

# Monkstown Nursery School

## Monthly Newsletter January 2020



### Happy New Year

May the staff take this opportunity to wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2020. Many thanks for all the kind cards and gifts which we received. We are all very grateful for your generosity.



### Nursery Applications

We would encourage any parents, relatives or family friends wishing to apply for nursery to make their applications now. The process is now online and accessed via <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>. Parents complete their choices using the online form and bring the child's birth certificate to the first choice of school. Please note the closing date and time is **12: noon on 30th January 2020**.

### 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, the Facebook and school website to inform you if we have to close early or are unable to open.



### Show and Tell Week 8th – 15th JANUARY

We always forecast a great influx of show and tell items after Christmas. As we would love every child to have a fair chance of showing and talking about their special gift or photo, we are hosting a 'one-off' Show and Tell 'special gift' week. Each child will be allocated a day when we encourage them to bring ONE small, portable favourite gift (or photo of it, if it is too big) to Nursery School. Hopefully this will make the "show and tell" experience a more relaxed and enjoyable time for everyone, as it can be very difficult to sit quietly and listen for long periods of time when you are just 3 or 4 years old.

### Diary Dates

**8th –15th January:** Show and Tell Week (Christmas)

**29th January–** Friends of Monkstown Meeting at **7pm** with coffee and cake!

**31st January:** Colour Show and Tell – black or white

### Stay and Play Sessions

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

*Children in Group 1 go home at 12.45pm. Children in group 2 invite parent/important adult to with them in the Nursery from 12.45pm to 1.15pm*

#### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February:**

*Children in Group 2 go home at 12.45pm. Children in Group 1 invite parent/important adult to with them in the Nursery from 12.45pm to 1.15pm*

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February:** Show and Tell pink and purple day.

**17th– 21st February:** Half term holidays for all children

**24th February:** Term recommences for all pupils

**2nd March:** Reading Week

## Stay and Play Sessions

Our stay and play sessions are scheduled for **11th and 12th February**. This will be an opportunity for you to come to nursery to play with your child and share in his/her nursery experience. If you are unable to attend, another adult who is important to your child is very welcome. The class will be split into two groups (information to follow) accommodate each session. Please make sure your child is collected punctually at the earlier time, on the day you are not attending the play session. We are sure both you and your child will benefit from the experience and will have lots to talk about when you get home!

## Reading Week

Reading week is scheduled for the week beginning **2nd 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 5 March** will be a dress up day and the theme is 'Bedtime Stories'.

To promote good reading role models we would be keen to have a **mystery reader** attend school on each afternoon of the week. They would read to the class and share some of their favourite stories. I know the children would be very proud if someone special to them could surprise the class by being the mystery reader. We would encourage Dads, Grandas or other male role models to get involved. Please call in if you are interested, and remember to keep it a secret so your child will be really surprised!

## Mystery Readers Wanted!



Who is this masked reader???

### WHO?

All parents, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, or other special people! Surprise your child by being a "Mystery Reader" this year in our classroom.

### WHY?

Students LOVE having their family, friends, and relatives visit our classroom to share in our learning by reading a favorite story aloud to our class.

### WHAT?

Mystery readers can bring a book from home or read a teacher chosen book from our class library.



## Reminders

- School fund is now due for the period to half term - 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.
- Please ensure you bring your child's book bag back to nursery each **Tuesday** and collect the new bag on **Thursdays**. If you forget the bag please make sure you bring it the following day.

## Friends of Monkstown Nursery– 29 January 2019

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 the basic resources, such as art materials and play dough resources. We would really like to expand our Outdoor Play and develop a wider range of Sensory Resources. We know this would be of great value to the children. With this in mind we would be keen to establish a

**Friends of Monkstown Committee** to help us organise some easily managed fund raising activities. We would love to hear your ideas and would welcome parents, grandparents or past parents or anyone with a connection to the school and a willingness to help. Our first meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday 29 January at 7pm**, when some ideas could be discussed over coffee and cake!

We are currently working on a '**Wish Wall**' which is displayed in the entrance hall. We have taken feedback from the staff and pupils, on how we can improve our outdoor space. Please have a look and add any ideas to our suggestion box or share them with us via Seesaw. Additionally can you let us know if you can contribute in any way to these long term goals.



## Nursery Theme for January and February

Our topic for this half term will be '**The Big Freeze**' as children will be learning all about the North and South Poles. We have a great many stories to read, activities to explore and lots of penguin/polar bear crafts to do.



We have been 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 maybe even 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 chop sticks in our Chinese restaurant.

## Numeracy

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 and black** and will be sorting and continuing patterns using these colours. We will also be using these colours as an opportunity to explore and discuss **night-time, road safety and light and dark**. We plan to have our black and white show and tell on **31 January**. Children will be observing and talking about 2 D 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!

## Literacy

We are beginning to listen for syllables in words and continue to develop our attention and listening skills. We are working on our retelling and sequencing skills.

We have been encouraging the children to make marks on paper and lots of our imaginative play will involve 'writing'. The children loved writing letters to Santa and Christmas cards. If children are interested, we have been showing them the correct way to hold a pencil-this will still be very difficult for most children so don't worry if your child cannot do this yet!

## 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 pairs of gloves, socks or mittens that you no longer need. We are going to hide these in the outdoor area and try our best to find them and match them up!
- ◆ Any Christmas cards (old or new) to cut (especially if they have wintery signs on them) We plan to make our own jigsaws.
- ◆ Each child needs an empty Pringle tube, (or something similar) which we plan to turn into penguins!

## Child Protection & Safeguarding

Please remember that if you have any concerns about your own child or another child outside school, as well as in, you should share these concerns with:

**Mrs Wilson** (Designated Teacher for Safeguarding)  
or **Ms Acheson** (Deputy Designated Teacher)

What is the Weather today? X2  
It's Cold and dry x2  
That's the Weather today  
**To the tune of Hickory Dickory**

5 little penguins standing in a line  
1, 2,3, 4,5 so fine  
Lie on your tummy, slide in the snow.  
Ready steady and off you go!  
4 little penguins standing in a line ...

Look at the snowflakes falling down  
Falling down, falling down  
Looking at the snowflakes falling down  
It's winter time again

Look at the robin hopping along  
Hopping along, hopping along  
Look at the robin hopping along  
It's winter time again

Look at the smoke from the chimney  
Chimney pot, chimney pot  
Look at the smoke from the chimney  
It's winter time again

Look at the warm fire in my house  
In my house, in my house



( She'll be Comin' Around The Mountain)

Oh, you shiver and you quiver when it snows.  
Oh, you shiver and you quiver when it snows.  
Your hands feel just like ice,  
so you rub them once or twice.  
YES, you shiver and you quiver when it snows.  
**BRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!!!**

I am a little snowman round and fat  
See my woolly scarf and see my hat.  
You can count my buttons 1,2,3  
Won't you come and play with me?  
**Tune of I'm a Little Teapot**

I am a little penguin  
Black and white  
Small and fluffy  
What a sight!  
I can't fly  
But I love to swim  
So I'll waddle to the water  
And dive right in.



My igloo is round with a tiny door.  
*(Make circle w/hands then hold hand low to ground.)*  
It's made of cold ice & snow. *(Pretend to shiver.)*  
The inside is covered with blankets & fur. *(Spread hands over wide area.)*  
So it's warm when the winter winds blow. *(Hug self to keep warm.)*

How I a chubby little snowman,  
Had a carrot nose.  
Along came a bunny,  
And what do you suppose?  
That hungry little bunny,  
Looking for his lunch.  
Ate that snowman's carrot nose,  
Nibble, nibble, crunch!!



10 round snowmen outside having fun  
and when one round snowman melted in the sun  
there were 9 round snowmen outside having fun  
9 round snowmen outside having fun...

