

February Newsletter

Dear Parents

January was another busy month in Pre-School, with lots of fun and learning around our 'Winter' topic. The Imaginative play at our 'North Pole' was very popular and everyone enjoyed learning about the Arctic & Antarctic, Eskimos, Polar Bears and Penguins. We explored ice with small world play, enjoyed learning new Winter Songs & Poems and have been feeding and observing the birds at our bird table.

There was lots of excitement as we celebrated 'Australia Day' last week and thank you to everyone who sent in objects for our Show and Tell.

**** There are some new photographs for you to enjoy on the window display boards and some new additions to our webpage - dromaraps.org and click on Pre-School.

Jaime and baby Theo are doing well and we welcome Caitlin onto our Staff Team to cover Jaime's maternity leave.

Writing & Drawing continues to be very popular with children accessing their own Busy Books to write or draw in. Please give your child opportunities to build on this interest at home as this will help prepare them for primary school. Encourage them to hold their pencil appropriately and IF your child is writing their name at home please remind them that we write the first letter of our name as a capital and all other letters in lower case - again it's good to learn how to do this properly now as this is what will be expected in Primary School. *(Please remember - all children develop skills at different ages & stages so don't be panicking if your child is not yet doing this.)*

Mid-Year Interviews: We are planning to have interviews with parents to discuss your child's progress and development in Pre-School, during the last week of February and I will provide dates and times as soon as possible.

Self-Registration - Our children are now using their printed name which is attached to their photograph to register when they arrive for Pre-School. This is useful as we encourage children to identify their own name on their belongings etc and promote an interest in written words.

Continued Overleaf

This week we will be learning about China - the country, Chinese People and their food and customs. We are looking forward to our 'Chinese New Year celebrations on Friday. Again if you have any Chinese related objects you could send in with your child as they really are enjoying talking about things they bring in from home.

Our focus '**Numeracy Week**' will take place during the week beginning 10th February and we have been invited to join 'Number Day' with Mrs Price and her Year 1 pupils on Friday 14th. **Both morning and afternoon children** are invited to come together for this fun, learning experience and engage in various number recognition and counting play activities and engage at their own level of development. **All children are to come to Pre-School at 9am and to be collected from Pre-School at 11.30am** - there will be no afternoon session of Pre-School on this date.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to progress each child's learning and progress in Pre-School.

Julie, Karen, Ruth, Wendy, Joanne, Lorraine & Caitlin

NB Please find attached a list of dates and activities for your diary:

***** Half Term Holidays are from the 17th - 21st February (inclusive)**

To enable parents to plan, book days of work or arrange childcare etc we have listed some Diary Dates for the months ahead:

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March *(Please encourage your child to dress up as a character from a story book and bring their favourite book into Pre-School)*

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations -

Tuesday 17th March - Morning & Afternoon children will come together for a fun morning with Mr Hullabaloo Theatre Company from 9am - 11am

**There will be no afternoon session of Pre-School on this date - this will enable parents who are off to take their child on to afternoon activities and celebrations.

Spring Walk in Castlewellan Forest Monday 30th March

Parents are invited to join us for this social experience - with everyone meeting in Castlewellan at 10am, having a walk with forest guides and finishing with a picnic in the castle and the children performing some songs and rhymes -

More details will follow:

Easter Holidays - 6th - 17th April (inclusive)

May Holiday Closures - Pre-School will be closed on Friday 8th May and Monday 11th May and on Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th May

Sports Day - Friday 15th May (Parents are invited to attend our Sports Day)

Morning children and parents will meet at 10am

Afternoon children and parents will meet at 1.15 pm

Beach Walk Monday 1st June - More details to follow but please plan to attend this last social occasion of our school year with your child.

Last Day of Term Monday 29th June - Morning and afternoon children will come together from 9am - 11.30 to enjoy a BBQ Breakfast and a fun session with Jump, Jiggle & Jive