



December 2022

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 Christmas Decorations, and we will be wrapping presents in Santa's Kingdom and Home Corner role play areas this month. We are decorating Christmas Trees, making magic reindeer food and 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.

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. We encourage the children to put their hood on first and then put their arms in!

If your child is wearing wellies to school please send a change of shoes for inside with them too.

Thank you

Outdoor Play Equipment

As part of our School Development Planning, we have placed a large order with Messy Play NI for new, custom built, Outdoor Play equipment to be delivered over the next few weeks, including the Outdoor Classroom you may have seen a picture of on Seesaw or our social media. We are looking forward to the new play opportunities these will enable us to provide and will keep you updated with photographs via Seesaw.

School Photographer

Hopefully you will have received an email with a link to view your child's photograph. If you would like the prints before Christmas please order them online as soon as possible.

Christmas Presents for Staff – Donations to Ballymena Foodbank

We are so thankful that some parents wish to buy presents for staff at Christmas, however this year, in light of the impact of the cost of living crisis and the financial burden this has had on everyone,

we are asking that you do not send presents in, but instead, if you can afford to, buy an item(s) from the list of items that Ballymena Foodbank have told us they are most in need of at the moment -

- **Shampoo**
- **Sugar**
- **Coffee**
- **Tinned meats, such as ham / tuna etc**

Please send your contribution into Nursery by **Friday 9th December** and we will then take the items over to their Headquarters, where their volunteers will be making up packs for the families most at need in our community.

Advice from the local Foodbank Co-ordinator is to buy a couple of low-cost, own brand items rather than one of a more expensive branded product – e.g. Tate and Lyle sugar is priced at 75p per bag in B and M stores, while a similar product would be £1.50 if bought in a local convenience store, so you could buy 2 bags of the cheaper brand rather than one of the more expensive alternative!

Christmas Cards

We will send home a list of names of the children in your child's class via Seesaw, to help you when writing Christmas Cards to their classmates. You can then help your child put the cards in their classmate's boxes at a time that suits you.

Open Day

We will be having an Open Day, for parents of children who are due to start Nursery in September 2023 on Thursday 8th December. Those attending do not have to make an appointment and can just call along with their child between 2.00 and 6.00pm on the day.

To facilitate set up for the Open Day, there will be **no Blue Class (afternoon) session** on this day and **Yellow (full time) class will end at 12.30pm**. Dinners will be served as normal on this day.

If any of your friends or neighbours have children who will be eligible to start pre-school in September 2023 please pass on the information and encourage them to come along!

Enrolment for Nursery and Primary Schools for September 2023

Online applications for Nursery and Primary places will be open from **10th January – 27th January 2023**. You will apply via the Parent Portal available at www.eani.org.uk, just as you did last year for Nursery. We have been sharing information on Primary School's Open Days as we receive it, without bias, via Seesaw. It is very important that you apply before 27th January, so your child is considered at Stage 1 of the process.

Christmas Nativity

We have been busy practising our Nativity Plays! We are looking forward to welcoming you into Nursery this year to watch the Nativity performances live. We will send information on dates and arrangements for these via Seesaw this week.

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. **We also need this entrance to be kept clear, in case an emergency vehicle needs to access our Nursery School.**

We have been asked by Dunclug College to please also show consideration for the buses who arrive, by not parking in a space that blocks their thoroughfare. Thank you!

Christmas Jumper Day

Children may wear a Christmas Jumper on **Thursday 15th December**, to raise money St Vincent de Paul, who provide incredible practical support for families in our area. Suggested donation is £1, which can be sent to school on this date. Please do not feel that you have to buy something special – the children can come in non-uniform if they do not have a Christmas Jumper!

Upcoming Events and Important dates –

Tuesday 6th December – St.Colmcille’s pupils will visit us during the sessions to sing Christmas songs.

Wed 7th December – We are invited to Dress Rehearsal, Dunclug PS during normal sessions.

Thursday 8th December – OPEN DAY – **No Blue (afternoon) Class, Yellow Class finish at 12.30pm**

Friday 9th December – Last Day for dropping off a contribution to Ballymena Foodbank.

Tuesday 13th December - Blue Class Nativity performance in Nursery 1.00pm.

Thursday 15th December - Christmas Jumper Day, for St Vincent de Paul Charity.

Friday 16th December – Yellow Class travel to Kintullagh Nursing home to perform Nativity.

Monday 19th Dec 10.00am Red Class Nativity performance in Dunclug Primary School Assembly Hall.

Monday 19th Dec 11.30am Yellow Class Nativity performance in Dunclug Primary School Assembly Hall.

Wednesday 21st December - Jo Jingles – during normal session times.

Wednesday 21st December - **Blue Class (pm) Christmas Party** – non-uniform and **last day of term.**

Thursday 22nd December - **Red and Yellow Class Christmas Party** – non-uniform - **session ends at 11.15am for all.**



Birthday Boys and Girls

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

Yellow Class – Noah

Kainan

Grace

Mark

Red Class - Anya

Samuel

Blue Class – Cora

Olive



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

Pamela Muir