



MAGHERAFELT NURSERY SCHOOL



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

KEEPING HEALTHY - KEEPING SAFE

This will be an action-packed month as we explore this theme together. We will be learning about:

- The importance of huff and puff play (getting out of breath)
- Refreshment and feeling the body at rest
- How to enjoy music as a form of relaxation
- Our five senses and what each sense can do
- Safety out and about, and in the car
- The job of a firefighter
- The job of a care worker / nurse / doctor / pharmacist / physio / occupational therapist / fitness instructor
- The job of an optician / eye doctor



BIG, HEAVY AND AWKWARD EQUIPMENT

Our children have been learning to lift, carry and move big, heavy and awkward equipment such as crates, tyres, pipes and planks. Problem-solving and working together are key components of this type of hands-on play as well as developing lifting techniques and big muscle groups! Please follow the learning experiences on Seesaw.

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

As part of our fundraising commitment to the NI Children's Hospice, we have almost reached our goal of raising £1000 for the charity. Our final fundraiser will be a sponsored walk and activity morning championed by Mrs McCullough (nursery assistant) and Fitzy (Ronan's Fit Minds Bear) and physical activity workshops with Ronan. We intend that this will be an action-packed morning and you will have the opportunity to join in the fun! (Friday date during class time in March to be confirmed and further details to follow).

RELAX KIDS NI

The children had a fun yet relaxed and mindful session with Mairead from Relax Kids. The class was a real hit with the children and the teachers too! More sessions are planned for later in the year as Mairead's calendar is full at the moment.



MID TERM PROGRESS MEETINGS W/C 27TH MARCH 2023

We look forward to sharing the progress your child has made across all curricular areas and to sharing ideas of how to further progress your child's learning journey. These will be telephone meetings and you will be able to book an appointment slot closer to the time.

Should a follow-up meeting be needed, it will be facilitated by making an appointment via the school office.

KEEPING SAFE IN SCHOOL

- Use footpaths and the raised crossing to cross the road
- Make sure you hold your child's hand until he / she is safely in the car/ bus!
- Check that your child walks on the 'inside' rather than 'roadside' of the footpath
- Take extra care in the ice and snow and read the warning sign together
- Keep to the veranda side of the outdoor area as the safety surface can be slippery
- Wear sturdy footwear suitable for indoor and outdoor play (no laces please!)

RONAN AND FITZY (FIT MINDS)

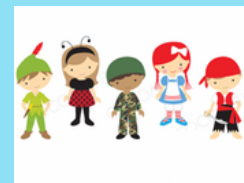


Ronan will be back each Friday after half-term with a physical movement and activity programme. As the children have fun and move to inspirational music, we know that his new 'FAST' workshops (Fun Active Sessions Together) will be a hit! And will encourage our children to get fit and stay active!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023

WORLD BOOK DAY THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2023

As we share our love of books with children, we want to make this a special day. We will be reading books with the children in unusual places, and we hope that you will do the same! A story is great at bedtime but also at other times of the day and in other places... Children can come dressed as their favourite book character and bring a favourite book to school (please put your child's name on the book).



BOOK FAIR THURSDAY 9TH & FRIDAY 10TH MARCH



The Book Fair has always been a successful event in our school and we look forward to your support this year.

- Held at class finish (pick-up times)
- Great selection of books for nursery children, many at discounted prices
- World Book Day token can be brought to our Book Fair and used for a £1 discount
- The Book Fair company Travelling Books will give us a percentage of our sales back as FREE BOOKS for our school library!!

WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS



A £1 World Book Day Book Token will be issued to your child. This can be used in 2 ways:

- Exchange it for a FREE 'World Book Day' book by taking the token to a participating retailer between **Thursday 16 February until Sunday 26 March 2023**. Our nearest are Asda Cookstown/Antrim; The Works Ballymena & The Junction; more info at www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers/
- If you bring your book token to our Book Fair, you can use its £1 value against any purchase.

HALF DAY STRIKE ACTION BY TEACHERS SCHEDULED FOR 21ST FEBRUARY 2023

All Head Teacher and teaching unions have balloted their union members and have the mandate for strike action to settle the pay awards for both 2021-22 and the current academic year 2022-23. This strike action by the teaching unions is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21st February 2023. Those teachers taking strike action will stop work and withdraw their labour until 12 noon on the day of the strike. They will resume their normal working day thereafter and afternoon classes will not be impacted.

As the principal of the school, I wish to remind you of the dedication and diligence of our teaching staff here at Magherafelt Nursery School and as the professionals that we are, we seek to represent our children and families to the best of our ability and professionalism. However, a teacher who is a union member can exercise his / her legitimate right to strike and this is a decision that teachers will take due time to consider. Those teachers who take strike action do not have to inform the principal in advance of the strike date and do lose their pay and pension contributions for the period of the strike.

The sustainability of the teaching profession is the wider issue here and we must continue to make a career in teaching attractive to our next generation of teachers.

The principal of the school (in agreement of the Chair of the Board of Governors) will complete a necessary risk assessment giving due regard to Health and Safety and Safeguarding procedures and will give you an updated position which is being emailed separately.

You will find some great remote learning resources on our website page Learning Together www.magherafeltnurseryschool.com/learning-together/

IMPORTANT DATES

13th - 17th February
Mid Term Break
2nd March
World Book Day

9th & 10th March
Book Fair in school
17th March
School Development Day

w/c 27th March
Progress meetings (by phone)
5th - 14th April
Easter Break