

Ballykeel Nursery Newsletter

May-June

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

We can't believe it's term three already and we are fast approaching the end of the nursery year, time flies when you're having fun! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the nursery in our fundraising activities, events and general interest in your child's experiences and development. Thank you to the parents who have helped throughout the year; donating resources and craft materials, and in offering their time in nursery, with visits/trips, suggestions and to take activities - it's been a busy year, and the fun isn't over just yet. This month we will continue to provide more enriching learning experiences and prepare the children for their transition to P.1.



Happy Birthday for May, June, July and August!



Mrs Müller's class; Harry, Riley, Nikolas, Lacey, Jaylen, Dylan, Summer, Sophia Rowe and Christian!

Mrs McGuckin's class; Jonas, Sophia McKnight, Thomas, Ellie-May, Klara, Charis-Noelle, Ellie and Charlie!

It is the custom of the Nursery to celebrate all of the children's birthdays. Therefore, we will hold a "Special Birthday" party on our last day for all of the children who have birthdays during the summer months. This ensures that all of the children will have enjoyed a birthday cake and a gift from Nursery in their year with us!

Areas of focus!

In May we will be paying particular focus to; Minibeasts, life cycles (butterflies and frogs), growing, road safety and the farm. If you have any items of interest, suggestions or activities you would like to do with the children in nursery, or know of any songs or rhymes you could share, please speak to the class teacher. We would love for you to help and support us in delivering these topics, and your child would love to have you volunteer to come into Nursery (perhaps you could read a story, play a musical instrument, take a craft activity, etc. (we have previously had parents who came in to play the bagpipes for us and plant cress seeds!)).

In June we will be focusing on summer, holidays, sun safety, under the sea, and transitions. Hopefully we will be enjoying more sunny weather and will be able to explore more learning experiences in the outdoor environment! Please remember to put sun cream on your child before bringing them to nursery if the weather is likely to be warm. Staff can not apply cream to your child in nursery so it is important for them to be protected before their day starts. We will do our best to ensure your child stays safe in the sun when in nursery, as highlighted in our policy (policies are available in the nursery foyer).

Transition to Primary School

A full copy of the Nursery Transition Policy is available in Nursery if you would wish to have a copy.

The Principal, Primary 1 teachers, assistants and the canteen staff of the primary school support the smooth transition from nursery into Primary 1 by coming to visit the children, share stories, invite the children to visit the Primary 1 classrooms, infant playground, join the infant assembly and have their lunch in the school canteen. This support is very much appreciated and worthwhile in helping your child to prepare for "Big School." (Teachers from other schools are invited into our nursery to meet any children who are attending another school).

Soon the nursery team will be busily preparing the children's end of year transition forms which will be available for you to read, and sign before the end of June. The Principal, Mrs. Sheeran will read and sign the reports and you will be given a copy of the transition form for your personal record. A copy will also be forwarded to the Primary 1 teachers in Ballykeel Primary School. **If your child is not going to attend Ballykeel Primary your class teacher will forward your child's transition form to their new school.** We have also been preparing your child's art folder which will contain samples of their work and photographs from the start of the year. We hope these will give you many happy memories of your child's year at Ballykeel Nursery (Please bear in mind that some children have chosen to access the craft area more regularly than others during the year but we hope you will all enjoy the reflection of your child's time spent at the nursery.)

There are a few special activities planned for May and June:-

Our annual trip to the farm will take place on Friday 15th June. This is a wonderful trip which will be paid for from the nursery fund (please ensure you have paid all nursery fund before the end of term). The school kitchen will provide us all with a large picnic hamper. It is so exciting for the children and a great, extracurricular opportunity to feed animals and have lots of fun in the indoor and outdoor fun parks. Our safety in the sun policy is available in nursery. Please support our efforts to protect your children in the sun by providing a hat and putting on sun cream before they come to nursery (ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name before the trip - coats, hats, etc.). You will receive a letter with more information, closer to the time.

***Our annual fun/sports day will be held on Friday 22nd June between 10am and 11am.** As you will appreciate with the age and stage of development of the Nursery children it is important that they enjoy physical exercise within a controlled, fun filled and safe environment. Therefore, it is our aim to provide several fun and energetic challenges for **you and your child to take part in** within the Nursery grounds. **Hometime will be 11am on this day** and your child can leave with you after their sports day fun. If you can, we would encourage you to come along and help your child and have some fun, hopefully in the sun!

An extra special invitation is extended to you and family members to attend a slideshow presentation of 'The Nursery Classes of 2017/2018'. This will be held earlier in the morning of the nursery fun day, at 9.15am and will last approximately 45minutes - this is not to be missed! Tea, coffee and scones will be provided but please leave your child in Nursery that morning as usual - the children will have their own viewing of the slide show at another time.

'FANCY DRESS PARTY!'

We will be holding a **fundraising event** for the nursery on **Tuesday 26th June.**

Your child will receive an extra special invitation to our party, all you need is your favourite fancy dress outfit, and we'll have a special party, including a disco!

Math's in a bag!

Maths in a bag will be issued for the last time on Friday 15th June and must be returned by Tuesday 19th June. We trust that you and your child are enjoying this educational lending service. Please check that you have returned **all of the contents** which are listed in each bag's contents page. We would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about this service. Please share your ideas, comments or suggestions with a member of the nursery team, or you may prefer to use the nursery suggestion box in the hallway. Thank you.

Dates for your diary!

May and June are very busy months in nursery so perhaps you should keep this list handy or visit our web site if you misplace this newsletter

(Website www.ballykeelps.org.uk). Dates are also displayed on the notice board in the entrance hall as usual.

- Tuesday 1st May Cancer focus story time visit
- Monday 7th May Bank Holiday - school and nursery closed
- Thursday 24th May Lads & dad's afternoon (*organised by the jigsaw worker - more details to follow*).
- Friday 25th May Staff training- school and nursery closed
- Monday 28th May Bank holiday- school and nursery closed
- Tuesday 29th May Staff training- school and nursery closed
- Thursday 31st May Induction for Ballykeel P.1, 1-2pm. (For parents of children starting P1 in September 2018)
- Friday 1st June School summer fair (6.30pm-8.30pm)
- Monday 4th June Nursery closes at 12noon (children will be provided with lunch before leaving)
- parent induction for children starting nursery in 2018/19.
- Thursday 7st June Nursery closes at 12noon (children will be provided with lunch before leaving)
- induction afternoon for the children who are starting nursery in 2018/19.
- Friday 8th June School photographs (whole class). Please wear **full nursery uniform**.
- Friday 8th June Nursery closes at 12noon (children will be provided with lunch before leaving)
- induction afternoon for the children who are starting nursery in 2018/19.
- Thurs 14th June Nursery trip to Clementsmount Fun Farm, Crumlin (nursery doors will open at 8.50am and all children should be in school sharp as the bus will leave promptly. Thank you).
- Wed 20th & Thurs 21st June Primary school production 'The Lion King' *more details to follow*
- Friday 22nd June Nursery parent's coffee morning **and** nursery 'Fun/Sports day!' Coffee morning at 9.15-10am. Fun day directly after at 10-11am. Hometime for all nursery children will be 11am (**please note; no school lunch will be provided on this day**).
- Tuesday 26th June Fancy Dress Party! Fundraising event for the nursery (Normal nursery hours).
- Friday 29th June Last day of nursery, **home time 11.30am** (End of 2017/18 school year). *Primary closes at 12noon.*
- Tuesday 28th August 2018 School starts for 2018-2019.

Help your child at home!

With the better weather creeping in and the transition into primary school approaching, you can support your child to further develop their skills and abilities outside of nursery too.

Physical development: You can encourage your child to look at their name and try to form some of the letters. Many children are showing an interest in letters in the nursery and some are already writing their names! Please try to use lower case letters when writing your child's name (apart from the first letter which should be a capital). An easy way to start is to write your child's name, with large letters and well spaced out, in pencil and let them draw over it in felt tip. You can also form their name in a dot-to-dot style and let them use the pencil or felt tip to connect the dots on each letter. If your child finds this easy let them copy their name under the example you have provided.

With the good weather arriving (and hopefully staying!) it's the perfect opportunity to get your children outside and moving! Working and strengthening all the gross muscles in the body will not only help to keep them active and healthy but the strength filters down through to enhance other smaller abilities like; being able to sit up straight for longer periods of time (which aids concentration), allows them better strength to hold their writing tools in the correct way and mark make/write with better control, helps them with self-help skills such as dressing, pouring a drink, cutting their food using their knife and fork, etc. It also develops their awareness of their bodies and what they are able to do and what they need to practice and perfect.

The arts: Our children are expressive by nature and they enjoy many different styles of creativity. Some take part in dancing, singing or just listen to music, some like to explore sounds and the various musical instruments, others enjoy role play in the home corner and dressing up or making models with the construction resources, playdough junk art or paint and draw at the craft table. These are all things which you can encourage and take part in at home. It doesn't have to be planned - children are fantastic at finding a use for everything (they amaze us at the use of their imagination at times!). Pop on their favourite song and sing/dance along, let them draw or paint their favourite superhero or give them a cardboard box and some crayons and let them create their own pirate ship or fairy castle. Let them take the lead and be amazed at the ideas and interests which follow.

World around us: Science, the environment, our community and living things all feature in our children's everyday lives. Take time to talk to your child about what's going on around them, even as you walk or drive to school, point out the leaves that are growing back on the trees, the need for their sunhat in the summer sun, where milk comes from or the ingredients in bread when you're doing the shopping, etc. Teaching about the world around us is all about talking, answering the children's questions and letting them observe, experience and experiment where they can (e.g. in nursery we took some heavy and light objects and a basin of water, we talked about sinking and floating and predicted which objects would do what. The children loved testing their prediction and learned about these, first hand. The teacher aimed to guide the discussion and activity so that everyone had a turn but made sure that it was the children who had the opportunity to use their hands and their heads).

Join In...

Our songs and rhymes relate to our many focuses of interest in May and June; Healthy Eating, Exercise, Care in the Sun, Summertime, and Transition to Primary School. Share these with your children at home and encourage them to talk about what's going on in nursery and the new experiences they are encountering. Children love listening to stories and they don't always have to be from a book - why don't you tell them about some of the good memories you have about starting primary school! All of these things will help you to extend your child's understanding of our focuses of interest, strengthen their language and creative development and help to extend their song and rhyme repertoire, all in a fun way!

Don't forget to visit the School website www.ballykeelps.org.uk to find out about life in Ballykeel Primary School and Nursery Unit.

We wish you and your child every happiness and success in Primary school. We trust you will keep in touch with us and pop into Nursery to visit!

Have a wonderful, peaceful summer break and we thank you for the lovely year we've had with your children.

-The Nursery Team



Songs and Rhymes



Care in the Sun – Slip / Slop / Slap

Here is a rule we love to teach. Slip on a tee-shirt at the beach.
Slop on that sun cream, don't be a fool. Always remember the "Golden Rule!"
Slap on a hat in the Summer Sun. Then your holiday will be - Fun! Fun! Fun!

Building Castles (Tune I'm a little teapot)

I love building castles on the shore, Every time I finish one, I build one more!
Digging in the sand is where I'll be, Grab your spade and dig with me! (repeat 1st 2 lines)

When we go swimming (Tune Sing a song of sixpence)

When we all go swimming at the beach each day. We are very careful how we swim and play.
We always swim together. We never swim away! If we remember all the rules we'll all be safe each day!

Sing a song of Summer (Tune sing a song of sixpence)

Sing a song of Summer a pocket full of sand.
Sing a song of summer an ice-cream in my hand.
Sing a song of Summer a pocket full of rhymes
Sing a song of Summer I love the Summer time!

5 Colourful Parrots

5 colourful parrots sitting on a wall.
2 were very big and 3 were very small;
Along came the wind and caused 1 to fall.
That left 4 colourful parrots sitting on the wall.

4,3,& 2 etc.

1 colourful parrot sitting on the wall,
Left on his own, with no parrots at all;
So it flew off, before it would fall.
Leaving no colourful parrots sitting on the wall.

Picnic

We're going on a picnic,
What shall we have?
Sandwiches and sausage rolls,
Put them in the bag.

We're going on a picnic, what shall we have?.... Chicken and ham and strawberry jam, put them in the bag.

... Ginger biscuits and cherry cake, put them in the bag.

... Crisps and apples and lots of cheese, put them in the bag.

Please remember to read the rhymes and encourage your child to join you in sharing them on a regular basis and discuss our topics of interest. Enjoy! If you have any favourite story books, poems, rhymes or songs you would like to share with us please bring them in. Thank you

