

MAGHERAFELT NURSERY SCHOOL

March and April 2023 Newsletter

Thank you for all your support during our theme of Keeping Healthy, Keeping Safe. The children have really enjoyed learning about the jobs that you all do to keep us healthy and safe. As we move into Springtime, we would love the children to experience how to care for a baby animal – a chick, a kid, a piglet, a rabbit or whatever animal that would be safe for the children see and handle! The visit of a tractor would also go down well with the children. Please see your child's class teacher if you could help us out with this.

THEME: GROWING AND MY 5 SENSES

We will be preparing the vegetable and herb gardens for our Spring planting activities. The children will be planting cress or mustard seeds as these grow quickly! We will also be planting pansies and primroses and fresh herbs such as parsley, thyme and lavender. In the raised beds, we will be tending to the fruit bushes and will be planting young strawberry plants and growing beans, carrots, potatoes and peas!



We will also be enjoying some themed Easter activities including an Easter Egg Hunt and making some chocolate nests to enjoy for snack!

We will be learning about our sense of smell, hearing, sight, taste and touch by trying out some experiments e.g. feely bag, identifying sounds, making a musical instrument etc.



We will also be learning about what happens on the farm and in the pond in Springtime. Please follow our posts on your child's learning journey on Seesaw to see the progress that he / she is making.

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO KEEP SAFE

The safety of our school community is paramount. The school carpark is extremely busy especially at morning drop off time. As we encourage our children to make good choices about their personal safety, please demonstrate good road safety to them. Please remember to:

- Drive round the one-way system and to drive slowly, taking due care and consideration for other drivers and for our nursery and primary school children.
- Please park in the lay-bys or carpark to drop off and pick up your child.
- Hold your child's hand at all times until he / she is safely in the car / bus!
- Check that your child walks on the 'inside' rather than the 'roadside' of the footpath.
- Use footpaths and the raised crossings to cross the road (with zebra crossing).
- Be extra careful crossing the lane and using the path at the side of the school as traffic enters and exits from this area.
- Take extra care in the ice and snow, and look out for the warning signs around the campus.
- Wear sturdy footwear suitable for indoor and outdoor play (no laces please).



Please share this important information with anyone who drops off / collects your child. We will be having a parent come into school to talk about road safety with the children.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS:



The school photographer will be in school on Friday 24th March to take group photographs and catch up on any individual photographs that were missed in Term 1. Please let Mrs Walker or the class teacher know if you wish to have your child's individual photograph taken.

LEARNING TOGETHER



You can check out the April YouTube playlist for songs linked to the themes and learning experiences. There are also videos and activities to be enjoyed on our Learning Together section of the website.

MID TERM PROGRESS MEETINGS (VIA TELEPHONE)

We look forward to sharing the progress your child has made since starting nursery school. This is an important meeting. 10 minute time slots are now available via the Schools NI app. Meetings will take place in w/c 27th March. Phone numbers used will be in the order of the emergency contact sheet. If your child has a Personal Learning Plan, your child's teacher will make an appointment with you.

MR HULLABALOO AND FRIENDS

The children have been learning about Mr Hullabaloo and Story Book Castle. Mr Hullabaloo will be back with us on Monday 20th March for a live and interactive theatre experience! We have been enjoying playing in Dotty's Outdoor Kitchen and cooking all sorts of delights with 'the stuff of the earth'! We are really looking forward to Mr Hullabaloo and his new friends!



GETTING READY TO LEARN BOOK BAGS

We know that your children are excited to get their new books each week. Please do read them together with your child and get brothers and sisters involved too. Books are both a source of learning to stimulate curious minds and a great way to relax at the end of a busy day!

BOOK FAIR

Thank you for visiting the 'Travelling Books' fair with your child and for supporting the school in this way. We look forward to topping up Mr Hullabaloo's story shelves with some of your children's favourites.

CASE FOR CHANGE

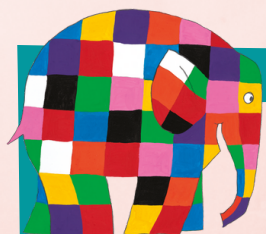
Our Development Proposal Number 704 to transform Magherafelt Nursery School to a Controlled Integrated School has been completed and presented to the Education Authority. This commences the official consultation process which will continue through the appropriate channels until it reaches the Department of Education and finally the Minister of Education for NI / Permanent Secretary for NI.

RELAX KIDS & FIT MINDS

The children are really enjoying our curriculum enrichment programme each Thursday and Friday. Mairead and Ronan bring a different kind of energy to the school and the children love the change in pace for their sessions on each day.

Mairead has been focusing on breathing, affirmations (e.g. I am loved, I am strong etc) and some fun sing-a-longs with participation. Ronan is using his FAST programme (Fun Active Sessions Together) to work on core skills such as jumping and balancing.





NI Children's Hospice and the Young Elmer Learning Trail
(in conjunction with and inspired by 'Wild in Art')



In aid of
**Northern
Ireland
Children's
Hospice**

Many of you will remember the Elmer Trail in Belfast and Castle Gardens last school year. We created our very own 'MNS style Magnus' (meaning greatest) who has been all over the province and is now safely back in his jungle domain.

As part of this NI Children's Hospice project, we committed to raising £1000 in one year. Thanks to your generosity and kindness, to date, we have raised £894. One final effort will see our school reach over and above its target – a Charity walk with opportunity to ask friends and family for a donation towards this.



Charity Walk and Elmer Day

Elmer's World is full of colour and fun and we will soon be introducing this popular book series to the children.

Join with us for an action-packed session on Friday 31st March which will include a Charity walk (route will depend on the weather), a Dragons' Eggs physical activity workshop and a fine motor skills workshop. Dress code for the day is **'COLOURFUL!'**

There will be time for a quick snack and a chat along the way! Fitzy (Ronan's Fitness Bear and Mrs McCullagh (our Fitness Fan) will lead out the walk and Ronan will be here to add some fun and energy to the day. **Please join with us for the duration of your child's session** (parents / carers and siblings are welcome to join in the walk.

The full-time class programme will be completed in time for the children to have their midday meal / lunch or if you so wish you may take your child home with you at the end of the session.

Friday 17th March School Development Day (no children attend)

Monday 20th March Mr Hullabaloo!

Friday 24th March Class Photographs

Monday 27th-Thursday 30th March - Parent Teacher Telephone Mtgs

Friday 31st March Charity Walk and Elmer Day

Tuesday 4th April Last day of Term

Wednesday 5th - Friday 14th April Mid Term Break

Thursday 27th April Notifications from EA Connect about Preschool / P1 places

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2nd May School Development Day (no children attend)

Monday 8th May Bank Holiday (Coronation)

Friday 26th May School Development Day (no children attend)

Monday 29th May Bank Holiday

