



# Knockbreda Nursery School March 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

During the month of March, we will be learning about fairytales and the signs of Spring! Through these themes, we have so many exciting activities to enjoy in the upcoming half-term!

As you know, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 and we look forward to seeing the children dressed as their favourite book characters and enjoying shared stories, read by our parents and carers! Each child will also receive a £1 World Book Day voucher to spend on their own book.

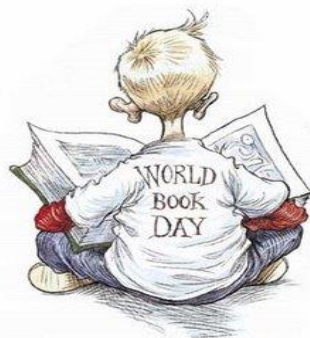
Donations on this day will go towards the Book Aid charity.

We continue to work in Shared Partnership with Knockbreda Primary School, St Bernard's Primary School and St Bernard's Preschool, with our project focusing on Early Mathematical Skills. So far we have practised our Sorting and Matching skills with our friends from St Bernard's Preschool, and we hope to host an event on Shape, Space and Measure, by the end of this month. We are also planning for an event during Term 3 to learn about Numbers.

## Themes and topics

We will be learning about some of our favourite traditional tales such as The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood. Traditional tales are a great way of introducing moral truths, broadening children's vocabulary and problem solving different situations.

We will also be looking for signs of Spring and talking about new life, growing and gardening. The children will enjoy planting seeds, looking after plants and learning about life-cycles.



## Eco Schools



As you will know, Knockbreda Nursery School is proud to be an eco-school and to hold the Green Flag award. This term school will be supporting two initiatives to continue to raise awareness of the eco issues relating to our school eco action plan:

### **1. Native trees and flowers for the diversity of birds, insects and wildlife.**

In school, our children will be planting trees, flowers, and seeds that we have purchased with our Pollinator Grant, as part of the LiveHereLoveHere project, to enhance our beautiful Forest School garden and school grounds.

### **2. Waste Week (6-12 March)**

This year's campaign is putting the spotlight on **reuse**. We know children hold on to lots of toys and games they no longer want or throw them away. Why not encourage your child to give their unwanted toys and games a new lease of life, by finding them a new home? This campaign will help students understand that reuse is a priority before recycling and why.

Talk to your child about reusing at home and how could they make a difference to our planet. We will send a pledge sheet home for you to tell us your child's best ideas!

## **Cash for Clobber**

A reminder that the 'Cash for Clobber' clothing bank is situated at the top school entrance gate. We welcome parents and neighbours to use this facility for recycling unwanted fabric items. Items that can be accepted include clothing, shoes, curtains, towels, sheets and blankets.

We can also win a cash prize for Knockbreda Nursery as the school that collects the most clobber between now and June 2023 wins £500 – so let's keep collecting!

## Important information

- We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. We are looking forward to having you in our school reading stories to the children. The children are also invited to dress as their favourite book character and donate to the charity Book Aid. If you would be willing to come into Nursery and share your favourite story with a small group of children between 8.30-9am on this day, please sign up using the sheet available on your child's classroom door
- As part of our Fairytale learning we will be using junk to model castles fit for kings! We would appreciate any donations of safe, clean household junk such as kitchen roll tubes, tissue boxes etc. Please note that for hygiene reasons, we cannot accept toilet roll tubes but we would greatly appreciate kitchen roll tubes.
- To further complement our growing topic, we would appreciate it if you could please send a baby photo of your child to school. Please clearly name this photo and add a caption on the reverse of the photo so that we can use this as a discussion point during Circle Time. School would like to display these photos in class and will return them at the end of the topic. Many thanks for your support with this.
- A reminder that that school will be closed on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March. School will reopen as usual on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- **Please note that two new school closures have been added to the calendar:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of May due to the King's Coronation; and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of May due to Knockbreda Primary School being used as a Polling Station for the local council election. To facilitate uninterrupted attendance for pupils during at least one week during May, **school will now be open on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May** and this closure has been moved to the end of June. Please note that **school will now finish on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 instead of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**
- Thank you for continuing to use our Cash for Clobber clothing bank - this has raised £288 for school to date this year. If at any stage you notice that the Clothing Bank is full, please let us know so that we can arrange for additional collections as needed. A reminder that you can also help raise free funds for Knockbreda Nursery through the Giving Machine ([www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk)) which is a fundraising organisation designed to help charitable causes and schools raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via The Giving Machine, you will generate a free cash donation for us. Further details are available from the School Office if needed. These funds will be used to further develop our outdoor play resources.

## Rights Respecting Schools



As Knockbreda Nursery School is a Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award holder we would like to inform you of the following:

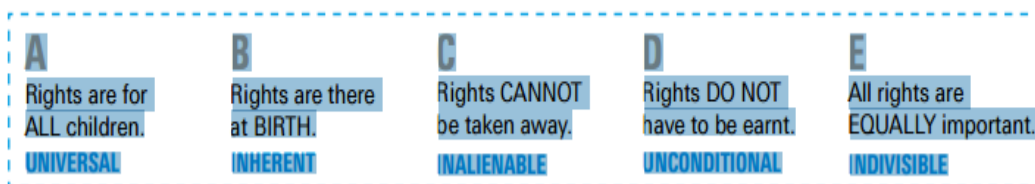
### What is this award?

It is granted by Unicef UK to schools that show good progress towards embedding children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos.

At Knockbreda Nursery School we aim for:

1. Teaching and Learning about rights: for the whole school community through training, curriculum, assemblies, topics, focus days/weeks, displays.
2. Teaching and Learning through rights: by modelling rights respecting language and attitudes and making strategic decisions that involve our pupils.
3. Being ambassadors for the rights of others: developing as rights respecting citizens.

The children at Knockbreda Nursery School are aware of the ABCDE of rights:



## OUR SCHOOL CHARTER

**Whilst teaching at Knockbreda Nursery School builds upon a number of articles from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), our School Charter is based on two main articles; Article 24 and Article 31.**

### **ARTICLES**

**Article 24.** Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**Article 31.** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

#### **How can children respect these rights?**

- By following the Nursery rules.
- By playing with (and including) other children.
- Trying new food.

#### **How can the duty bearers respect these rights?**

- By acting as role-models for the children.
- By supplying fruit and vegetables for the children.
- By ensuring the children have access to clean water.
- By keeping the children safe.
- By making sure the children have access to outdoor play.

#### **Our charter is linked to our Nursery rules**

Tidy up                      Listen and do  
Walking feet              Share              Indoor voices  
Kind hands, feet and mouths

## **Rights Respecting Schools Policy**

Knockbreda Nursery School is a rights respecting school.

Knockbreda Nursery School aims to demonstrate through its work that it positively values and respects all children and their rights. By actively teaching about rights and incorporating rights into the delivery of an enhanced curriculum, staff endeavour to promote a Rights Respecting School ethos.

Knockbreda Nursery School is committed to helping to develop pupils as responsible citizens who want, and are able, to make positive contributions to enhance the ethos of the school community.

This is achieved by encouraging our pupils to:

- know and understand what rights are
- respect the rights of other people
- understand how their behaviour can impact on the rights of others
- develop their self-esteem and self-worth
- be aware of their personal safety and the safety of others

We promote and strengthen this ethos by:

- creating a learning environment conducive to the fostering of successful learning and firm respect for rights
- ensuring all pupils, staff and parents are aware of our “Rights Respecting Policy” and understand how it operates
- putting this policy into practical operation
- positively promoting rights and respect for the rights of others and integrating this into the curriculum based learning

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

The Convention sets out the rights of children in 54 Articles. These basic, fundamental rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation.

- Rights are universal and cannot be taken away.
- The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights lies with the adults.
- All rights are equally important.

The UNCRC is underpinned by 4 principles:

1. Non-discrimination
2. Commitment to the best interest of the child
3. The right to life, survival and development
4. Respect for the views of the child

At Knockbreda Nursery School, the teaching staff have developed the pre-school curriculum content to incorporate the UNCRC and actively teach the children about their rights through Circle Time sessions, with links to play provision as appropriate.

- Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC, in a way the children will understand
- All members of the school community are encouraged to be ambassadors for children’s rights.

- Parents and Governors are included in our work as a Rights Respecting School through regular Steering Group meetings (Covid depending).

The School has a Rights Respecting Ethos:

- All members of the school community are encouraged to be role models and demonstrate rights respecting values.
- The school environment is safe and appropriate for children, physically and emotionally.
- Conflicts are resolved using constructive and restorative approaches where children are encouraged and empowered to seek solutions to problems and issues.

Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners:

- Pupils' opinions and thoughts are sought, encouraged and respected through the school's work on the eco schools' and rights respecting schools' agenda.

### **The role of staff**

It is the role of the staff at Knockbreda Nursery School to act as the Duty Bearers and to ensure the promotion of respect for children's rights and indeed to protect and guarantee children's rights.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed and monitored in line with the school's policy review schedule.

## Dates for your diary:

Please note that two new school closures have been added to the calendar:  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of May due to the King's Coronation; and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of May due to Knockbreda Primary School being used as a Polling Station. To facilitate uninterrupted attendance for pupils during at least one week during May, school will now be open on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May and school will finish on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 instead of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 2nd March 2023	All day	World Book Day- Dress as your favourite book character and donate to Book Aid.
Friday 17th March and Monday 20th March 2023	Closed	School closed Children return Tuesday 21st March
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30-11.30am	Visit from 'A Place to Wonder'.
Wednesday 5th April 2023	Finish at 11am No school meals.	Easter egg hunt. School closes for Easter and will re-open on Thursday 20th April, as normal.
Monday 1st May 2023	Closed	School closed for May Day.
Monday 8th May 2023	Closed	School closed for the bank holiday-King's Coronation.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Closed	School closed for Local Council Elections.
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023	All day	World Day for cultural diversity. Celebrate with us as we learn about different cultures from around the world.
Friday 26th May 2023	All day	School now will open as normal.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 30th May 2023	Closed	School closed for the bank holiday. Children will return to school as normal on Wednesday 31st May.
Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th June 2023	Finish at 11am No school meals.	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. An optional final term discussion meeting. Children will finish at 11am. No lunches will be served on these days.
Friday 9th June 2023	All day	Hats and Shades day.
Thursday 15th June 2023		Red Apples Celebration show at 11am. Green Apples finish at 10.30am. No lunches will be served on this day.
Friday 16th June 2023		Green Apples Celebration show at 11am. Red Apples finish at 10.30am. No lunches will be served on this day.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	11am finish	School closes for summer. No lunches will be served on this day.
Friday 30th June 2023	All day	School closed



## Fairytale Fantasy

### There was a Princess long-ago

There was a Princess long-ago  
Long-ago, long-ago  
There was a Princess long-ago  
Long-a-go!

And she lived in a big high tower  
A big high tower, a big high tower  
And she lived in a big high tower  
Long-a-go!

A wicked fairy waved her wand  
Waved her wand, waved her wand  
A wicked fairy waved her wand  
Long-a-go!

The Princess slept for a hundred years  
A hundred years, a hundred years  
The Princess slept for a hundred years  
Long-a-go!

A great big forest grew around  
Grew around, grew around  
A great big forest grew around  
Long-a-go!

A gallant Prince came riding by  
Riding by, riding by  
A gallant Prince came riding by  
Long-a-go!

He chopped the trees down with his sword  
with his sword, with his sword  
He chopped the trees down with his sword  
Long-a-go!

He kissed her hand to wake her up,  
wake her up, wake her up  
He kissed her hand to wake her up, wake her up, wake her up.  
Long-a-go!

So everybody's happy now  
Happy now, happy now  
So everybody's happy now  
Ha-ppy now!

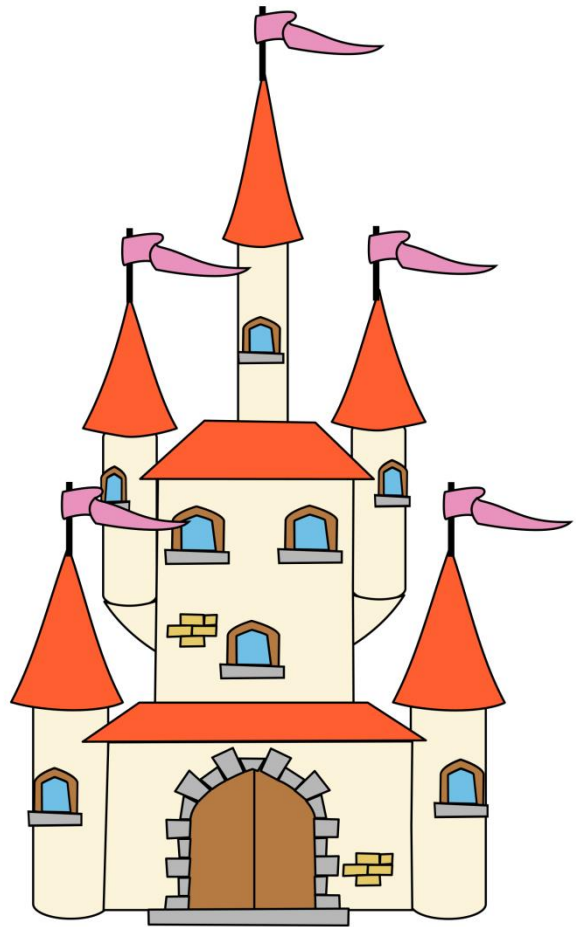


## **Big Bad Wolf**

(Tune "This old Man" )

Three little pigs  
Walking down the street  
A big bad wolf they did meet  
So they ran home fast  
and shut the door tight.  
No big wolf will get them tonight.

A little girl  
Wearing red  
Spied a big bad wolf  
Who said  
"What's in your basket"  
"May I have a bite?"  
"NO," yelled the little girl  
Who ran in fright.



## **Wake Up Spring**

Wake up Spring  
Wake up flowers  
Wake up weeds  
Wake up frogs  
Wake up seeds  
Wake up bears  
Wake up bees  
Wake up Spring  
Won't you please?



### **I'll Plant a Little Seed**

*(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)*

I'll plant a little seed, in the ground  
Out comes the yellow sun, big and round  
Down comes the cool rain, soft and slow  
Up comes the little seed, grow, grow, grow!



### **Old MacDonald had a farm**

Old MacDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O  
And on his farm he had a pig,  
E-I-E-I-O  
With an oink oink here,  
And an oink oink there,  
Here an oink, there an oink,  
Everywhere an oink, oink  
Old MacDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O *(Repeat with cow, duck, horse, sheep, cat etc)*



### **The farmer plants the seeds**

Sung to: "The Farmer In The Dell"

The farmer plants the seeds  
The farmer plants the seeds  
Hi, Ho and Cherry O  
The farmer plants the seeds  
The rain begins to fall  
The sun begins to shine  
The plants begin to grow  
The buds all open up  
The flowers smile at me

