

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 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.

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 planting.



Diary Dates

- 8 March:** First day back for all pupils
- 12 March:** World Book Day celebration in school (Dress Up 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
- 30 April:** Visit from **Mr Hullabaloo** (normal times)
- 3 May & 4 May:** May Bank Holiday & School Development Day – school closed

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

When we return to the classroom our topic is 'Spring In The Air'. The children will have the opportunity to plant some runner beans and explore the story of 'Jack & the Beanstalk' through a range of activities, stories and songs.

We will also be introducing the topic of Easter and growth.



Literacy

We will continue to build on the syllable learning that has been taking place at home by encouraging our children to listen for syllables in words and to clap or beat these sounds. Many children find one syllable words difficult to recognise and tend to draw out these words as they say them, so we will be emphasising these words in particular (eg. Jack, cow, bean, man). We will also revisit how important it is to listen to our friends when they are talking during circle time or other classroom activities.

Early Mathematical Experiences

We will continue to develop our rote and touch counting skills as we count lots of items around nursery, especially those '5 magic beans'. As the children explore the height and growth of the beanstalk, we will use language related to this and to their own height on our giraffe growth chart, such as 'short and tall'. We will measure how high items are in our environment using bricks/Duplo/cubes and make comparisons with these tangible resources. For example, the stem on our daffodil may be 6 blocks tall and our short beanstalk might only be 1 block tall.

The children will hear us talking about centimetres on the height chart but it is important to appreciate that this is an abstract concept for our children to comprehend at this early stage of development. During these weeks, we will focus on the colours GREEN and YELLOW.



Personal , Social & Emotional Development

When we return to school we will be working to help every child re-settle and providing them with opportunities to share their feelings and experiences. We will encourage them to take turns as they re-adjust to the pupil:adult ratio and re-establish their understanding of our nursery rules and routines. Every child will have had their individual experiences and we want to embrace these with them as much as possible.