

MAGHERAFELT NURSERY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2023 in Magherafelt Nursery School. We would like to wish you and your family a Happy and Peaceful New Year and we look forward to a fun filled term together.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

You are always telling us how happy you are with your children's nursery education here at Magherafelt Nursery School so please tell others! There is still a lot of time to apply for a nursery place for September 2023.

The 'EA Connect' online portal to apply for nursery places is open until Friday 27th January at midday. This can be accessed at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. Applications after midday on 27th January will be considered 'late' and considered after all the punctual applications for children in their final preschool year. If you know anyone considering applying for an underage place for their child, please encourage them to complete an application by the closing date, as punctual underage applications will be considered before late ones.

Please note the EA Connect portal also closes for PRIMARY SCHOOL applications on 27th January at midday.

SCHOOL FUND

Payment of £25 is due at your earliest convenience. This equates to around £1.90 per week, and subsidises the provision of the additional curriculum enriching experiences that we offer as part of our programme here in the nursery school:

- a daily varied and healthy snack
- keepsake crafts e.g. Christmas tree decoration
- visiting speakers e.g. Mr Claus, Mr Hullabaloo Theatre, Habitat for Humanity, Ronan on Fridays
- Baking and dough making consumables
- Additional equipment and resources
- Gifts to volunteers who give up their time to share their expertise and interests with the children
- New outdoor play areas

LOOKING AFTER OUR WORLD: RECYCLE AND REUSE!



Parent Kieran McCrystal is doing some volunteering work with a local charity, which is currently overstocked with children's play items. At the front of the school, there is a selection of toys which you may take free of charge. Please check that they are safe for your child to use!

Free to a good home!



WINTER: WHAT WILL WE BE LEARNING

- Experiencing the weather - wind, frost, snow, ice
- Creating dens, homes and icy igloos
- Finding out about animals that live in cold countries
- Extending our vocabulary e.g. polar arctic animals, weather words
- Understanding new concepts - faster/slower; hot/cold; backwards/forwards/sideways
- Caring for the birds that stay in NI for the winter months
- Recognising logos from familiar shops
- Making food for the Chinese and Italian Restaurants
- Counting out amounts of money and numbers of objects
- Mixing paint and using a palette like a real artist
- Learning social etiquette, such as saying hello, goodbye, please, thank you and excuse me!
- Painting a picture of a snowman, snowlady, winter scene or arctic animal
- Using safety scissors e.g. gripping them correctly, making snips, cutting along a line or around a picture
- Following a daily class or individual timetable that shows the sequence of the nursery day.

BIG BEDTIME READ

The children have been enjoying the book bags and are excited each week to take home a new pack. Keep up the good work and remember to send the book pack back to school each Monday as each pack goes out again the next day!



GETTING OUTDOORS

We need to be warm, dry and snug. Waterproof shoes and no laces please. Help your child practise putting them on in this order:

1. Warm coat
2. Snood
3. Hat
4. Gloves



"Coat, Snood, Hat and Gloves (Hat and Gloves)" song to the tune of "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes"

EXTRAS for snowy days only:

Pair of warm socks

Pair of wellington boots in a named bag



SPARE CLOTHING

Your child's spare clothing bag in nursery must contain: Trousers, Top, Socks, Pants, Vest

Once used, these should be replaced as we need to keep your child warm and dry and cannot do this if we do not have clothes to change your child into. If we do not have the necessary clothing to change your child, we may have to ring you to come to change your child.

At home time, please check your child's bag for the necessary items. Our clothing extras are now depleted as many have not been returned to school. Please check if you have any nursery clothing or shoes at home to return, thank you.

READINESS TO LEARN SKILLS VOLUNTEERS

We will be working on:

- Looking towards the speaker
- Listening to other children
- Thinking and concentrating
- Speaking to others
- Waiting for a turn
- Staying on task until the job is done.

All volunteers are welcome in school e.g. to read a story, bath a baby, demonstrate a skill, play an instrument, sing with the children or any other skill or talent that you would like to share! Have a word with your class teacher or let us know at the school office! Krystyna will be volunteering for 4 afternoons each week - she will be working with the children in the afternoon classes e.g. helping with snack, reading stories, singing etc.



We will be using our Building Area to build homes, igloos and dens.

The children love working with the large Community Playthings blocks which provide opportunities for challenge, problem solving, working together and building on a larger scale. Follow your child's journey on Seesaw to see his/her building work.



BIG BLOCK PLAY

LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

Mrs McGill has been championing learning in the Great Outdoors! Each month she has been attending training, sharing outdoor practice with the staff and completing an assignment. It is really hard work, but the children have been delighting in the new learning experiences being offered to them. Together we have developed a new small world area and a welly boot storage area to store the new resources easily.



RONAN

Ronan is in the process of setting up his own 'Fit Minds' programme He will continue to be with us each week (usually Friday). This month he is working on aspects of the World Around Us Curriculum e.g. looking after our world, food around the world.

WINTER IS HERE!

Please take care in the school grounds during winter. The caretaking staff from both schools will be trying to reduce the risk of slips by salting the pathways. We will mark out a walkway into our school with cones - please keep inside the cones and hold your child's hand! As snow can start suddenly and it takes time for grit to do its job on the road, please also take care when driving through the school grounds and slow down.

SCHOOL CLOSURE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES DUE TO SEVERE SNOW: In the event that a decision is taken to close our school due to severe snow, parents will be contacted by text. Do not rely on facebook.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 18th January

Habitat for Humanity visiting school

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February

Mid Term Break

Friday 17th March

School Development Day

(no children attend)

Wednesday 5th - Friday 14th April

Easter Break

