

January News

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January Update

Applications Open Now for Primary School!

Happy New Year! The children have all settled in well after the Christmas break and are enjoying being back with their friends. This term we will focus on building the skills developed before Christmas - as well as building in new learning that the children are now ready for. This term generally is where you see a leap of progress with your child! This term is also when we begin to look ahead to next year. Applications are now open for you to apply for Primary School for your child. Applications are made through EA Connect and will close on 26th January at 12noon - please make sure to get your application in on time and include any verification documents requested by the schools you are applying to (every schools criteria is different and may request different documents so please check!)

1

ABSENCES

If your child is off school please contact the office and let us know the reason.

2

ILLNESS

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. This helps us keep everyone healthy

3

LATENESS

If you're running late either to come to school or at pick up please let us know.



3+ Reviews

The Health Visitors for school are coming in over two weeks to offer appointments for the 3+ Review. These are Mon 15th, Tuesday 16th, Friday 19th and then Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd and Friday 26th. Your child will go with you to these and also please remember to bring your red book.

Staff Strike

There will be a strike on 18th January - teachers and assistants are striking alongside other public sector workers from health and transport etc. There will be **no school** due to this strike on **Thursday 18th January.**

Intergenerational Partnership

Our visit to Carmen House was really successful - the children, residents and families all really enjoyed their time singing and playing the bells. We would like to build this link further, if you have any ideas or suggestions of how we could do this please speak to Miss Algie.

3+ Review

The School Health visitors will be in school over the next two weeks offering the 3+ review appointment. Sign Up sheets for the appointments are in the hall at the top of the lending library. Parents should sign up for a slot (appointments will last about ten minutes) your child will attend with you. Please return the Health Questionnaires by Friday 12th January for scoring. At your appointment your child will play some games with the health visitor and you can have a chat about their development. If you have any concerns or the health visitor wants to signpost you on to any further information this will be passed on to your own health visitor for follow up. You should bring your red book with you to your appointment.

Mr Hullabaloo Visit

The Hullabaloo Children's theatre company will be visiting school at the end of this month. Mr Hullabaloo is always an exciting visitor to have in school and the children enjoy his show. He will be visiting school on 30th January. There will be no additional charge for parents up to date on their activity fund/snack fund payments.

Book Bags - GRtL

The next set of book bags have gone home this week as part of our Getting to Learn Programme. We know the children are really excited about the book bags and getting them home.

There is a lot of organisation that goes into the book bag programme - checking the books are returned, clean and undamaged (we know accidents happen!), swapping bags around within the class and being classes.

It has a big impact on the programme if the book bags are returned late. We have just enough bags for each class so if two bags per class are not returned it can mean that the whole class has to miss a week (if there aren't enough to swap between the children). This is a big disappointment of all the children, especially those who do return their book bags on time.

Thank you for your support with making sure we are able to lend the book bags out each week!

Sonal Sportz Coaching

The children have loved their block of Jump, Jiggle and Jive with Lizi every Wednesday. These sessions have now finished (though we often invite Lizi back again for special party days later on the year). Jump, Jiggle and Jive helped the children develop listening skills, thinking skills and follow rules/instructions as well as developing lots of gross motor skills through dance and movement. This next term we will be having weekly sessions with Coach Paul from Sonal Sportz focusing on fundamental movement skills e.g. hopping, jumping, balancing as well as basic equipment skills like throwing, catching, kicking and striking. These start on Mon 22nd Jan. There will be no additional charge for parents up to date on their activity fund/snack payments.

THANK YOU

As a whole staff team we wanted to say thank you for the cards and gifts sent in with the children. There is absolutely no need for this at all and we were all very overwhelmed by your kindness and thoughtfulness! Thank you!

SONGS

The North Wind
doth blow...



Here we go round
the Mulberry Bush

I'm a little Snowman



snowman

I'm a little snowman,
look at me.
These are my
buttons, 1 2 3.
These are my eyes
and this is my nose.
I wear a hat and
scarf. Brrr...it's cold!

Snowflakes

(to the tune of I hear
Thunder)

Snowflakes, Snowflakes,
all around, all around
whirling, twirling
snowflakes, twirling,
whirling snowflakes,
touch the ground, touch
the ground



Activity / Snack Fund

Snack/Activity fund is how we are able to offer a daily healthy snack to all the children, buy art and craft materials, baking ingredients, run parent workshops and bring visitors to the school e.g. the Farm, theatre companies, Jump Jiggle and Jive, Sports Coaching. The cost to parents for Snack/Activity fund is set at £20 per month (roughly £1 per day) and is payable monthly, termly or annually.

Thank you to all the parents who pay this promptly and through school money! The school subsidises the costs for visitors and resources, the £20 alone would not cover the benefits your child receives if it was paid as individual costs for each visitor every time.

At the last Board of Governors meeting the activity/snack fund was discussed and it was decided that for parents who are not up to date with snack payments individual charges should be put in place for each visitor to school - for example Mr Hullabaloo may be £10 per child, the farm may be £5 per child. Depending on the number of visitors in a month this could add up - so the best value for money would be to pay the £20 per month for Snack/Activity Fund.

If at any time your financial circumstances change and the Snack/Activity Activity fund causes extra pressure for your family, please speak to Miss Algie. We understand that some months are harder to stretch than others and we wouldn't want you to feel added stress because of the Snack/Activity Fund.

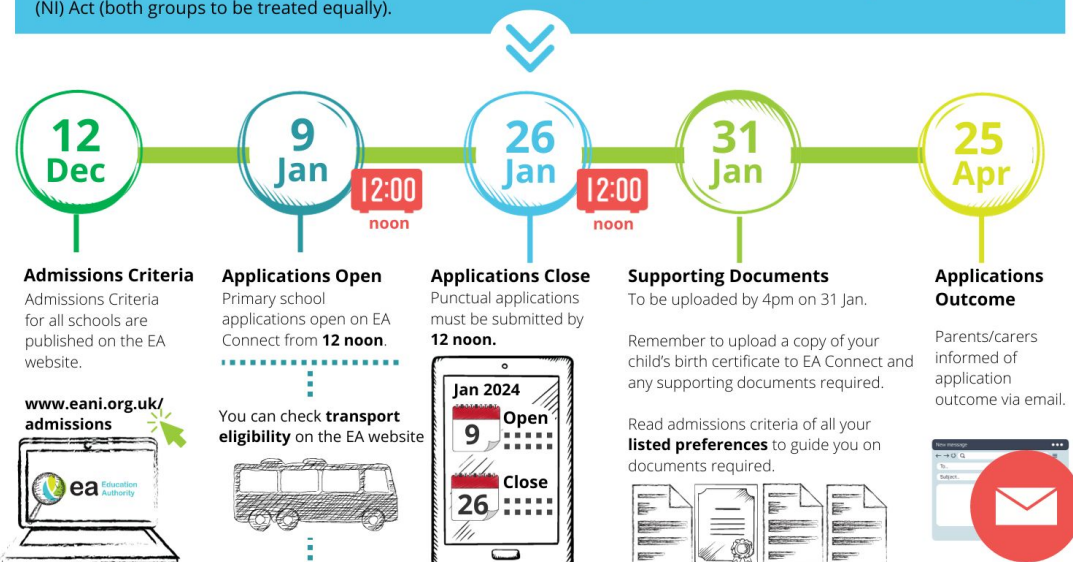
Primary School Admissions

Admissions for Primary School for Sept 2024 are now open online!



Key Dates for Parents: Applying for a Primary one place for September 2024

- Children born on or between **2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020** are compulsory school age in September 2024 and must apply for a Primary 1 place.
- Children whose parents deferred their admission to Primary 1 in September 2023 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).



Upcoming Dates for your Diary...

Mon 15th, Tues 15th, Fri 18th 3+ Review Dates Week One

Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd, Fri 26th 3+ Review Dates Week Two

Monday 22nd and Monday 29th Weekly sessions with Sonal Sportz Coaching

Thurs 18th School Closed - Strike Action

Fri 26th - Applications for Primary School and Preschool for 2024-25 year close

Tues 30th - Mr Hullabaloo visiting with his children's theatre show

Wed 31st - All verifying documents for Primary /Pre-School applications must be uploaded to EA Connect by 4pm.

February Dates in Advance!

Mon 5th Feb - Parents Workshop - The importance of Play, 6.30 - 8.30 - Playboard NI,

Mon 12th - Friday 16th Feb - Half Term - School Closed

Mon 19th Feb - School reopens for all classes

Wednesday 28th Feb - Parents Workshop - Supporting your child's Speech, Language and Communication, 7pm - 8pm, Michelle McCauley Speech & Language Therapist

School Contact Details

Please note that the school text messaging service and seesaw comments are not always monitored so should not be used to contact the teachers.

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Email: bangornurseryschool@yahoo.com

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