

# January Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and we are looking forward to hearing about all the exciting things your child has enjoyed over the holidays during our News Time this week.

Thank you for all the generous gifts and cards which we all really enjoyed.

Please check out the Christmas party/Christmas Jumper Day photographs on our Window Display boards and our web page - [dromaraps.org](http://dromaraps.org) and click on 'Pre-School'. Copies of our Newsletter and Calendar dates are also available on this page.

Our Planned Learning this month will be about 'Winter'

We will be learning about - Winter Weather, Animals & Birds in Winter, Winter Sports, Winter Around the World and The Polar Regions.

We will be learning some new "Winter" related songs and rhymes and have lots of Winter related books & stories to read.

As we introduce Winter Around the world we will be learning about Australia as a country and celebrating '**Australia Day on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

This is a fun session when we will have an 'Indoor Beach BBQ' in our Imaginative Play area and have fun with Aboriginal/didgeridoo music and dance.

\*\*\* Please send in a sun hat or sunglasses with your child to add to the imaginative play of our Beach BBQ.

\*\*\*If your child can bring in any Australian related objects for 'Show & Tell' that day we would love to see them.

There are no additional costs for our extra activities and they will take place during your child's usual hours in Pre-School.

Our Focus books this month will be "Ridiculous" (a lovely story about a tortoise and hibernation) and 'The Gruffalo'.

The concept of Solids & Liquids will be re-introduced as we explore ice and make frozen ice pops.

**\*\*** As the season of colds and coughs continue we would be very grateful if each child could bring in a box of tissues or pack of kitchen roll.

Although we encourage good attendance in Pre-School please do not send your child in if they are unwell -we had a few children who developed some really bad chest infections before Christmas and what can seem a very minor illness for some children can become quite serious for others.

**\*\*** Please remember to send a short note into Pre-School to explain any absences your child has had as this is required by the Education Board.

We will continue to build on the children's interest in writing and drawing as we encourage them to use their Busy Books to develop their drawing, writing and pencil skills. Please remember that if your child is showing an interest in writing and drawing at home to encourage them to hold their pencil appropriately as it is easier to correct this now than having a habit develop which will be much harder to unlearn when they start Primary School.

Using a tripod shaped pencil can help some children develop this skill and can feel more comfortable for them. Also please be aware that only the first letter of your child's name should be written as a capital letter - following letters should be in lower case.

**Taekwon-do Session:** - We are delighted to have Tiger Cubs offering our children a taster session of Taekwon-do - This will take place for morning children on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January and for afternoon children on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. This will take place during your child's usual hours of Pre-School and at no extra charge.

Many of our children have a keen interest in mathematical activities and we plan to build on this and planning a focussed "Number Week' towards the end of January or beginning of February.

Half Term Holidays are from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21st February (inclusive)

Easter Holidays are from 6<sup>th</sup> April -17<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive)

Finally we wish you all a very Happy & Peaceful New Year.

*Julie, Karen, Ruth, Wendy, Joanne, Jaime & Lorraine*