



October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your child have enjoyed your first month at Nursery! The children are now well settled into Nursery and making good progress with the classroom rules and routines. They are also enjoying staying for lunch at the Knockbreda Nursery School Restaurant!

This month, school will share information regarding your child's settling in period. Your Class Teacher will prepare a short settling in report which will be given at the parent - teacher meeting on either Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th or Thursday 19th of October 2023. In order to facilitate these meetings, school will close at 11.00am on each of these dates. If you would prefer to have this meeting over the phone please let us know. These invites will be sent home on Friday 6th October 2023.

This week we have started our Special Helpers! This is where three children from each class are chosen to help with routines throughout the week. They will be given a special badge to wear on their uniform all week (please return on Friday). When your child is a special helper they will be observed in a range of situations and these observations will be shared via Seesaw. At the end of the week each child will take home a red bag with a story and puppets in for the weekend. This is to say thank you for all of their hard work over the week. Please return these bags (with everything in them) on Monday morning to your class teacher. We hope you will enjoy looking at a small snapshot of what your child does in a busy week at Knockbreda Nursery School!



Themes and topics

During these first few weeks of Nursery we will be enhancing the curriculum by observing what is happening in nature. Over the following weeks we will be investigating;

Apples

Spiders

Pumpkins

We will also be responding to the children's interests and ideas on what they would like to learn about.

Halloween Family Evening

You are warmly invited to our family drop-in evening that is taking place between **4.30 – 6.00pm pm Thursday 26th October**.

We will have refreshments available to purchase, along with raffle tickets, and temporary tattoos (cash payment only) and there will be free Halloween themed activities. This is an opportunity for an informal visit to your child's classroom and to hear about their favourite things in Knockbreda Nursery School!

Forest School

This month we will be starting our Forest School days each week. In our Forest School the children have the freedom to explore using all of their senses which encourages creative, diverse and imaginative play.

These sessions will happen whatever the weather so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately so that they will be comfortable and warm playing outside all day. We would suggest that the girls do not wear dresses and tights on Forest School days, but wear thicker jogging style bottoms and it is also advisable for all children to wear an additional under-layer and warm socks.

Red Apples will attend each Wednesday for Term 1 beginning on Wednesday 11th October 2023.

Green Apples will attend each Thursday for Term 1 beginning on Thursday 12th October 2023.

The benefits of Forest Schools for children and society are well-documented:

1. Increased confidence and independence of the child.
2. Development of their language skills by providing a real context for language.
3. Ability to take risks and to become more open to new experiences.
4. The forest school program evolves from the needs of the child and includes the child's interests.
5. Provides the practitioner with an alternative view of the child and further insights into a child's development.
6. Beneficial to a child's all-round development, particularly in the areas of personal, social and emotional, language and communication.
7. Underpins the principles laid down in the foundation stage guidelines.
8. Provides opportunities for the children to take risks, problem solve and use thinking skills.
9. Complements learning in the classroom and can be transferred.

Important information

- For Health and Safety reasons, the Knockbreda Campus operates as a traffic-free zone where possible. Parking is not permitted on the campus; please do not park on the double yellow lines opposite Nursery's top gate or in the staff car parking spaces.
- Parents and carers may also be interested in visiting the Rub a Dub Hub section of the NI Libraries website where there is helpful information available for parents of pre-school children:

<https://www.librariesni.org.uk/resources/children/rub-a-dub-hub/>

- If you have not already done so, it would be very much appreciated if you would sign 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 via The Giving Machine, you will be generating a free cash donation for our school. Further details are available from the School Office if needed.

- **School website**

The school website has been updated and is full of useful ideas/enhancements to help support your child at home with their learning.

<https://www.knockbredanursery.co.uk/home-learning-resources>

Password: Nursery22

Also please don't forget to complete the 'Reporting Absence from School' form if your child is off school for any reason:

<https://www.knockbredanursery.co.uk/reporting-absence-from-school>

- As you will know, during the settling in process this September, children at Knockbreda Nursery School moved to their full-time Nursery day much more quickly than in some settings, with the first children staying for school dinners after just fifteen sessions at Nursery. As part of the school's commitment to school self-evaluation and best practice, we would like to seek your views on our settling in process. This should only take around 10 minutes to complete and we thank you in anticipation. The Survey closes on Friday 13th October 2023.











https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqNUvUzv8z_NNjWa0FrBHRb5UQ1NNRDNXOFBGUEs5UjISS1ZJVzE4NFpVMC4u

- 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.
- **School Lunches**
Please note that school lunches should be paid for online using the SchoolMoney system. These should be paid for in advance by midnight on Sunday and we would appreciate your support with timely payments. The weekly cost is £12.50 at present. If your child is unable to have a school meal that has already been paid for, the balance will be carried over to the following week's account.
- **Daily School Hours:**
Drop off: flexible drop off between 8.30am-8.40am (Doors re-open at 9.00am for any late arrivals)
Pick up: flexible pick up between 12.45pm-1pm

Once your child has been dropped off / collected we would ask that you exit the school building straight away and do not congregate in the main reception area to help alleviate congestion at these busy times.

- **Health & Safety in school grounds**
For their safety, we wish to emphasise the importance of ensuring that children are kept under direct supervision until they enter their classroom in the mornings and once they leave their classroom at pick-up time. Children should also stay off the grass verge at drop off and pick up time and should not be allowed to climb on fences, gates or handrails. Please encourage children to come into school and leave school walking in a calm manner to help prevent accidents and collisions with other children.

Snacktime

	A selection of fruit/vegetables	Snack
Monday		 Cheese & crackers
Tuesday		 Breadsticks
Wednesday		 Flavoured crackers
Thursday		 Biscuit
Friday		 Wheaten Bread and jam

Thank you for your School Fund contributions. Our snacktime menu is now fully in place; with adult supervision, the children help to organise their own daily snack, even pouring their own drinks! Please note on Forest school days the children will have the option of toast.

Water & Milk are available daily

Diary Dates:

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 11 th October	All day	Red Apples start Forest School Sessions. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Each week Red Apples will have their Forest School session on Wednesday.
Thursday 12 th October	All day	Green Apples start Forest School Sessions. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Each week Green Apples will have their Forest School session on Thursday.
Tuesday 17 th Wednesday 18 th Thursday 19 th October 2023	Children will finish at 11.00am each day.	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings. This is an opportunity to speak with your child's Class Teacher and discuss the settling in period. Please note school will finish early at 11am to accommodate these meetings. No school meals will be served and Hub Club will be closed.
Wednesday 25 th October 2023	All day	School Photos. Cool4School will be in to take photos of your child. Full school uniform must be worn. More information to follow.
Thursday 26 th October 2023	4.30pm- 6pm	Family drop in night. School will be open for family games and fun!
Friday 27 th October 2023	11am finish.	End of term party. Non uniform day and no school meals. Hub Club will be closed. Half-term holiday from Friday 28 th October 2022 until Friday 3 rd November 2023. School re-opens on Monday 6 th November 2023 as normal.
Wednesday 8 th November 2023	All day	World of Owls visit.
Monday 13 th November – Friday 17 th November 2023	All Day	World Nursery Rhyme Week.
Friday 17 th November 2023	All day	Children in Need. Non uniform day- wear something yellow or spotty! Wear your Pudsey ears and donate to Children in Need! We will have lots of Pudsey themed activities taking place in Nursery!
Monday 20 th November 2023	All day	National Children's Day. Non – uniform day. Celebrate by wearing something blue.
Friday 8 th December 2023	All day	Christmas Jumper Day; wear a Christmas Jumper or something festive and donate to Save the Children!
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	All day	Christmas show for Red Apples. 2 adults are invited to attend. Green Apples to attend Nursery 8.30am-10.30am. Show to start at 11am. No school meals. Hub Club will be closed.
Wednesday 20 th December 2023	All day	Christmas show for Green Apples. 2 adults are invited to attend. Red Apples to attend Nursery 8.30am-10.30am. Show to start at 11am. No school meals. Hub Club will be closed.
Thursday 21 st December 2023	11am finish.	End of term party. Non uniform day. There will be no school meals and Hub Club will be closed. School closes for Christmas at 11am and will re-open on Thursday 4 th January 2024 as normal.

Songs and Ideas to support learning at home

Curiosity Picture:

Use this picture as a starting point to find out what your child knows already about Autumn? Here are some prompts to help with your sustained shared thinking together. Show your child this picture and ask them what it shows? What do they know already about this time of the year? Why are the leaves not all green? Do we get purple leaves? I wonder why the leaves fall off the trees? Will the trees grow more leaves? What happens in Autumn? What do the animals do? Where do the animals go?



Five Little Owls

Five little owls,
On a branch by the shore,
A squirrel scampered by,
And then there were four.

Four little owls,
Perched high up in a tree,
The wind shook one off,
And then there were three.

Three little owls,
With nothing fun to do,
One got very board,
And then there were two.

Two little owls,
Just having some fun,
A bear came along,
And then there was one.

One little owl,
Winked at the setting sun,
Flew into the forest,
And then there were none.



Apple song (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)

Verse 1: Here we go round the apple tree,
The apple tree,
The apple tree.
Here we go round the apple tree,
So early in the morning.

Verse 2: This is the way we plant the seeds.

Verse 3: This is the way it grows a tree.

Verse 4: This is the way the apples grow



5 Little Pumpkins

One little pumpkin smiling, smiling.
One little pumpkin smiling, smiling.
One little pumpkin smiling, smiling.
One little pumpkin is happy.

Two little pumpkins pouting, pouting.
Two little pumpkins pouting, pouting.
Two little pumpkins pouting, pouting.
Two little pumpkins are grumpy.

Three little pumpkins yawning, yawning.
Three little pumpkins yawning, yawning.
Three little pumpkins yawning, yawning.
Three little pumpkins are sleepy.

Four little pumpkins crying, crying.
Four little pumpkins crying, crying.
Four little pumpkins crying, crying.
Four little pumpkins are sad.

Five little pumpkins laughing, laughing.
Five little pumpkins laughing, laughing.
Five little pumpkins laughing, laughing.
Five little pumpkins are playing.

