

## BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



It's December already and Christmas is coming, with the children full of excitement and looking forward to Santa's visit. Please read the newsletter carefully as it contains some important dates.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS - WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We have been on the waiting list for 3 years for an opportunity to "bag pack" in Tesco, Ballymena to raise funds for nursery school and we have finally been offered a date - . **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December (10 am - 5pm.)** The staff together with a few parents have volunteered to help however we need many more helpers for the afternoon. If you can spare one hour to help on that afternoon, please sign up for a slot on the sheet on the whiteboard in the entrance hall. Tesco will be busy in the lead up to Christmas so this is a tremendous opportunity to boost our funds which will allow us to buy more resources and offer more opportunities for your children.

We would also welcome more volunteers to help in the gardens; we appreciate our beautiful, mature grounds, but help is always needed all year round, to help us maintain our Green Flag Eco status.

The sale of poppies/bracelets and stationery for the Royal British Legion raised £100 and your donations towards Children in Need amounted to £175.00. Thank you for your support. Please continue to contribute to our re-cycling boxes for Count the Kicks and junk art. If your child receives some novelty bubble bath for Christmas, please keep the empty containers for the children to play with in the water trays.

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE/CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Thank you to parents, relatives and businesses who have provided prizes for our Christmas raffle.

Tickets are now on sale from your class teacher- £1 each. Please leave all raffle prizes into school as soon as possible for the draw on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, - 10.15 - 11.15 am and 2-3pm.

Tea/coffee will be provided by nursery; if you would like to contribute mince pies or help to serve tea/coffee, please see your class teacher. There will be NO lending library on this day - instead, it will be an opportunity to join other parents, grandparents or childminders for mince pies, coffee and chat. The draw will be made for half of the prizes in the morning session and the draw for the remaining prizes will be made in the afternoon. Please plan to attend. There will also be a selection of festive "hand-made" crafts to purchase.

## LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Please continue to support our collection for Women's Aid, especially at this time of year with the added financial pressure on single mothers. Christmas crackers, small stocking fillers and toiletries are always very welcome.

## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY/SING- ALONG

Mrs. Coulter & Mrs. McMullan -  
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December

Mrs. McGall's classes -  
Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December

Please bring your child to school at the normal start time. Your teacher will advise you if you need to provide any clothing for your child's role.

You are welcome to wait in school for the performances which will commence at 9.15 a.m. (morning classes) and 1.00 p.m. (afternoon classes). Please note that due to limited space and Health and safety requirements, we can only accommodate a **maximum of 2 guests per child.**

## SANTA'S POSTBOX

Your child has been encouraged to "write" their letter to Santa and it has been posted in the Nursery's special postbox. Royal Mail will deliver replies to your children to Nursery in time for Christmas. Please remember to keep your used postage stamps for "Count the Kicks" and also used Christmas cards for Nursery (front of cards only please!)

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mrs. McGall's classes -

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Mrs. Coulter & Mrs. McMullan's classes - Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December.

We would encourage children to wear their Christmas jumpers for this special day. Please do not go to additional expense - simply add some festive decorations to your child's own jumper. A £1 donation from parents will go towards Save the Children Fund

## SHOW & TELL & CHRISTMAS CARDS

There will be NO "Show and Tell" during the month of December as it is necessary to dedicate a lot of time to rehearsals for the Nativity Plays and Sing Alongs. The children will be allocated an individual time during our special Christmas Show and Tell week 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> January, to show Santa presents and share their Christmas news.

Traditionally, parents have requested class lists to help them write personalised Christmas cards to their child's friends. We would suggest and encourage you however, to either write or make ONE card with your child for all of their friends, to be displayed on our Christmas card display boards.

## LENDING LIBRARY

Lending library will re-commence on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

## ENROLMENT 2020

The digital application process for admission to Nursery and Primary school for September 2020 opens at 12 noon on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January and closes at 12 noon on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Children in Mrs. McMullan's class who plan to return to Ballymena Nursery School for their pre-school year will need to re-apply.

Parents of current nursery children should now be considering their choice of primary school.

## GETTING READY TO LEARN & SHARING FROM THE START

Thank you to those parents who attended the Big Bedtime Read. We are looking forward to "stay and play" dates with the children from Castle Tower Nursery Unit and First Steps Playgroup. Details of dates and photographs of our activities for "Getting Ready to Learn" and "Sharing from the Start" will be on our nursery website

[www.ballymenanursery.co.uk](http://www.ballymenanursery.co.uk).

### TAPESTRY

If you need help or advice, please e-mail Mrs. McMullan, our ICT co-ordinator.

(smcmullan206@c2kni.net)

### PARKING MATTERS

**Please refrain from using the disabled car parking spaces, (unless you are entitled to do so), or the spaces designated for staff use only.**

### SCHOOL FUND MONEY

For those who have opted to pay monthly, £16 is now due for December. Please place correct money in an envelope, clearly marked with your child's name/class and post in nursery letter box located under the window beside the main entrance door. **Money should be paid promptly on the first school day of each month.** Unfortunately, there remains a small number of parents who are in arrears. We believe you would all agree that Nursery is well worth 80p per day!

### LEARNING FOCUS FOR THIS MONTH

This month's focus of interest is WINTER, CHRISTMAS, and THE NATIVITY.

You may encourage your child to bring in something for the interest table supporting our learning focus for this month. These items will be returned at the end of the month.

### AREAS OF LEARNING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Please copy and paste the following link:

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/going-out-play-and-learn>

This is part of the excellent free and downloadable "Learning Together" series, which is well worth a visit.

### SNOW CLOSURES

In the event of the school having to close due to adverse weather conditions, the information will be posted, where possible, on the BBC's Digital Text Service and on BBC News Ni website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsni> We will also use our school texting service to keep you updated.

**Please ensure that you notify us of any change to your designated telephone number or if you did not receive our Test Text Message.**

### CAN YOU HELP???

Can you please check at home if your child has accidentally taken any of the zoo/farm animals, tractor and dolls from the Nursery hallway or small items from the classrooms. We appreciate the toys can easily be mixed up between Nursery and home. Please respectfully remember that the main Nursery doors will not open until 8.35 a.m (morning session) and 12.20 p.m. (afternoon session).

### CASH FOR CLOTHES

The date for our next Cash for Clothes collection has been arranged for:-

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December (p.m. classes) and Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December (a.m. classes)

All unwanted clothes, blankets, shoes, belts, toys etc. will be gratefully received. These should

be in good condition. No quilts, cushions or bric-a-brac please.

### HOLIDAYS

School finishes for afternoon classes on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 3 p.m. and for morning classes on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 a.m. School will re-open for all children on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

On behalf of all the staff, may we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

