

Monkstown Nursery School

Monthly Newsletter February 2020



Friends of Monkstown Nursery School

Thank you so much to all those who joined us at the first Friends of Monkstown Nursery meeting. It was wonderful to meet such a dedicated group, who have an interest in our pupils, school and in strengthening the school community. We are focussing on improving the outdoor learning environment which will be of great benefit to the children.

We have decided upon our first fundraiser. This will be a fireside quiz. A fantastic prize of two **Lionel Richard tickets** has been donated by the Dougan family. We would encourage all our pupils to try to sell the quiz sheets and to encourage the wider community to get involved. These are priced at £5 each and each family will initially receive two. Please ask for more if you need them! All unsold sheets should be returned to school. All money raised from the fireside quiz will go towards the repair of the climbing frame tunnel and rebuilding the fence at the side of the nursery school.

Following on from a further suggestion made on Wednesday evening we will also be setting up a Just Giving page should anyone want to make a donation to the Outdoor Learning fund.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you so much all your kind donations during our Christmas Jumper Day. We were able to send a cheque for £70 to The Children's Cancer Unit Charity and support their Save a Seat for Henry Appeal.



The RSPB Big Bird Garden Bird Watch

The children in both classes had great fun learning about birds in our local environment last week. They enjoyed bird watching and counted the amount of visitors we had to the bird feeders and tables around school. They used their identification posters to match and count.

Thank you to all the parents who supplied bird seed and other items to keep our bird tables well stocked.



Diary Dates

Stay and Play Sessions

Tuesday 11th February &

Wednesday 12th February:

Children invite a parent/ important adult to play with them in the Nursery from 12.45pm to 1.15pm on their chosen day

Friday 14th 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

17th March : 12:00 noon finish for St Patrick's Day

3rd April : Easter Fun Day, no dinners. Flexible drop off 9:00am-9:15am and 11:15am-11:30am (to accommodate all 78 children)

6 April—17 April : Easter Holidays

30 April: Visit from **Mr Hullabulloo** (normal times)

7 May: Visit from **Big Bad Bass** for all children. Flexible drop off 9:00am-9:15am and 11:15am-11:30am (to accommodate all 78 children)

8 May— May Bank Holiday— school closed

Nursery and Primary One Applications

The online application period has now closed for both nursery and Primary One. Please remember to bring the child's birth certificate to the first choice of school by **12:00 noon on 7 February 2020.**

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. Please remember to collect your child at the earlier time, of 12:45pm 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**. During class time 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**'. The children can dress up as a character from their favourite bed time story or in their PJ's ready for a bed time story! Teddies are welcome to school that day too. A voluntary donation of £1 has been suggested in aid of the Outdoor Learning Fund. Money raised will be used to purchase soil for our Mud Pie Kitchen, compost for planting activities and seeds for our vegetable garden.

St Patrick's Day

Please note that school will close at **12 o'clock on Tuesday 17 March 2020** as many parents are off work on this day and some of our pupils are involved in other activities. **There will be no school dinners on this day.**



Reminders

- ☑ Any outstanding school fund should be paid asap. 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.
- ☑ Please remember to take home your child's art work and check their drawer at the end of each day.
- ☑ An updated calendar has been issued with key dates until the end of the year. Please take a note of these.

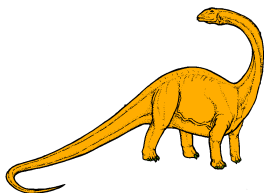
Nursery Theme for February and March

Prior to the half term holidays we will be focusing on Chinese New Year and St Valentine's Day. We will also be celebrating **Chinese New Year** and enjoying our Chinese Restaurant role play area and Chinese themed crafts. Love will be in the air in February when we explore the theme of **Valentine's Day**. We will be making lots of cards and gifts and discussing how we share our love. Our topic after half term is **DINOSAURS**. Along with our collection of toy dinosaurs (both large and small) we have books, posters, painting and sorting materials, clay, dough and cutters, amongst other things, to help us discover become palaeontologists!

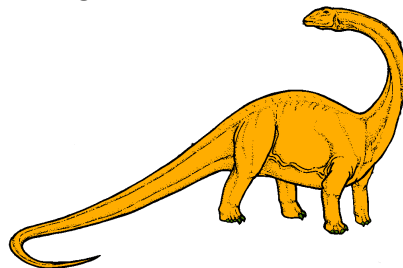


Numeracy

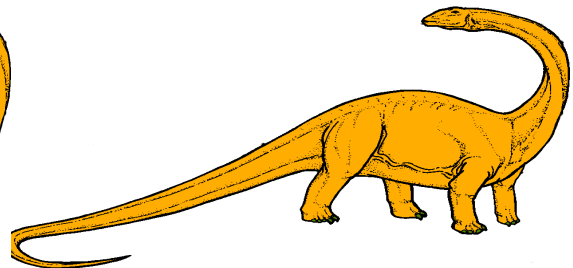
We will be developing our rote and touch counting skills as we count lots of items around nursery. We are singing lots of counting songs too! We are also focusing on the colours **yellow** and **brown**. We plan to have our yellow or brown show and tell on **28 February**. We are continuing to compare and sort according to size and are encouraging the children to understand and use the vocabulary of length.



Long



longer



longest

We are developing an understanding of positional words-on top, above, below, under etc.

Our shape focus is square.



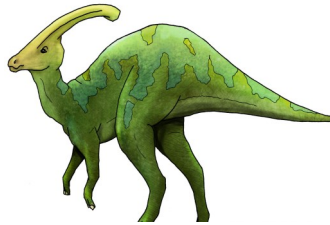
Literacy

We are continuing to listen for and count syllables in words. Most children are finding one syllable words difficult to recognise and tend to draw out the word as they say it, so we are emphasising these words especially. (E.g. car, boat, house, man, dog).

We are also emphasising how important it is to listen to our friends when they are talking and so will be playing lots of listening games and taking part in lots of circle time activities.

Dinosaur Rhyme

Dinosaurs are big, dinosaurs are small,
Some of them are fat and
some are very tall.
Some of them have big long tails
And some have wings to fly.
Some of them have spiky backs,
I really don't know why!
But now the dinosaurs have gone,
Oh dear how can that be?
They're never ever coming back
'Cause they're extinct you see!



Oh a dinosaur is very fierce
A dinosaur is very tough
And when you see his great
big teeth
He'll make you run 'til you
Puff.
His claws are very sharp
He makes a roaring sound
His teeth go chomp
His feet go stomp
His tail thumps on the ground

THE GIGANTIC DINOSAUR

Tune: "The Incy Winsy Spider"
The little baby dinosaur
Climbed up to the top
Of a volcano
That was ready to pop!

Out came the lava,
wouldn't want them for my
friends!
So very, very hot
And the little baby dinosaur
Ran home without a stop!

DINOSAUR FRIENDS

Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"
Dinosaurs live long ago
Some ran fast and some moved slow
Some ate plants and some ate meat.
Some were mean, some were sweet.
I'm glad I didn't live back then

I



IF YOU'RE A TYRANNOSAURUS

Tune: "If You're Happy And You Know
It"
If you're a Tyrannosaurus, show your
teeth.
If you're a Tyrannosaurus, show your
teeth.
If you're a Tyrannosaurus, if you're a
Tyrannosaurus,
If you're a Tyrannosaurus show your
teeth! Growl, growl!
Continue with....If you're an
Ankylosaurus, show your tail...Whip,