



## Newsletter Sept/Oct 2023

*A very warm welcome to you all at the beginning of your child's Nursery year! We hope that you and your child enjoy your time with us in Ballyclare Nursery School! Staff are always on hand to answer any questions or queries so please don't hesitate to talk to us.*

### Diary Dates

All holidays, closure days and events are on our school website calendar. This will be updated on a regular basis so please ensure that you check it regularly.

### October:

#### Session Times from Monday 2nd October-

All children attend 5 days per week for 2.5hrs a day. (Unless otherwise arranged with the class teacher)

**Tuesday 17th** –Jo Jingles starts for a 4-week block (see online calendar)



**Friday 27th-** 'Big Bedtime Read' Pyjama Party- further details to follow.

**Nursery Closes** for Halloween break- Normal Times

### November:

**Monday 6th-** Nursery Reopens

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>:** School photographer here to take individual photographs- more information to follow.

### December:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>-** Open Afternoon for children due to start Nursery in September 2024.

**Weds 13<sup>th</sup>-** Mr Hullabaloo Theatre Company is in Nursery to present his latest show- "Festivals".



**Thursday 21st-** Christmas Party Day with Jo Jingles and last day of term. Change to times on this day:

AM session:9-10:30

PM Session 12-1:30

Children can wear party clothes.

***All diary dates are on our 'Calendar' on the website, with details of key events being added throughout the year.***

*Please continue to check the website regularly as there are updates, information and calendar dates being added regularly.*

### Settling In

We are in the process of our 'Settling In' period. Children will be learning our routines over the coming weeks! Our learning theme for Sept and Oct is 'It's all about me!' Further information about this and all the other learning themes we will be looking at this year can be found on our website on our 'Parents and Carers' Tab.





### Learning Outside

The children have already begun to learn our outside play routines. As the weather gets colder, please send your child with a warm coat, hat, and gloves as we try to go outside every day!

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

**On Friday 24th November Nursery is CLOSED.** On this day you will be able to talk to your child's teacher about how they are settling into school life. These will be done over the telephone. Appointments for this will be available to make on our website nearer to the time. Please make every effort to make an appointment as it is important for both you and your child.

### Friends of Ballyclare Nursery PTA

**Each year our PTA raises an amazing amount for the children. The money raised is used to fund a variety of activities and treats for your children throughout the nursery year. Without this support we would not be able to provide activities such as Jo Jingles and Rugbugz, so your support is very much appreciated by us all.**

Upcoming events will be advertised on the PTA Facebook page and are also available to view on our website under the 'Community' drop down menu – 'Friends of Ballyclare Nursery'.

You will have received a flyer via app message advertising the first PTA meeting. Please do come along if you would like to get involved- you are so very welcome.



### Upcoming PTA Activities

#### **Smartie Tube Challenge!**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October your child will be bringing home a tube of Smarties! We ask that after they have enjoyed eating them that they ask family and friends for 20p pieces to fill the tube. Further information will follow.



#### **Fireside Quiz**

In December the PTA will be organising their annual 'Fireside Quiz' competition.

This is a festive fun activity for family and friends to get involved in and test their general knowledge!

#### **Christmas**

At the end of term, the children will be bringing home a 'Christmas Eve Goody bag' which the PTA kindly put together every year.

#### Clothing Bin



Please use the clothing 'recycling' bin that is located at our Main Entrance Gate. This is for family and local community use. Every time the bin is emptied the school receives a small donation from 'Cash for Clobber' so please use it whenever you are having a clear out!

#### School App and Home/School Communication

Everybody is now registered with our "School App"! Please make sure that you have allowed notifications. Please make a habit of checking the app messages on a regular basis as this is our main means of

communication. If your number has changed, or you haven't received any messages then please contact the school office.

This will be used to send messages, letters, and other information throughout the year. The only information sent home in paper form is our newsletter. This is also always sent via the app and can always be found on our website. Newsletter's go home every 2 months.

The school calendar is also kept up to date with activities and events. There is an option on the website for you to add the school calendar to the outlook calendar on your phone.

### **School Fund**

You will soon be receiving envelopes for the first monthly collection of our school fund contribution. This is £12 per month for each child. It is worked out over the year to allow for school holidays and closures so will be the same amount every month.

School fund is vital for us in order to pay for day-to-day resources for the children's learning and development. It not only also funds snack for everyone but is used to enable us to provide a wide variety of activities and resources throughout the year for every child in our school. We very much appreciate everyone contributing to our school fund as every child benefits from what we receive.

If you would like to pay for your child's school fund for a whole year in one payment, then please let your child's teacher know. We can organise for this to

be done via bank transfer. We can only accept cash for monthly payments.

Thank you for your continued support!



## **KEY SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER-** Children finish today for Halloween break.

**MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER-** Children return to school.

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - School is CLOSED-** Parent/Teacher Telephone Meetings

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER-** Children finish today for Christmas Holidays

**THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY-** Children return to school.

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY-** Children finish today for mid-term break.

**TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY-** Children return to school.

**FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> March-** Children finish today for Easter Holidays

**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL-** Children return to school.

**THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY-** Children finish today for long bank holiday weekend.

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY-** Children return to school.

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY-** Children finish today for long bank holiday weekend.

**(FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY-** Parent/Teacher Telephone Meetings)

**WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY-** Children return to school.

**THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE-** PM Session Graduation and finish today for Summer Holidays

**FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE-** AM Session Graduation and finish today for Summer Holidays