



Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter



March/ April

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



Happy Birthday for the second term!

Mrs McGuckin's Class:
Alice and Ruby

Mrs Court's class:
Olivia Grace

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.

School Uniform, footwear and jewellery policy :

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).

Nursery Fund:

As you know Nursery fund goes towards enhancing opportunities for the children. Using the fund we ordered a variety of new resources for both the indoor and outdoor environment. A particular favourite is the large outdoor sandpit! Please remember if you are paying monthly that nursery fund is due **Friday 1st March** and **Friday 12th April**.



What a great start to 2024! 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!).



Monthly Themes



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 or share a talent. If you feel that you would like to take part please speak to your class teacher.



Celebrate Creativity

We encourage you to celebrate your child's creativity as they bring their paintings, drawings and creations home each day, ask them about their work and praise 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



'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.



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.



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!



Dates for your diary

- **Breakfast Club Daily** - from 8am – 8.45 am
- **Friday 8th March** - Fancy dress for World Book Day. Children bring their favourite book to Nursery. Mad Hatters Tea Party will be provided for lunch.
- **Friday 15th March**- Nursery finish at 1:00pm today for a staff event
- **Thursday 28th March** - Last day of term- Nursery finishes at 12:00noon
- **Friday 29th March - Wednesday 10th April**- School closed for Easter Holidays
- **Thursday 11th April** - School re-opens
- **Friday 12th April**- Nursery fund is due

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!

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

Mrs McGuckin and Mrs Court

