin in term three, after Easter, and this will encourage the children to increase and extend their confidence when speaking in small groups. When this starts we would ask for your support to keep the number of items and toys coming into nursery limited until the dedicated 'show and tell' day (Friday of each week). This can be an opportunity for your child to share any news or interests they have, perhaps showing a photograph of a new baby or recent trip (to the doctor, dentist, on holiday, etc.) or an item supporting our topic of interest for the month. **Please do not send anything of value into school as we can not take responsibility for broken or misplaced items.**

Parents' Notice board! Please remember to read any information on the white board outside the classrooms which will remind/inform you of any activities/events happening in school.

Ballykeel Community News Notice Board "Your Space" is a facility for parents to advertise items they may wish to sell or purchase. You can also use this to advertise if you are available to child mind, garden or share travel arrangements etc.

Suggestion Box available in the entrance hall of nursery. Please feel free to provide any suggestions or good ideas you may have (you are also welcome to speak to the class teacher).

Recycling May we draw your attention to the recycling banks in the car park, green and red, where you can dispose of unused or unwanted CD's, DVD's, clothes and books. Proceeds from this facility benefit the school. Thank you for your support.

Dates for your Diary

- **Breakfast Club** Daily from 8am - 8.45 am
- **Art focus week** Week beginning Mon 5th March
- **Red Day! (non-uniform) Your child can wear red to school and donate £1 for The British Heart Foundation.** Fri 9th March
- **Parents art exhibition 1.15-3pm in the school assembly hall** Fri 9th March
Tea/coffee and traybakes provided while you explore our art work!
- **Banyan Theatre visit to nursery** Mon 12nd March
(from 10-11am parents welcome to attend!)
- **Jigsaw's 'FESTIVAL OF LEARNING' 2-4pm** 21st March
in the school assembly hall. Stall holders and fun activities.
- **Last day of term (Nursery finishes at 11.30am)** Fri 23rd March
- **New term starts (term three)** Mon 9th April

More dates to follow!

Helping Nursery: Thank you for contributing to our "Junk Art" box. The children really enjoy this type of craft and your efforts are very much appreciated. **For health and safety we ask that you do not send the cardboard tubes from the inside of toilet rolls and no plastic bags.** Thank you. If you have any old mobile phones, computer monitor/keyboard/mouse, sets of locks and keys, books, 1st size baby clothes, items for our mud kitchen or craft items you can donate them to nursery for imaginative play for the children. Your old Christmas or birthday cards can be used to help the children practice their scissor handling skills.

Dinner Money/Nursery Fund: Please remember that dinner money and nursery fund **must be paid on a Monday** (or the first day of the nursery week) to facilitate the smooth running of the nursery. Please try to include the correct amounts. Thank you.

How to help at home...

Speech and language development: We would encourage all parents and carers to take the time at home and talk with your children. This may seem like a simple thing but the benefits to your children are huge. Speech and Language will develop at a far greater rate when you interact with your child and model how to speak clearly. Here are some ideas to try (if you aren't already); turn the tv off, share information from nursery on the seesaw app, play with your child, talk at the dinner table, read bed time stories, share poems and rhymes, sing songs and talk, talk, talk! Then watch as your child develops in their confidence and ability to extend their language and vocabulary. It's easy and your child will love it!

The children will have new registration symbols in term 3. These will only display their name and will no longer have their symbol on them. This is to encourage your child to recognise their name. Spend some time with your child at home and look at the letters in their name, providing praise for their efforts, in preparation for this change.

Self-help skills: Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves at home, put on their coats and zip them up. The children are coming along really well with their independence at nursery and we want to keep developing these skills. If you can, allow enough time for your child to dress themselves in the morning (even if it's every few days or at the weekend, we understand the mornings can be a busy time!). Talk them through what you do to help them, "I lift your arm up and gently push it through your sleeve", etc. Let them try to do it by themselves (giving them time to try, make mistakes and correct themselves independently), and provide a little support if needed. Over time they will progress to needing less help, then eventually none!

Mathematical development: In nursery we will be encouraging the children to count to 10 (and above if they can), count up to 5 objects (or more if they can), recognise numbers 1-5, their colours and basic 2d shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond, oval, star and heart). You can do these things at home with your child as well! Just try to incorporate these into everyday life or an activity that your child is interested in - it should be fun for them so don't make them sit down and 'learn' at the kitchen table... unless they want to! ☺

Once again thank you to all of our parents for your support and co-operation with the nursery!

Songs and Rhymes



(Tune of What will we do with the drunken sailor)

What will you do for mother's day, what will you do
for mother's day, what will you do for mother's
day to show that she is special?
I will give her a kiss and a hug, I will give her a
kiss and a hug, I will give her a kiss and a hug to
show that she is special!

Five Shiny Eggs

5 shiny eggs, golden and brown,
Listen and you will hear a sound.
Tapping away, tapping away,
1 little chick is born today.

4 shiny eggs, golden and brown,
Listen and you will hear a sound.
Tapping away, tapping away,
1 little chick is born today.

3 shiny eggs... (continue as before)
2 shiny eggs... (continue as before)

1 shiny egg, golden and brown,
Listen and you will hear a sound.
Tapping away, tapping away,
5 little chicks have hatched today!

5 little Easter Eggs.

5 Easter Eggs, lovely colours they wore.
Mother ate the blue one, and then there were 4.
4 little Easter Eggs, 2 and 2 you see,
Daddy ate the red one, and then there were 3!
3 little Easter Eggs, before I knew,
Sister ate the yellow one, and then there were 2!
2 little Easter eggs, oh what fun!
Brother ate the purple one, and then there was 1!
1 little Easter Egg, see me run.
I ate the green one, and then there were none!

Easter Bunny

The Easter bunny's running, running, running,
The Easter bunny's running;
He's looking for Easter eggs.

Now his whiskers are twitching, twitching, twitching,
Now his whiskers are twitching;
He's looking for Easter eggs.

Now his nose is sniffing....

Now his eyes are looking...

Now his ears are listening...

The Easter bunny's running, running, running,
The Easter bunny's running;
He's looking for Easter eggs.

Funny Bunny Hop

Funny, little bunny goes hop, hop, hop!
Funny little bunny, please stop, stop, stop!
Wiggle your ears and crinkle your nose.
Then wiggle, wiggle, wiggle right down to your toes.

Hop, Little Rabbit

Hop, little rabbit, hop, hop, hop,
Hop, little rabbit, don't you stop.
Hop, little rabbit, one, two, three.
Hop, little rabbit, hop to me.

Hop, Little Rabbit

1 little, 2 little, 3 little bunnies,
4 little, 5 little, 6 little bunnies,
7 little, 8 little, 9 little bunnies,

A Tiny Seed Was Sleeping

A tiny seed was sleeping underneath the ground.
A tiny seed was sleeping underneath the ground.
And the rain came, drip, drop,
And the sun shone down.

A little shot came peeping out of the seed.
A little shot came peeping out of the seed.
And the rain came, drip, drop,
And the sun shone down.

It grew up into leaves of green, swaying in the breeze...
(...continue)
And from the leaves there grew a flower, yellow and bright...
(...continue)

And the rain came, drip, drop,
And the sun shone down.



Happy Easter Everyone!