

December 2018

Theme -

Our theme for December is '**Christmas**'

We are really busy already learning about the Nativity Story and singing lots of Christmas songs. We will be having lots of fun making some Christmas Decorations, and we will be wrapping presents in Santa's Kingdom and Home Corner role play areas this month. In our sensory area we will have magic reindeer food and the children will be modelling special birthday cakes for Baby Jesus! We will be talking about the star shape, with its straight lines and points.

Stories – As well as the Nativity Story, we will be reading stories about 'Santa', 'Threadbear', and 'The Elf on the Shelf.'

Colour –

Our colours this month are **gold and silver**. Please encourage your child to look out for gold and silver objects in their environment and encourage them to bring something in from home for our colour table. Please ensure that all items are named – they will stay in Nursery until the end of the month when we will send them home again!

Outdoor Play

The weather is definitely getting colder! We want to play outdoors as much as possible, so please remember to send your child's coat with them each day, along with a scarf, hat and gloves as we move to icier conditions! We are encouraging the children's independence when putting on and removing their coat – they have such a sense of achievement when they master this. I know it takes a lot longer, but please let them practise this at home too.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to this charity. We sent 40 boxes overseas to benefit children who may not have had a Christmas present this year if it wasn't for this charity.

Smarties Fundraiser

Thank you for returning the filled Smarties tubes. If you still have a Smarties tube at home please send it in as soon as possible. We will let you know a total and how it will be spent, when we have one.

Parents' Feedback

Please return Parents' Feedback forms by Friday 7th December. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us to keep striving towards continuous improvement of our provision.

Christmas Cards

We will be sending home a list of names of the children in your child's class to help you when writing Christmas Cards to their classmates. We will open the doors to our cloakrooms 15 minutes before the end of the session this month, to give you time to post your child's cards in their friend's boxes.

Tissues appeal!

As you can imagine, we go through a lot of tissues in Nursery, especially at this time of the year! We are asking parents to help us by sending in a box of tissues this week. Thank you!



Open Day

Our Open Day for children who will be starting Nursery in September 2019 is on Wednesday 5th December from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

Please Note – THERE WILL BE NO SESSION FOR THE BLUE CLASS ON THIS DATE.

Enrolment for Nursery and Primary Schools for September 2019

The Education Authority are encouraging parents to apply online for a place in Nursery or Primary School for their child in September 2019. There will be a Parent Portal available from Wednesday 2nd January 2019 at 10.00am. The closing date for applications will be Thursday 31st January at 12.00 midnight. You will receive more details on how to apply for a place from the Nursery or Primary School you are applying to, at their Open Days in the coming weeks or by contacting them directly.

Primary School Open Days

We have been notified of the following Open Days by local Primary Schools –

Dunclug Primary School – Monday 3rd December, 2.00-4.00pm

St. Colmcille's Primary School – Monday 3rd December, 6.30pm

Ballymena Primary School – Tuesday 4th December, 6.00-8.00pm

Carniny Primary School – Wednesday 5th December, 6.00-8.00pm

St. Brigid's Primary School – Wednesday 5th December, 6.30pm

Braidside Int. Primary School – Thursday 6th December, 2.30-4.30pm

Camphill Primary School – Friday 14th December, 1.15-3.00pm

Details of other Open Days can be sought by contacting the schools directly.

Christmas Nativity

You have hopefully received an invite to our Nativity Plays. As we are performing in Dunclug Primary School's Hall this year, please feel free to invite grandparents and other relatives along too.

The children's Nativity should last approximately 20-30 minutes. This is a very exciting and tiring day as you can imagine, so we are asking parents to arrange for their child to go home with them, or to be collected, when their performance is over.

End of Term arrangements

The last day of term will be –

Thursday 20th December for Blue Class and Friday 21st December for the Red and Yellow classes, with the Yellow class finishing at 11.15am on this day.

Car parking

As we are one of three schools who share our site, we understand that the traffic can be very heavy at drop off and pick up times. We are asking that parents please show consideration of others when parking at our entrance. As staff have different starting and finishing times to cater with different session times, we are asking that parents or carers do not block our vehicle entrance by parking across our gate. Please also show consideration for the buses who arrive at Dunclug College by not parking in a space that blocks their thoroughfare. Thank you!

Christmas Jumper Day

Children may wear a Christmas Jumper on Friday 14th December, to raise money for 'Cancer fund for Children.' Suggested donation is £1 on the day.

Temporary Cleaning Vacancy

We are looking for someone to help us out with Cleaning in Nursery for 2.5 – 3 hours per afternoon, Monday to Friday, in a temporary capacity, initially for the next month. If you or someone you know is interested, please speak to Mrs. Muir or call us on 028 25644286.

Upcoming Events and Important dates –

Wednesday 5th December – NO BLUE CLASS - Open Day - Children starting Nursery in September '19

Friday 7th December – Dunclug Primary School Nativity Performance – All classes

Monday 10th December – Red and Yellow Classes will visit St. Colmcille's P. S. Christmas performance. Blue class will attend Dunclug Primary's Nativity Performance.

Wednesday 12th December – Red and Yellow Classes will visit St. Brigid's P. S. Christmas performance.

Friday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day in Nursery. Normal Session times apply.

Wednesday 19th December – Red (10.30am) and Blue Class (1.30pm) Nativity performance in Dunclug Primary School's Assembly Hall

Thursday 20th December – Yellow Class Nativity Performance 10.30am in Dunclug Primary School's Assembly Hall. (No school dinner as children will go home with their parents after their performance.)

Last day of term and Christmas Party for Blue Class.

Friday 21st Dec - Last day of term and Christmas Party for Red and Yellow Classes.

Yellow Class will finish at 11.15am (no school dinner on this day).

Children can wear their own clothes or Christmas Fancy Dress for their party on the last day of term if they wish. Party food will be provided by Nursery.



Birthday Boys and Girls

Happy Birthday to all of these special boys and girls who will be celebrating their birthday this month

Yellow Class – Holly, Karim

Red Class - Annaliese, Drew, Eva

Blue Class – Sofia

On behalf of the Governors and Staff of our Nursery, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Pamela Muir – Principal



December Songsheet

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus,
Lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky,
Look down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
Asleep on the hay.



Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
On a one horse open sleigh,
Oh Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Hurrah for dear old Santa Claus
And hurrah for Christmas Day.



We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!



Christmas Pudding

Christmas Pudding, Christmas Pudding
Steaming Hot, Steaming Hot,
Sprinkle on the sugar, sprinkle on the sugar, Eat the lot, eat the lot

Five Little Happy Elves

Five Little Happy Elves,
Danced round the workshop shelves,
Looking for lots of jobs to do,
Bang, saw!
One little Happy Elf, Fell off the worktop shelf,
Then there were only four little Happy Elves,
Bang, saw!

