

Welcome back ...

We hope that you all had an enjoyable, longer than usual, half-term break. We are delighted to be back in Nursery and the children seemed really glad to be back with us too. The children have settled very well back into our busy daily routine. The first half term of the year was spent making friends and creating masterpieces through their play.

We are trying to play outside as much as possible, in spite of the weather! Please make sure that your child has a *named* coat in school with them every day and that they are wearing appropriate footwear. Please send in a pair of wellies that your child could keep in school for the very wet days!

Theme –

This month we will continue with our 'In the Woods' theme, before beginning to learn about **Outer Space**.

We will be learning about Space travel and our Solar System. We will be reading lots of story books and non-fiction books on our new theme. Please have a look at the library and at home for some titles on the themes to read with your child too!

Colour –

Our colours this month are **black and white**. Please encourage your child to look out for black and white objects in their environment.

Session Times –

All classes are currently attending for a shorter session than we normally do, with our Part Time classes attending for 2 hours and the Full Time class attending for 3 hours daily. The reason for this is that we have had to put additional measures in place within our setting, in an attempt to protect our children, staff and their families and to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 in our Nursery School. These measures require staff to undertake enhanced and more frequent cleaning and has meant that some of the resources we could previously have used are not at our disposal currently. We will continue to follow Department of Education and PHA guidance and will keep the length of session times under constant review.

Preventing the spread of illnesses in Nursery

Peter Weir, Education Minister today has said that parents are at the heart of fighting the virus and minimising any further disruption to education. He has therefore asked that parents attending schools to drop off or pick up their children -

- do not congregate at the school gates
- always practise social distancing
- wear a mask
- **do not come into school building**, unless you have an appointment.

On top of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the season of colds, flu, bugs and viruses! To help us prevent the spread of these, and for your child's wellbeing when they are ill, we would like to remind you that your child should not attend Nursery if they, or anyone in their household,

- has a temperature,
- new continuous cough or
- loss or change to their sense of taste or smell, as per PHA guidance.

...**On this note**...we are going through lots and lots of tissues in Nursery, as I am sure you can imagine! We are asking parents to donate a box of tissues so that we can keep a stockpile to get us through these winter months! Please give them to a member of staff this week or next. Thank you!

Please keep your child at home and contact us if your child has been identified as a close contact, or if they or someone in their household has tested positive for COVID-19. Thank you.

Any child who has been vomiting or having diarrhoea should remain at home for **48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.**

Contact with Nursery

We are really conscious that there is less opportunity to talk staff this year, due to measures in place to try to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in our Nursery School Community. Please feel free to contact us, by phonecall on 028 256 44286, email on pmuir291@c2kni.net or via Seesaw, by clicking on the Inbox tab and clicking your child's teacher's name. If we cannot chat at that time we will arrange another time to give you a call to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.

Nursery Fund

We have been trying to source a cashless system that would enable parents to pay Nursery Fund, which is £5.00 per week and School Dinners for those children in the Full Time Class. We have run into some difficulties with the system we tried to initiate, however payment of Nursery Fund will begin on Monday 9th November. We will be in touch via Seesaw to let you know how to make the payment. Our Nursery Fund is running very low at the minute since we have missed September and October contributions, so we will be very grateful of the payments from next week on!

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Unfortunately we had to postpone our Parent/Teacher meetings due to the extended half term holiday, however we hope to arrange a time with you next week, when we can give you a call at a time that suits.

The call should last around 10 mins, to enable us to discuss how your child is settling into Nursery. During this call please feel free to raise any concerns or queries with your child's teacher too. We will be in touch via Seesaw tomorrow to arrange a suitable time for the call.

School Photographer

The School Photographer will be in school on **Thursday 3rd December** to take individual photos of the children in each class. The photographs will be taken in an area away from the main classroom and the photographer has put measures in place to ensure that social distancing can be maintained during the short time she will be in each child's company on the day.



NATIVITY

It is our aim to give your child the fullest possible Nursery experience this year, in spite of the measures we have had to put in place. We are going ahead with our Nativity practices and hope to put on a performance for you to watch in December – this may have to be pre – recorded and sent to you, but it is such a lovely part of our Nursery School year that we didn't want the children – or you – to miss out on, if there is a way that we can still let you see it. Apologies in advance for the Christmas songs that you may be hearing on repeat as your child gets to know them over the next few weeks!

September 2021 Admission to Nursery

If you or any of your friends would like to add a child's name to our Mailing List for September 2021 Enrolment, please contact Mrs. Magill in the Nursery School office, or speak with any member of staff. We will use this information to contact you with information on how to apply for a place in our Nursery when the application process opens in January.

Pick Up Times

Please ensure that you arrive promptly at the end of your child's Nursery session. Late pick ups can be distressing for your child and they also restrict the amount of cleaning and preparation time staff have to set up for the next sessions.



Birthday Boys and Girls

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

Yellow Class –

Aleyah

Louis

Caleb

Matthew

Red Class –

Georgia

Jaxon

Conor N

Zara

Blue Class –

Emily

Elisa

Many Thanks for your continued support,

Pamela Muir

