



## January Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your child had a wonderful Christmas break and wish you all a Happy New Year! We are delighted to be back and are looking forward to another busy and enjoyable term together here at Knockbreda Nursery School.

Many thanks for the lovely gifts and cards we received before the Christmas break, they were sincerely appreciated by us all.

### Themes

This half-term, our learning theme will cover winter, darkness, stars, space, winter trees, snowflakes/ice, birds and love. In Nursery, we will be enjoying melting ice in the water tray, taking part in seasonal investigations outdoors, creating winter craft, and learning all about the season of winter. We will also be focusing on shapes, learning the names of the shapes and counting the number of sides and corners each shape has. To support this theme you will find learning links on our school website and we have included some of the songs and rhymes so that you can share them with your child at home. In keeping with our Eco schools ethos and to enhance the natural environment surrounding our school, we are inviting each child to plant a tree in our school grounds on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. We would love to welcome parents/ grandparents into school on that day to help their child plant a tree. Further details will follow closer to the date.

Nursery staff have also created a Parent/Carer support booklet to accompany this Nursery term. A copy of the Term 2 Support Booklet will be available on the website.

### Guests/ Visitors

This month we are very much looking forward to Mr Hullaballo visiting our Nursery with his Winter Show on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January and Play Ball will be in each Tuesday to develop the children's fine and gross motor skills as well as having fun in sporting situations.

### Getting Ready to Learn and Special Helpers

Last term, each child had the chance to be a 'Special Helper' for the week. Special Helpers assist with the daily routines, such as setting the table for lunch and showing others how to

share and how to tidy away. When your child is the 'Special Helper' they receive a badge on the first day of their week which they can wear all week and then return on Friday.

They also received a '**Special Helper Bag**'. Each Friday we will lend the Special Helpers a Red Knockbreda Nursery School bag filled with maths focussed activities and resources this term, for you all to enjoy at home over the weekend. This links to our Getting Ready to Learn initiative and is also a positive reward for your child. Please enjoy using these lending resources at home and return them to school on Monday morning.

### Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of February. For these to take place the children will finish at 11am on each of those dates. If you would like a telephone appointment regardless, please let the school know as soon as possible. **Please note that to facilitate the meetings, there will be no school lunches and no Hub Club on these dates.**

### P1 Applications

Applications for your child's Primary 1 place can now be made online through the EA Portal; the link is detailed below for your convenience. The opening date is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon and the closing date for applications is 12noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide>

The infographic features a smartphone illustration on the left with the text 'eacconnect' and 'Applying for a Primary school place?'. To the right, under the heading 'Key Dates', are three blue callout boxes: '12 December 2023 Admissions Criteria published', '9 January 2024 Applications open at 12noon', and '26 January 2024 Applications close at 12noon'. Below these is a QR code with a red speech bubble saying 'Scan here for more information' and the EA logo.

**Key Dates**  
September 2024 to June 2025 school year

- 12 December 2023**  
Admissions Criteria published
- 9 January 2024**  
Applications open at 12noon
- 26 January 2024**  
Applications close at 12noon

Scan here for more information  
www.eani.org.uk ea Education Authority

This is also the period for Nursery Applications and if you are aware of any parents considering Knockbreda Nursery School for their child next year it would be appreciated if you could let them know that all of the information and our "Day in the Life" video can be viewed on our website through the link below:

<https://www.knockbredanursery.co.uk/admissions>

### **Contact with School and Illness**

Staff are always available to offer support and answer queries, however if outside the School Office hours (9.15am – 12.45pm), it would be appreciated if these could be communicated to school using our email address: [info@knockbredanursery.co.uk](mailto:info@knockbredanursery.co.uk). We will be happy to arrange a suitable time to speak with you.

In line with our Attendance Policy, if your child is absent for any reason please fill in the 'Reporting Absence From School' online form under the Parent tab on the school's website: <https://www.knockbredanursery.co.uk/reporting-absence-from-school>

Thank you for all of your support during this time. We are looking forward to a successful Term 2!

## Dates for your diary 2024:

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	All day	Play Ball
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	2pm-3pm	Open Day for new parents (academic year 24-25)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	All Day	Mr Hullaballoo Winter show
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	All day	Play Ball
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	All day	Play Ball
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	All day	Play Ball
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	TBC	Planting a tree
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	All day	Mental Health Week. Children will learn tools and activities to support their mental health.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	All day	Safer Internet Day.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	11am finish	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. This is an opportunity to speak with your child's Class Teacher. Children will finish at 11am. No school dinners to be served on these days and there will be no Hub Club.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Finish at 11am No school meals / Hub Club.	Half-term holiday from Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February until Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February. School re-opens on Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February as normal.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	All day	World Book Day- Dress as your favourite book character and donate to Book Aid.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	All day	Performing Starz – interactive storytelling session to follow on from World Book Day.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Closed	School closed for staff development and St Patrick's Day holiday. Children return Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	All day	Global Recycling Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Finish at 11am No school meals/Hub Club.	Easter egg hunt and Earth Day. No lunches will be served on these days and there will be no Hub Club. School closes for Easter and will re-open on Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April, as normal.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Closed	School closed for staff development.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Closed	School closed for the bank holiday.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	All day	Hats and Shades day.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	All day	World Day for cultural diversity. Celebrate with us as we learn about different cultures from around the world.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Closed	School closed for staff development.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Closed	School closed for the bank holiday.

Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	11am finish	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. An optional final term discussion meeting. Children will finish at 11am. No lunches will be served on these days and there will be no Hub Club.
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	All day	World Environment Day
Thursday 20th June		Red Apples Celebration show at 11am. Green Apples finish at 10.30am. No lunches will be served on this day and there will be no Hub Club.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June		Green Apples Celebration show at 11am. Red Apples finish at 10.30am. No lunches will be served on this day and there will be no Hub Club.
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	11am finish	School closes for summer. No lunches will be served on this day and there will be no Hub Club.

# Winter Songs and Rhymes

## A Great Big Snowman

There was a great big snowman

(hold arms out wide)

## Who had a carrot nose

(with one hand make a pinching motion and pull it out from your nose to insinuate a carrot shape)

## Along came a bunny

(hold up two fingers and make a hopping motion)

## And what do you suppose?

(shrug shoulders)

## That hungry little bunny

(rub tummy)

## Was looking for his lunch

(hold one hand over eyes and look around)

## He ate that snowman's nose....

**Nibble, nibble CRUNCH!**

(use hand to make a chomping mouth action at your nose)



## 5 Little Penguins

5 Little penguins slipping on the ice

One fell down, that's not nice.

Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,

"No more penguins slipping on the ice."

4 Little penguins slipping on the ice

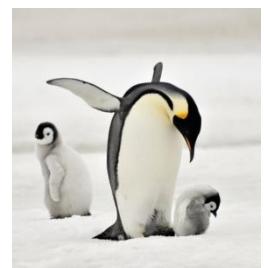
One fell down, that's not nice.

Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,

"No more penguins slipping on the ice."

3 Little penguins slipping on the ice

One fell down, that's not nice.



Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,  
"No more penguins slipping on the ice."

2 Little penguins slipping on the ice  
One fell down, that's not nice.  
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,  
"No more penguins slipping on the ice."

1 Little penguin slipping on the ice  
One fell down, that's not nice.  
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,  
"No more penguins slipping on the ice."

No more penguins slipping on the ice  
None fell down, that's real nice.  
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,  
"No more penguins slipping on the ice."



# STAR BREATHING

Follow the points of the star with your finger to inhale and exhale. This slows down breathing and helps with self regulation.

Inhale

