

Castlereagh Nursery School 'Hand in Hand We Learn Together'

October 2021 Newsletter

Thank you to everyone for your support during this settling in time. It has been strange not only for the staff but also I'm sure for many of our returning parents, who know that we have always been such an open and welcoming nursery. We miss talking to you every morning and afternoon, so please, if you have any concerns or just feel like you'd like to have a chat to your child's teacher, just drop us an email and we will gladly arrange a meeting for the next day.

All of our children have now settled happily into the routines in Castlereagh Nursery School. The staff are enjoying getting to know all the children and our new families. Many have made new friends and are growing in confidence each day. Now that they have all settled well, we would ask you to drop your child at the nursery door and follow the 1 way system back off the nursery campus.

By mid-October all the children will be staying for dinner, they are excited about this part of the nursery day and have settled well into the new routine.

We have a very busy month ahead with lots of exciting learning opportunities for your child. Please help us by talking about these activities at home.

REMINDERS

Please do not park in the carpark outside the nursery, this is for staff cars only.

We now use the vehicle entrance as a pedestrian access for the children and parents. Please pass on this important Health and Safety message to any other carers who may be picking your child up from nursery.

Please send your children into school in **shoes with no laces** (Velcro is best), we are encouraging your child to become independent and laces can be very tricky for small fingers.

Dinner money is payable on a SUNDAY evening or MONDAY morning via the school money app.

The snack/school fund money is now due for October - from 4th October to 22nd October

£3.50 per week x 3 weeks = Total £10.50 for school fund.

£12.50 per week for dinners.

If a child is sick and the school has been notified before the dinner numbers have been sent through then payment will not be taken for that day..

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We will be holding our Settling in meetings on Wednesday 20th October (Mrs Jones' Class) and Thursday 21st October (Mrs Morrow's Class). These will last for 10 minutes and the teachers will share your child's settling in profile and also photographs of what they have been doing during their first 6-8 weeks of school. Times for these interviews will be sent home this week. Please contact your child's teacher if the time really does not suit you.



Welly Walk

On Friday 5th November we will be embarking on our main fundraising event of the year - Our Welly Walk!!! This is a very exciting day for our children as we have lots of fun outdoor activities planned. Altogether the children can walk the whole way around the nursery 4 or maybe even 5 times!!! In the past our parents have been very generous with their sponsorship of this event and to all those past parents we thank you.

Last year we were able to purchase 2 new reading Wig-Wams for the nursery garden for the children to use and they have really enjoyed the benefits of reading outdoors..

This year we would like to upgrade our outdoor garden even further. Developing more areas for the children to use. We may need some help throughout the year from willing parents to paint/dig/weed some areas. We will keep you updated as to when these events will be happening.

Sponsor forms for the Welly Walk will be sent out before half term.

Website

Please have a look at our website, here you can find the calendar that you can synchronise with your smart phone. It's handy to keep track and set reminders for important events. Monthly newsletters are available here as well and also the dinner menu. All the Twitter posts are available to view in the blog section, this means you don't miss any posts even if you don't have a Twitter account.

Follow us on Twitter @CastlereaghNS

A decorative border of orange pumpkins with carved faces surrounds the text. The pumpkins are arranged in a single row at the top and bottom, and in vertical columns on the left and right sides.

Themes for October

Nursery Rhymes and Autumn

We will be spending time this month learning lots of familiar and perhaps new nursery rhymes. Research has shown that the ability to use rhyming words i.e in nursery rhymes at an early age has a significant influence in future reading success. You will receive a laminated sheet with nursery rhymes on that we will be singing with the children in school. Please sing these with your child in the afternoon. We will also be sending home a Nursery Rhyme quiz for parents, it's just for fun so please test your knowledge and don't just 'Google it'. Send completed entries back into nursery by Friday 22nd October and a winner will be picked at random.

Autumn is such an exciting sensory time of year for us all. Please take your child for walks in the park and discuss what they can hear, smell, touch and see. We would be delighted if you could bring into nursery some of the interesting things you find. Please use the bag (provided next Friday) for you to collect some Autumnal 'treasures'.

We will be talking to the children about the changes that are happening all around them, changes in the weather, nights getting darker, leaves changing colours and falling off the trees. Most importantly, how to stay safe at Halloween.

Curriculum Evening

Usually around this time of year we hold a curriculum evening for all our parents. This evening gives parents the opportunity to hear about how young children learn through play and a typical day in Castlereagh Nursery School. We also introduce our 'Big Bedtime Read' programme. We are hoping to hold this evening on 11th November 6.30pm - 7.15pm. Reply slips will be sent out the week before to indicate the number of parents who would like to attend.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our foundation degree student from Stranmillis Eva Lowry. She will be with us for the full year and will be working with both Mrs Jones' class and Mrs Morrow's class on a Monday and Tuesday

Things you can help with at home with your child in October.


Go for a walk - Discuss the textures, shapes, sizes of what you find. Look up the names for things you are unsure of together.

Encourage your child to take off and put on their own coat/shoes/hat/gloves



Encourage your child to brush their own teeth (under supervision) this will help when we begin our tooth brushing routine.



We will be starting our 'Colour of the Week' this week. Please help your child to choose an interesting item from home, these will be displayed on our colour table. We will be starting next week (Monday 11th October) please send in something  Please see the dates for your diary sheet to stay up to date with weekly coloured objects.

Help to build the excitement around our launch of our 'BIG BEDTIME READ'. We are dressing up on the last day of term in our Onesies to promote bedtime stories! (£1 donation please, proceeds will be in aid of Air Ambulance NI).



The countdown is on!!!!

Parents and carers may also be interested in visiting the Rub a Dub Hub section of the NI Libraries website where there is some helpful info

<https://www.librariesni.org.uk/sites/radh/Pages/default.aspx>

Halloween Stay and Play

We are holding 2 stay and play sessions on Monday 18th Oct (Mrs Morrow's class 1pm - 1.30pm) and Tuesday 19th October (Mrs Jones' class 1.20pm - 1.50pm). These are short sessions where you can stay with your child and paint a Halloween Tealight holder. The cost of this activity is £2 per pumpkin. Payable on the School Money App from tomorrow. See E-mail for more details.

October 2021 - December 2021

We understand how busy family life can be so we have given you details of event dates and times for this term. We hope this helps you to plan ahead.

October	
Monday 11 th Oct	Paul from Sonal Sports (Developing Physical Skills)
W/B 11 th Oct	Please bring something Red
W/B 18 th Oct	Please bring something Blue
Monday 18 th Oct	Paul from Sonal Sports (Developing Physical Skills)
Monday 18 th Oct	Stay and Play Halloween Pumpkins (Mrs Morrow's class)
Tuesday 19 th Oct	Cool For School Photography taking individual children's school photos
Tuesday 19 th Oct	Stay and Play Halloween Pumpkins (Mrs Jones' class)
Wednesday 20 th Oct	Parent teacher meetings (Mrs Jones' class)
Thursday 21 st Oct	Parent teacher meetings (Mrs Morrow's class)
Friday 22 nd Oct	Funsie in a Onesie (wear your Onesie pyjamas to school) £1 donation in aid of Air Ambulance NI
Friday 22 nd Oct	Mr Hulabaloo Interactive Theatre - Autumn Show
Friday 22 nd Oct	School closes at 11.30am for half term (No School Dinners)
November	
W/B 2 nd Nov	Please bring something yellow
Tuesday 2 nd Nov	School re-opens at normal time
Friday 5 th Nov	Main fund raiser of the year 'Welly Walk' (Details to follow)
W/B 8 th Nov	Please bring something black
Thursday 11 th Nov	Curriculum Evening for Parents only 6.30pm - 7.15pm
W/B 15 th Nov	Please bring something Orange
Monday 15 th Nov	Paul from Sonal Sports (Developing Physical Skills)
W/B 22 nd Nov	Please bring something White
Monday 22 nd Nov	Paul from Sonal Sports (Developing Physical Skills)
W/B 29 th Nov	Please bring something Green
Monday 29 th Nov	Debbie Dolittle Wildlife Visit
Tuesday 30 th Nov	Paul from Sonal Sports (Developing Physical Skills)
December	
Thursday 2 nd Dec	Mr Hulabaloo Interactive Theatre
W/B 6 th Dec	Please bring something Silver
Monday 6 th Dec	Jo Jingles
Friday 10 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
W/B 13 th Dec	Please bring something Gold
Wednesday 15 th Dec	Visit from a Very Special Man - Ho Ho Ho (Shhhhh it's a surprise)
Monday 20 th Dec	Christmas Party - Non uniform School closes at 11.30am for the Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4 th Jan	School Staff Development Day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 5 th Jan	School re-opens for children - Normal Time

All the staff thank you for your continued support!