

Monkstown Nursery School

Monthly Newsletter March 2021



Return to School

Following the announcement by the NI Executive last week, all children will return to school on **Monday 8 March**. As some of the children will have been out of our classroom for a period of over three months, we wish to ensure your child feels happy transitioning back into nursery. To do this, we have been considering a range of strategies to support the children's wellbeing. If you feel your child may benefit from calling up to the nursery for a short visit at our school doors prior to the return of the whole class, please contact Ms Acheson or myself as soon as possible so these arrangements can be put in place. We will also be preparing a video in advance to let the children know about the choices available within the classroom upon their return. To ensure the return is a positive experience we will end at **12:00 noon on Monday 8 & Tuesday 9 March**, before commencing dinners from the **Wednesday 10 March**. School will finish at **12:30 pm** for the remainder of the week. From **15 March** the children will then attend for a normal school day.

World Book Day—Dress Up Day

As the children are returning to school on Monday 8 March we have decided to hold our World Book Celebration on **Friday 12 March**. This will be a dress up day and the theme is 'Bedtime Stories'. The children can dress up as a character from their favourite bedtime story or in their PJ's ready for a bed time story! 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 growing.

Mother's Day

We would like all the mums to send in a colour photograph of themselves as soon as the children return for a Mother's Day surprise!!!



Diary Dates

- 8 March:** First day back for all pupils 12:00 noon finish
- 10 March:** First day of School dinners 12:30 pm finish
- 12 March:** World Book Day celebration in school (Dress Up day)
- 15 March onwards:** children attend full day
- 15 March:** School Photographer in school
- 17 March:** 12:00 noon finish for St Patrick's Day
- 19 March:** Jo Jingles & Easter Egg Hunt & Odd Sock Day for World Down Syndrome Day
- 22 March:** Remote Learning Week—Easter Theme
- 29 March– 9 April:** Easter Holidays
- 12 April:** Children start back (normal school day)
- 16 April:** Jo Jingles
- 26–29 April:** Telephone Pupil Consultation for full time children (pupils finish at 12:30 pm Monday–Thursday)
- 30 April:** Visit from Mr Hullabaloo (normal times)
- 3 May & 4 May:** May Bank Holiday & School Development Day

St Patrick's Day



Please note that school will close at **12.00 noon on Wednesday 17 March**. There will be no school dinners on this day.

Pupils will be engaging in some St Patrick's Day themed learning and can wear their own clothes on the day if they wish to wear something green.

Covid Guidelines

In light of the current Covid-19 transmissions, we have updated our policy for dropping off/picking up at nursery:

- ◆ Please ensure you enter and exit the premises via the designated route for your child's class
- ◆ All adults must wear a face mask on entering the school gates
- ◆ A two metre distance must be observed at all times
- ◆ We would encourage one adult per child at drop off/pick up times but if this is not possible, please maintain your family bubble and keep any additional children under strict supervision at all times
- ◆ All persons entering the premises should refrain from touching gates and play equipment as areas have been sanitised and allocated to certain bubbles
- ◆ Staff will wear masks when meeting and greeting your child at the gates and we would encourage a swift handover
- ◆ To ensure the safety of all, please come within the allocated ten minute pick-up/drop-off times
- ◆ Avoid congregating within school premises, including school gates – this is in line with the Department of Education's regulations
- ◆ No items should be brought into nursery from home

We have a duty of care to our school community and pupils and would ask you to adhere to these guidelines – please also brief any childminders/grandparents who are involved in dropping off/collecting your child.

Nursery Theme for March/April

When we return to the classroom our topic 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 and become palaeontologists! We will be sorting and classifying dinosaurs and trying to work out what happened to them.

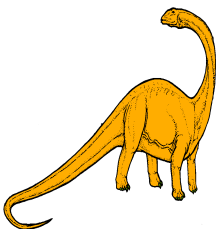


Literacy

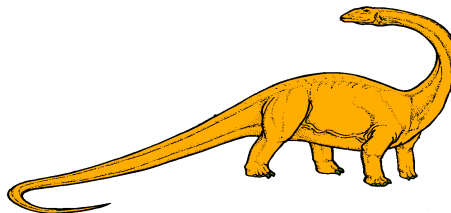
We are continuing to listen for and count syllables in words. Most children are finding one syllable words difficult to recognise and tend to draw out the word as they say it, so we are emphasising these words especially. (E.g. car, boat, house, man, dog). We are also emphasising how important it is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

Numeracy

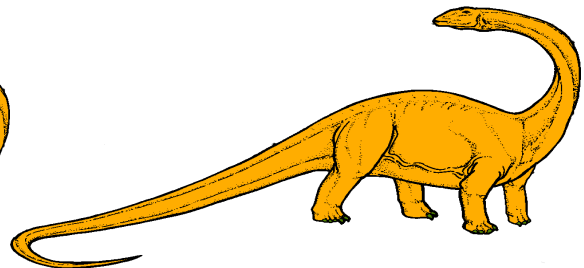
We will be developing our rote and touch counting skills as we count lots of items around nursery. We are singing lots of counting songs too! We are also focusing on the colours **green** and **brown**. We are continuing to compare and sort according to size and are encouraging the children to understand 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 rectangle.



Personal Development

When we return to school we will be continuing our Circle Time focus on feelings and extending these through looking at stories and reading books. We will be revisiting our quiet room rules and Sunshine Rules.

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,
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 wouldn't want them for my friends!

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

