

Monkstown Nursery School

Monthly Newsletter January 2021



Happy New Year

May the staff take this opportunity to wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2021. Many thanks for all the kind cards and gifts which we received. We are all very grateful for your generosity.



Diary Dates

6th January: School commences

7th January: Online enrolment opens for Primary One and Nursery

15th January: Jo Jingles visit

12th February: Jo Jingles visit

15th– 19th February: Half term holidays for all children

22nd February: Term recommences for all pupils

1st March: Reading Week

4th March: Dress Up Day– World Book Day

29th March: Easter holidays commence

Nursery / Primary Applications

We would encourage any parents, relatives or family friends wishing to apply for nursery/primary to make their applications now. The process is online and accessed via <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>. Parents complete their choices using the online form and should bring the child's birth certificate to the first choice of school. Please note the closing date and time is **29 January 2021 at 12.00 noon**.

Snow/Exceptional Weather

I really hope that our weather will remain stable for some time to come! However, in the event that we have unexpected weather, please keep an eye on Seesaw, Facebook and school website to inform you if we have to close early or are unable to open.



COVID UPDATE

Please keep everyone in our school community safe:

- ◆ Wear a face mask when entering the school site
- ◆ Keep 2 meters apart

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who contributed to the 'Christmas Jumper Day' - we raised £265.00 for the Cancer Fund for Children in Northern Ireland.

We raised £16.68 for school funds through Easy Fundraising. You can sign up with easyfundraising.org.uk and register your cause as 'Monkstown Nursery School'.





SAFE PLACE

Safe Place

In conjunction with 'Onus' and 'Women's Aid', we have been awarded the 'Safe Place' certification as we do not condone any acts of violence towards children or adults. If anyone requires information on support services, please contact any member of staff in confidence.

Reading Week

Reading week is scheduled for the week beginning **1st March**. We are planning to focus on the books by Sue Hendra as the children love the story of Norman the Slug and Supertato. **Thursday 4 March** will be a Dress Up Day and the theme is '**Bedtime Stories**'.



Staffing Arrangements from January —June 2021

Mrs K. Wilson:	Principal, Full-time teacher, designated teacher for Child Protection
Ms L. Acheson :	Part-time class teacher, deputy designated teacher for Child Protection
Mrs E. Owen:	Nursery Assistant (full-time room) Nursery registered First Aider
Mrs H. Crowe:	Nursery Assistant (Job share arrangement in part-time room)
Mrs M. Jones:	Nursery Assistant (Job share arrangement in part-time room)
Mrs H. Carson– Hair:	Nursery Assistant (mornings only)
Miss J McGookin:	SEN Nursery Assistant
Mrs E. Ferguson:	Caretaker
Mrs C. Smolenska:	Secretary



Reminders

- ☑ School fund of £24.00 is now due for the period to half term. This can be paid weekly (£4) - Thank you.
- ☑ We will be continuing to go outside whatever the weather so please make sure your child has an appropriate coat and has wellington boots in school. As the nursery curriculum focuses on developing independence, we will be encouraging the children to try to change into their wellies themselves, but of course will assist when necessary. Please make this easier for your child by ensuring he/she comes to school in shoes that he/she can easily put on and take off.
- ☑ Please work with your child at home so they can confidently zip and unzip their coat.

Friends of Monkstown Nursery– We need your ideas!



As you are aware, due to the heavily reduced school budget, we are reliant on fund raising and parental support via the Nursery Fund to help us to buy resources, such as art materials and play dough ingredients. We would really like to further expand our Outdoor Play and ICT provision.

Last year we established our **Friends of Monkstown Committee** who organised some easily managed fund raising activities during the last academic year. These included a Fireside Quiz and a Ladies' Pamper Night. We would love to hear your ideas and would welcome parents, grandparents, past parents or anyone with a connection to the school and a willingness to help to forward any easily managed proposals to myself or Ms Acheson.

We want your feedback



As we have completed our first term in nursery we asked for your feedback on how well your child has settled, our methods of home school communication and our policies and practices in relation to Covid 19. We are overwhelmed with the responses we have received so far.

The link will remain available until the middle of the month if you wish to complete the survey.

Getting Ready to Learn Pack

Everyone should now have their Home Learning Pack. This will hopefully give you lots of ideas about how you can support your child's learning at home. This can be supplemented with items you have at home and if your child needs to self isolate or school has to close we will supply your child with an additional home learning board and supplementary resources, if needed.

To help with our evaluation of the packs we would appreciate you sending us any photographs of Monkstown Bear enjoying a story and we would gratefully appreciate a copy via Seesaw!

Nursery Theme for January and February



Our topic for this half term will be 'Cool Times' as children will be learning all about the weather in their own environment; observing and caring for the birds in winter and learning about life in the polar regions. We have a great many stories to read, activities to explore and lots of penguin/polar bear crafts to do.

We will be discussing the winter weather and the clothes we need to keep us warm and dry and will be trying to continue our learning experience outdoors so please ensure your child has a warm coat and a hat, scarf and mittens. We will also be enjoying a range of Chinese New Year activities and the children are sure to enjoy eating with chopsticks in our Chinese restaurant.

Language and Communication

We will continue to develop our attention and listening skills. We are working on our retelling and sequencing skills, such as recalling gifts we received at Christmas or events we enjoyed.

We will be encouraging the children to make marks on paper and lots of our imaginative play will involve 'writing' such as pretending to write down a customer order in our cafe. If children are interested, we will be showing them the correct way to hold a pencil—this may still be very difficult for most children so don't worry if your child cannot do this yet!

Early Mathematics

We will be developing our rote and touch counting skills as we count lots of items around nursery. We are thinking about 'pairs' and will be sorting and matching socks, mittens, shoes and wellingtons! We are focusing on the colours **white, silver and shades of blue** and will be sorting and continuing patterns using these colours. Children will be observing and talking about 2D shapes including triangles, circles and squares. We will also be introducing the new 3D shape, a cube, as we plan to do lots of building with cubes!

Physical Development

Our focus continues to be the development of the children's fundamental movement skills. This month we will be developing our hopping skills. We will try rabbit hopping, kangaroo hopping and will even have a go at hopscotch!

We will also use our polar animals to help us focus on how they move and travel. We will be transporting penguin eggs on our feet and thinking about how we might huddle together or glide and slip!



How can you support us and your child

- ◆ Please send in any Christmas cards (old or new) to cut (especially if they have wintery scenes on them).
- ◆ Please encourage them to put on their own clothes, coats, shoes, gloves, hats, scarves etc at home.