



Christmas and the Nativity

In November and December we will be talking about **Christmas and the Nativity**. We will continue to look at the change in the weather – you never know, we may even see some frost or snow! We will talk about the Christmas story and the meaning of Christmas. We will also be practising for our Nursery Christmas show which is called 'The Twinkly Nativity'. The children are so excited! We will be sending out songs for the children to practice at home and would really appreciate your support with this! After the performance we have an open morning arranged where you can see around the Primary School. The children will be writing letters to Santa, creating pieces of festive art and sharing their experiences with one-another. We have a busy time ahead with activities and we hope the children enjoy all the festivities.



Important Information

- We try to get **outside every day** for a short time. If your child is not well enough to be outdoors, then it is best that they remain at home as there are insufficient numbers of staff to supervise one or two children indoors during this time.
- The **Lending Library** starts on Friday 10th November. Each child will bring a book bag home every Friday, with three library books in it, and we request that library books and bags are **returned every Tuesday**. This is a great opportunity for you to enhance your child's learning and development, potentially across all areas of the curriculum. It is also a great, and inexpensive way for your child to experience and explore a wide range of books and stories!
- Breakfast club is continuing to run for nursery children from 8am each morning. Please ensure children are dropped off **no later than 8.30am**.

We are looking forward to another busy term and 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



Dates for your diary

- **Friday 10th November** – Lending library starts and Nursery fund for November is due
- **Monday 13th - Friday 17th November**– Anti-bullying week in the Primary and Nursery School
- **Monday 13th November**- 'Odd Socks Day' children to come to Nursery wearing odd socks as part of anti-bullying week
- **Friday 17th November**- BLUE DAY- children can wear blue clothes on this day. This is also open afternoon in the Nursery Unit **1.15pm-2.45pm**. Nursery children will leave at **12noon** on this day to facilitate preparation and lunch will be served at an earlier time. Thank you for your co-operation
- **Friday 1st December** – 'Tinsel and Treat Day' Classrooms will be decorated and a special treat provided. It is a Christmas Jumper Day - We also ask for £1 per child to support Radio Cracker please
- **Wednesday 6th December** - Nursery Nativity performance followed by the Primary School open morning (times to be confirmed). Christmas dinner will also be served in Nursery and children can wear Christmas jumpers
- **Monday 18th December**- Children will be walking across to the church to watch the dress rehearsal of the p6 & p7 Nativity.
- **Tuesday 19th December** - Christmas party day! Children can wear a Christmas jumper on this day and treats will be provided
- **Thursday 21st December** – Nursery will be closing at 12:15pm. There will be no school dinners provided on this day
- **Thursday 4th January** – Term two commences. Nursery children start back as usual between 9:00 and 9:15am. There will be a special performance from the Banyon Theatre on this day



Please Note:

Applications for admission to pre-school and to primary school for the 2024/2025 school year will be completed online.

Please see; www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides from the end of November for more information on how to apply. We will keep you updated this term when you need to apply.





Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter

November / December



Designated Teacher for Child Protection – Mrs J Thompson (P6),
Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection – Mrs J Thompson (P2) and Mrs K McGuckin



Happy Birthday for the first term!

Mrs McGuckin's class:

Annie-Rose, Suzie, Aleyna & Trent

Mrs Cumberland's class:

JJ, Carter, Harper & Sophia



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 have a cake and 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.



Nursery times

We would like to remind carers that all children should be in school by 9.15am and can be collected from 1.15pm-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.)

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.



Dear parents, we are delighted to have the children all settled into a sound nursery routine. Your patience and assistance during the vital settling in period was invaluable, thank you. Please remember if you do have any worries, concerns or relevant information about your child, please speak to their teacher at any time throughout the year.

This is the second half of the first term and it is one of the most exciting, and busiest times in Ballykeel Nursery Unit! This is a perfect time to start feeling festive and share in the children's excitement which surrounds the run up to Christmas. We have lots of events and activities taking place in Nursery, we hope you're ready to get involved!



Monthly Themes



As well as other subjects which may emerge from the children's interests, we will plan to look at the following themes; Over the next few weeks we will continue to talk about and investigate **signs of autumn**; colours observed in the outdoor environments, changes in weather, and items and objects which can be found at this time of year. The children will be using autumnal colours: brown, yellow, red and orange, in their creative activities and will be encouraged to bring in items and share their experiences to contribute to the learning and understanding of autumn. We will continue to talk about **preparing for winter** in autumn (both people and animals). We will be sharing a selection of stories about woodland and various animals with the children and will also talk and learn about **migration and hibernation**. We will look at the changes in the weather and the need to dress appropriately according to these changes (coat, hat, gloves, etc. as the weather gets colder and waterproofs for wet weather).