

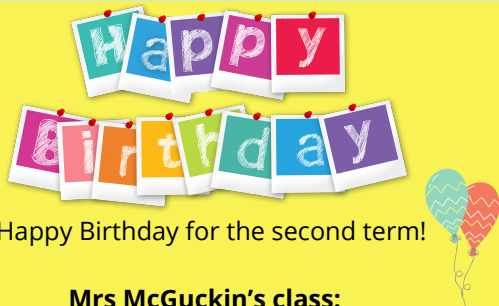


Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter

January / February



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 second term!

Mrs McGuckin's class:
Finley

Mrs Cumberland's class:
Kestie, Isaac, Adrianna, Ivy & George

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 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, 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.

Self Help Skills

The children are settling into a good lunch time routine and becoming quite independent with other Nursery processes. 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!



Monthly Themes



During the month of January our focus of interest is **'Winter' & 'Arctic animals'**, and in February, **'People Who Help Us'**. We will also talk about Chinese New Year and Valentines Day. We will discuss how to keep safe and warm in winter, cold land animals, 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 **match colours, shapes and count**, e.g. their birthday candles, their toes, etc. 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.



Nursery Fund

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

5th January, 2nd February, 1st March, 12th April, 3rd May & 7th June
Nursery fund MUST be paid on time please



Important Information

- The feedback from **The Lending library** last term has been very positive! The children were very excited to take home their pack every Friday to share with you at home.
- Through **Getting Ready to Learn** we will be launching the 'Ages and Stages' element, activity bags will be sent home with your child each Friday from 19th January. More information to follow. We are also having two 'Stay and Play' sessions for parents to come and find out more about the Nursery curriculum, you will attend on one morning.
- Telephone or in person interviews will take place again in February, we hope you will all be able to make a slot closer to the time and attend the phone interview. Please remember the staff are here at any time to discuss any concerns or answer questions as best we can.
- Breakfast club is continuing to run for nursery children from 8am each morning. Please ensure children are dropped off **no later than 8.30am**.



Please Note:

All parents need to apply for a Primary 1 place for their child, and these applications are online. The EA portal is open from 9th January to 26th January - we will keep you posted via Seesaw to remind you of these dates.

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

- **Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th January-** Health visitor- you should have booked your time slot please arrive to the Nursery door and your child will be brought out of class.
- **Tuesday 9th January-** Online Applications for Primary one are open
- **Friday 26th January-** Online applications CLOSE at 12noon for Primary one
- **Thursday 1st OR Friday 2nd February-** Stay and play for parents 9.00-9.30am. More details to follow
- **Monday 5th to Thursday 8th February -** Parent Teacher interviews in person or by telephone. From 1.30pm onwards. Nursery finishes early at 1pm.
- **Friday 9th & Monday 12th February-** Staff training Nursery will be closed
- **Tuesday 13th-Friday 16th February-** School closed for mid-term break.
- **Monday 19th February -**School reopens.
- **Thursday 22nd February-** Our second Jump, Jiggle and Jive Session
- **Monday 18th March-** School closed for St Patrick's day
- **Friday 29th March - 10th April-** Easter Holidays.
- **Thursday 11th April-** School reopens



Celebrating Creativity

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

