



Knockbreda Nursery School

September 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Knockbreda Nursery School! We hope you had an enjoyable summer break! We are looking forward to welcoming both you and your child to our happy Nursery School. Throughout the Nursery year, we will be focusing on fostering independence and aiming to nurture 'learning for life'.

The Nursery curriculum is broad, balanced and carefully planned to ensure that each play activity meets the objectives underpinning the Pre-School curriculum guidance (CCEA; 2018). The Pre-School guidance sets out six areas of learning;

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Language Development
3. Early Mathematical Experiences
4. The Arts
5. Physical Development and Movement
6. The World Around Us

These areas of learning are covered through thoughtfully planned topics or themes, which also include planning for the children's interests. These topic plans will be displayed in the main reception area, along with photographs of the children at play on our TV screens. Additionally, news items and photographs will be added to the school's website www.knockbredanursery.co.uk on a regular basis. Please also access the school's website to view all of the school's updated policies for the academic year 2019-2020.

Sickness and Absences

- Please communicate any unplanned, unexpected absences by completing and returning the 'absence from school' form on the first day of absence. This form is available on the school's website 'Parents' tab (paper copies of this form are also available from the School Office).
- Any planned absences should be communicated to your child's teacher in advance and the relevant form completed via the school's website.
- **Diarrhoea and vomiting:** As detailed in your child's induction booklet, children should be **symptom-free for 48 hours** and should be able to hold down food and fluids before returning to school. Please do not send your child to school

unless they have been symptom-free for 48 hours as this places the staff and other pupils at risk of illness.

Giving Machine

Nursery would be most grateful for your support in helping to raise funds for Knockbreda Nursery School through free fundraising when you are shopping online. We have signed up to 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.

Themes and topics

Our first topic this term is all about 'Settling In'. The staff will spend the first few weeks getting to know you and your child and ensuring a smooth start for you both! The 'Settling In' topic will involve learning about (and understanding) the Nursery rules and routines and how they keep us all safe. This term, we will have a colour of the week and our first colour will be red. Please feel free to send named colour items to contribute to our colour table.

We thank you for taking the time to complete your child's 'All about Me' booklet and as the year progresses, we would encourage you to share any other relevant information about your child with the staff, including any changes in your home circumstances or collection arrangements. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure the very best for each and every one of our Nursery pupils. Each child will have a named member of staff as their 'key worker' and throughout the week at Nursery, each key worker will spend focused 'Circle Time' with their group of children.

At the beginning of next month we will look forward to welcoming you to our parent/carer settling in meeting. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's settling in period with your Class Teacher. Please note that pupils **should not attend the parent/carer meetings** (please see details below in the Dates for Diary section). If you are unable to attend this meeting face to face, a phone-call from your Class Teacher can be arranged.

Important information

- Please take time to read the Induction Booklet provided at the June parent/carer meeting as this contains important school information.
- Please note that once the settling in period is complete, the main gate does not open until 8.30am.
- The School Office hours are 9.15am to 12.45pm. Should you wish to telephone school, please do so during these hours. Please note that the teaching staff are unavailable to take school phone-calls between 8.30-9.15am as they are welcoming the children at the classroom door and then leading 'Welcome Time' in the Quiet Rooms.
- Pupils should arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.40am. Please note that 'Welcome Time' commences at 8.40am and it is important that your child arrives in time for this first session.
- On arrival to school each day, please sign-in your child and help them to self-register their apple photo on the classroom tree. Please also complete the collection form so that we know who will be collecting your child each day.
- At collection time (12.40-1pm), please come to the classroom door where the staff will share any hand over information. Once you have collected your child, please check their named tray for completed work and then sign them out of school when you leave.
- Please ***do not permit your child to operate the main door release button.*** The staff are working hard to teach the children the school's important health and safety routines; only adults are permitted to operate the door release systems across Nursery. *Please make anyone who may be collecting your child aware of this important routine so that a consistent message is communicated in this regard.*
- **Traffic in and around school grounds**
For the safety of our children, the Knockbreda Campus is operated as a traffic free zone where possible. Limited parking is available for use by school staff, students and planned visitors and it would be appreciated if parents did not park in the staff car parking spaces or on the double yellow lines opposite Nursery's top gate. Please contact the school office if you require permission to use the staff parking for accessibility reasons. Thank you for your continued support in this regard.

- There is a school fund charge of £50 per term (£150 for the year, ie 81p per day). This covers your child's daily drink, fruit and bread based snack, baking, play dough ingredients, Christmas and end of year parties, visitors who come into school each term, books for the school library and other small items not covered by school's delegated budget. It is preferable that School Fund is paid in full (£150) at the start of the school year. If you would prefer to pay termly, this term's school fund (£50) should be paid by Friday 20th September 2019. Cheques should be made payable to Knockbreda Nursery School (School Fund Account). Please do not hand monies or cheques to the members of staff in the classroom, please use the secure grey fixed postbox in the reception foyer.
- To support our school curriculum, we would be most grateful if each child could bring in one box of tissues, one pack of toilet wet wipes, one pack of baby wipes, one sellotape, one masking tape and three pritt sticks (one for use each term). These items are for shared use and do not have to be named. Thank you in anticipation, your support with this is much appreciated.
- The school meal experience is an important learning opportunity for our children and all pupils at Knockbreda Nursery School partake in school lunches. Nursery lunches will commence on 23rd September 2019 for the first group of pupils and it is anticipated that the majority of the children will be invited to stay for dinner by Wednesday 2nd October 2019. **Dinner money must be paid on a Monday morning** by placing your payment into the grey postbox in the reception area. The exact money should be paid in cash or, cheques should be made payable to **EA South Eastern Region** using your child's coloured payment envelope (as supplied by school). Should your child be absent from school, Nursery will issue a refund for any lunches not consumed. Current charges are as follows:

1 day= £2.50	2 days= £5.00	3 days= £7.50
4 days= £10.00	5 days= £12.50	
- When it is your child's birthday, should you wish to celebrate by sending a cake or treat, please feel free to do so. Due to serious allergies in school, **please ensure that this is nut free** and can be easily cut into 52 very small pieces!
- As we are hoping for a sunny September, please ensure that your child is wearing sun cream on any sunny days and that they have a sun hat for outdoor play. School caps are available from the reception desk priced at £5. Please note that in line with the school's Child Protection Policy, staff are not permitted to apply sun cream on your child.

- The Red Apples attend Forest School each Wednesday and the Green Apples each Thursday - please ensure that your child is suitably dressed on these days. It is preferable that the girls do not wear dresses and tights on these days but wear thicker jogging style bottoms. It may also be advisable for all children to wear an additional under-layer as we move into the colder weather.
- **Please ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly named.** There are a number of second-hand uniform items available to purchase from the main reception desk. Please ensure that your child keeps a pair of **clearly named** wellie boots in school and mittens/hat/scarf for colder days. You can raise funds for Knockbreda Nursery School by ordering Name tags for books, shoes and clothes from "My Nametags" www.MyNametags.com. These are colourful, durable, washable and non-iron name tags. If you order from this company and quote our **School ID : 4952** then My Nametags will donate 20% of the value from each order to Knockbreda Nursery School. Don't forget that you can order for any siblings also!
- The school's Lending Library will commence in October. Should you wish your child to borrow three books per week from Nursery, please ensure that they bring in their red reading bag each Friday. These bags can be purchased for £6 from the school's main reception area. Each week, a member of staff will help your child to choose their three new books.
- If your child is attending the after-school Hub Club, this will commence on Monday 30th September and children should send in their red book bag each day that they attend, as this will be used to carry home all work completed at Nursery. These should be placed in the Hub Club bag box at your child's classroom door. Please note that Hub Club is full for the 2019-2020 academic year and ad hoc attendance will not be possible.
- In line with the Department of Education's 'Getting Ready to Learn' initiative, Nursery will be running a parent workshop focusing on the six areas of the Pre-School curriculum and how these can be best supported through play at home. This workshop will take place on Thursday 19th September from 1.30-2pm in The Hub area. Following our October parent drop in session (see Diary Dates), home lending learning packs 'Busy Bags' will be sent home for each child to enjoy. Should you wish to attend this parent training session, sign-up sheets will be made available at your classroom door.
- Nursery would be delighted if there were any parents or grandparents who might like to volunteer their DIY skills to Nursery for occasional DIY tasks. If so, please make this known to our school secretary, Mrs Benson.

School Development and Improvement

Knockbreda Nursery School is committed to continuous improvement and to self-sustained development. In June 2019, the Nursery consulted with pupils, parents/carers, staff and Governors in order to seek their views about the school.

In line with the Education and Training Inspectorate inspection processes (ETI), the school evaluates itself under the same headings used for school inspections; Leadership and Management, Quality of Provision for Learning, Quality of Achievements and Standards. Following the whole school self-review in June 2019, the future priorities for development have been identified and these have influenced the school improvement action plan for the 2019-2020 academic year.

School Development Plan

Priorities	2019-2020
Child Centred Provision	Forest School Review planning for Forest School play to incorporate introduction of early woodwork skills.
High quality teaching and learning	Rights Respecting Schools Work towards successful accreditation of Silver Award. Special Educational Needs Update policy and practices to meet requirements of new Code of Practice.
Effective Leadership	NIFSA Champion School KNS to take on mentoring role and to support other schools to achieve Forest School status. Supporting new staff New staff members to be fully supported in their new roles.
School Connected to its Local Community	Cluster group training KNS to share training with Nursery Cluster group- sharing training costs, sharing good practice and visiting other settings. Shared Education KNS to take part in pilot year for new funding arrangement.

NB: The school's 2018-2019 Annual Report is available to access via the school's website.

Meet the Staff



Dr R. Mitchell-Barrett
Principal



Mrs M. Welsh
Assistant Teacher



Mrs S. Beggs
Nursery Assistant



Mrs L. O'Leary
Nursery Assistant



Miss S.L. Massey
Hub Club Assistant



Mrs S. Benson
Clerical Officer



Miss E. Macartney
Building Supervisor



Mrs K. Ditty
Catering Assistant



Rights Respecting School

Knockbreda Nursery School is a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School!

Knockbreda Nursery School aims to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this we have achieved Bronze Level as a 'Rights Respecting School', an award given to schools on behalf of Unicef UK.

Unicef is the world's leading organisation working for children and young people and their rights. In 1989, governments across the world agreed that all children have the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

Knockbreda Nursery School's pupils will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. A Rights Respecting School models rights and respect in all its relationships.

We really hope that you will be able to support our school on our journey towards becoming a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School.

For further information about Rights Respecting Schools please visit:

www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa



ECO School

Knockbreda Nursery School is proud to have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag by the environmental charity 'Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful'. The internationally recognised Green Flag is the highest award given to Eco-Schools and symbolises excellence in the field of environmental activity. Achievement of the Green Flag award reflects Knockbreda Nursery School's commitment to placing environmental education at the core of its curriculum and promoting the importance of outdoor learning during the early years. Knockbreda Nursery School's Green Flag assessment report concluded:

"Attractive and well used outdoor area. A clearly enthusiastic Principal with clear objectives for Outdoor Learning. Brilliant whole school involvement. One of the best schools we've seen in quite a while!"

As much as possible, Knockbreda Nursery School operates a paperless approach as part of our Eco School philosophy. School communications and documents will be displayed in the main reception area, on our Website and also sent to parents/carers directly via email. Please ensure that the school has a record of your preferred email address and that this is checked regularly for school notices.

We have been allocated a clothes bank through the 'Cash for Clobber' scheme to encourage and promote reusing unwanted fabrics as part of our Eco-School campaign. 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. In addition to the benefit that this will have on our combined carbon footprint, it will act as a valuable resource when teaching our nursery pupils about caring for the environment.

Forest School

Each week the children at Knockbreda Nursery School enjoy 'Forest School' sessions when they take part in 'forest free play' in our woodland area. These sessions are based on the best practice of the Forest School approach, which originated from Denmark in the 1980s. In addition to exploratory play, there are teacher led activities at our Forest School and these have involved lighting a campfire, creating a wormery and planting vegetables in our greenhouse! Knockbreda Nursery School is an accredited Forest School through the Northern Ireland Forest School Association, all classroom staff have attended Forest School training and a number of staff have gained their Level 3 Leadership Awards.

Last year, Knockbreda Nursery School was delighted to secure £10,000 from 'Awards for All' funding to help towards purchasing a Reco Box eco classroom to further enhance our Forest School sessions. The eco classroom allows the children a sheltered and designated learning area for activities, table tasks and snack-time, with full lighting and heating installed. The eco classroom also includes an eco- toilet and has video camera installation, to allow the children to watch and observe the local wildlife first hand via the classroom's bird box camera.

We are most grateful to our local Co-Op for helping us to fundraise and for their generous contribution of £1200! In addition, our school community, family and friends helped to fundraise almost £1,000! Without all of this support and community involvement, it would not have been possible to install our new eco classroom and to further enhance our outdoor facilities.

Dates for your diary:

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 19 September 2019	1.30-2pm	Parent Workshop, Getting Ready to Learn.
Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 October 2019 Hub Club in Forest School, invoice adjusted pro-rata.	1.30pm onwards	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's Class Teacher and discuss the settling in period. Sign up appointment sheets will be available outside the classroom, the week before the meetings.
Friday 11 October 2019	9am	School photographer in school to take individual photographs.
Thursday 17 October 2019	5-6pm	Family Drop In Evening. Please join us to visit your child's classroom to view our Pre-School play provision and find out more about what your child likes to do best at Nursery!
Friday 25 October 2019 No Hub Club	Finish 10.40-11am No school meals.	Half-term holiday from 25 October 2019 until Monday 4 November 2019. School re-opens on Tuesday 5 November 2019 as normal.
Wednesday 13 November and Thursday 14 November		Community Eco mornings for parents/carers to join us in the school grounds for gardening, outdoor and litter-picking activities.
Friday 15 November 2019	9am	Children in Need Wear your Pudsey ears and donate to Children in Need! We will have lots of Pudsey themed activities taking place in Nursery!
Saturday 23 November 2019	10-12noon	Open Morning for Prospective Pupils.
Thursday 5 December and Friday 6 December 2019 Red Apples: 5 December at 11am (with immediate collection afterwards/ no school meals) Green Apples: 6 December at 11am (with immediate collection afterwards/no school meals) No Hub Club	11-11.30am Early close 10-10.20am Early close 10-10.20am	Christmas Celebration events: Tickets are limited to two per family. To accommodate the Red Apple performance on Thursday 5 December 2019, pupils in Green Apple Class should be collected between 10.10-10.20am prompt. School lunch will not be provided. To accommodate the Green Apple performance on Friday 6 December 2019, pupils in Red Apple Class should be collected between 10.10-10.20am prompt. School lunch will not be provided.

Friday 13 December 2019	9am	Christmas Jumper Day; wear a Christmas Jumper and donate to Save the Children!
Friday 20 December 2019 No Hub Club	Finish 10.40-11am No school meals.	Christmas party and arrival of Santa! Wear your Christmas party clothes in Nursery! School closes for Christmas and will re-open on Tuesday 7 January 2020, as normal.
Thursday 23 January 2020 Hub Club in Forest School, invoice adjusted pro-rata.	Early close 12.10-12.30pm	Open Afternoon for Prospective Pupils School dinner served as normal. Date subject to change pending release of EA timetable for process.
Monday 3 to Tuesday 4 February 2020 Hub Club in Forest School, invoice adjusted pro-rata.	Finish 10.40-11am No school meals.	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's Class Teacher and discuss the settling in period. Sign up appointment sheets will be available outside the classroom, the week before the meetings.
Friday 14 February 2020 No Hub Club	Finish 10.40-11am No school meals.	Half-term holiday from 17 February 2020 until Monday 24 February 2020. School re-opens on Tuesday 25 February 2020 as normal.
Thursday 5 March 2020	All day	World Book Day Dress as your favourite book character and donate to Book Aid.
Tuesday 17 March 2020	Closed	School closed for St Patrick's Day.
Friday 3 April 2020 No Hub Club	Finish 10.40-11am No school meals.	Easter egg hunt. School closes for Easter and will re-open on Monday 20 April 2020, as normal.
Friday 8 May 2020	Closed	School closed for May Day.
Friday 15 May 2020	9am	School Photographer in school at 9am to take class photographs.
Monday 18 May 2020 Hub Club in Forest School	Early close 12.10-12.30pm	Induction meeting for new parents/ carers. All pupils to be collected from school between 12.10-12.30pm prompt. School lunch served as normal.
Tuesday 19 - Wednesday 20 May 2020 Hub Club in Forest School	Early close 12.10-12.30pm	Play and Stay sessions for new pupils- all pupils to be collected from school between 12.10-12.30pm prompt. School lunch served as normal.
Monday 25 May 2020	Closed	School closed for the bank holiday.
Friday 29 May 2020	All day	Diversity Day An opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the diversity of cultures attending our school and in our local community! We would love our parents to take part in this special event!

Monday 1 to Tuesday 2 June 2020 Hub Club in Forest School, invoice adjusted pro-rata.	Finish 10.40-11am No school meals.	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. An optional final term meeting to discuss any issues arising from your child's Pre-School Transition report.
Friday 5 June 2020	9am	Hats and Shades Day Wear your hats and shades and donate to the NI Cancer Fund for Children. Lending Library Final Lending Library- book return.
Wednesday 17 June and Thursday 18 June 2020 Red Apples: 17 June at 11am (with immediate collection afterwards) No Hub Club Green Apples: 18 June at 11am (with immediate collection afterwards) No Hub Club	11.11.30am Early close 10-10.20am Early close 10-10.20am	End of Nursery Celebration events: Wednesday 17 June 2020 Please join us for the End of Nursery Celebration event for Red Apple Class. Early closure for Green Apples 10.10-10.20am prompt. School meals will not be provided. Thursday 18 June 2020 Please join us for the End of Nursery Celebration event for Green Apple Class. Early closure for Red Apples 10.10-10.20am prompt. School meals will not be provided.
Tuesday 30 June 2020 No Hub Club	Finish 10.40-11am	School closes for summer.

Throughout the school year, additional dates may be announced. As school visitors' dates are confirmed (to enhance our learning themes and subject to School Fund contributions), further details will follow in our school newsletters. Parents/carers will also be invited to share in many events throughout the year and to volunteer any special talents or skills which might enhance our topic learning! Many thanks in anticipation!

Settling In Songs and Rhymes

My Turn, Your Turn

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle)

My turn, your turn, we can share,

My turn, your turn, then it's fair.

Make a jigsaw, fun to do,

Then it's time for someone new.

My turn, your turn, we can share,

My turn, your turn, then it's fair!

My turn, your turn, we can share,

My turn, your turn, then it's fair.

Paint a picture, let it dry,

Someone else can have a try.

My turn, your turn, we can share,

My turn, your turn, then it's fair!



A Job for Everyone

(Tune: The farmer's in his den)

We put the toys away, we put the toys away,
That's a job for everyone, we put the toys away.

Pencils in the pot, pencils in the pot.
That's a job for everyone, pencils in the pot.

Aprons on the hook, aprons on the hook.
That's a job for everyone, aprons on the hook.



Now it's time to tidy up

(Tune: London Bridge is Falling Down)

Now it's time to tidy up, tidy up, tidy up
Now it's time to tidy up, tidy up the classroom.

Now we put the toys away, toys away, toys away
Now we put the toys away and tidy up the classroom.



Ten little fingers

Ten little fingers

Ten little toes

Two little ears and one little nose

Two little eyes that shine so bright

One little mouth to kiss you goodnight!



I come to Nursery School

I come to Nursery each morning,

Happy as can be,

My teachers are always waiting,

With a smile for me.

We sing our songs, we play our games,

We laugh and dance and play,

My teachers keep me happy,

In Knockbreda Nursery every day.