

St James's Nursery News



December 2023

It is hard to believe that it is nearly Christmas time once again. This month is a very busy one in Nursery. The children have been practising extremely hard for the upcoming Christmas concert and they are so excited for their families to watch their special performance.

Details on the concert, as well as important upcoming events and dates are included in this newsletter. Please take the time to read this edition carefully.

We have seen incredible growth in our children as we near the end of Term 1. We are so proud of them and their achievements so far. Here's to another successful year in 2024!

December Learning Focus



Theme: Sparkle and Shine; It's Christmas Time!

Colours: Red, Silver and Gold

Shape: Star

In the run up to Christmas, children will enjoy many seasonal experiences relating to the holiday.

As well as decorating the Nursery with festive decorations, children will participate in writing and posting letters to Santa. They will partake in seasonal role play at the Christmas Market and Santa's Workshop. There will be lots of festive arts and crafts and a range of seasonal tuff tray, sand, water and play dough activities.

Children will get the opportunity to listen to and join in with a variety of Christmas songs and use a range of instruments during their Christmas Concert practices and show.

We will learn about the Nativity and the first Christmas story, as well as other cultural Christmas traditions such as Santa, The North Pole, Rudolph and many more.

Our Maths focus will centre around number recognition and correspondence for numbers 1-5.

Dates For Your Diary



DECEMBER 2023

- **Tuesday 5th December:** Jo Jingles
- **Thursday 7th December:** St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit Open Night 5.00 - 7.00pm
- **Thursday 14th December:** Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner & Santa Run (**Please order your child's Christmas dinner using School Money by Friday 5th December**).
- **Friday 15th December:** Nursery Christmas Concert
- **Tuesday 19th December:** Miss Cullen's class trip to The Wee Village
- **Wednesday 20th December:** Miss Morrow & Miss Major's class trip to The Wee Village
- **Thursday 21st December:** Last day of Nursery before Christmas. Children finish at 12.00pm.

JANUARY 2024

- **Thursday 4th January:** School reopens after Christmas holidays.
- **Friday 5th January:** Nursery Fund payment due
- **Tuesday 9th January:** Nursery and Primary 1 admission portal **opens at 12 noon**
- **Wednesday 17th January:** World of Owls visit
- **Thursday 25th January:** The Big Bedtime Read 12.30pm-1.30pm
- **Friday 26th January:** Jo Jingles & Nursery and Primary 1 admission portal **closes at 12 noon**. Grandparents Stay & Play Day.

St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit Open Night



1 - We would like to invite the children who are due to start nursery school and primary school in September 2024 and their parents to our Open Night. We are delighted to showcase the wonderful teaching and learning that goes on in our primary school and nursery unit at our Open Night on Thursday 7th December from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Come along and see the active learning that the children enjoy and the range of extra curricular activities that help our children grow and develop. Take a tour around the school lead by our young leaders/staff and enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere. Experience our ethos based on respect, dignity and diversity.

Christmas Concerts



Our Nursery Christmas Concert will take place on **Friday 15th December at 9.30am.**

Please remember to book your tickets for the concerts through School Money.

To find your tickets:

1. Open the Schoolmoney app
2. Click on the icon with three lines
3. Click on clubs
4. Your Nursery Show tickets for your to book will appear here

We would be grateful if the audience would refrain from filming during the performances. Highlights will be recorded and shared on SeeSaw.

Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions Process



Key Dates
September 2024 to
June 2025 school year

12 December 2023
Admissions Criteria published

9 January 2024
Applications open at 12noon

26 January 2024
Applications close at 12noon

Scan here for
more information

www.ea.ni.org.uk

ea Education
Authority

The Admissions Criteria for our Nursery Unit and Year 1 will be published by the Education Authority on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

The Education Authority Admissions Portal opens at **12 noon on Tuesday 9th January 2024 and closes at 12 noon on Friday 26th January 2024.**

The admissions process is completed by parents/guardians online using the portal. Please ensure that you refer to our admissions criteria when making your application. If you have any difficulties with your application, please contact Mrs Brown in the school office.

We need your help with our Santa Fundraiser



Can you be Santa's Little Helper?

We are so grateful and thankful to our school PTA for paying for a new Interactive Touch Panel for our Nursery children.

We have £550 left to raise for a portable stand so the Panel can move between the two classrooms.

We are appealing to all our Nursery families to support our fundraiser by asking grown-ups and friends at home if they can help you. Attach some £1 coins using tape to the circles on Santa's beard. Please do not feel obliged to fill the beard. We will be grateful for any donations which come our way. We ask that the Santa's are returned by **15th December 2023**.

Many thanks for all your support with this. This is a very exciting addition to our Nursery provision.

We are grateful for your continued support and donations to Nursery.



As you are decorating your homes this Christmas season, if you find you have any old decorations which you no longer need or want we are asking if you could donate them to the Nursery. We will welcome donations of tinsel, lights, beads, Christmas tree decorations, Christmas decorative items etc.

St James's PS & NU Value of the Month



In St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit we focus on a different value every month. This month we are focusing on honesty. At the end of the month one child from each class will be awarded a special certificate for showing honesty.

You may want to talk with your child about what honesty and being honest is.

Honesty in Nursery can be ... always telling the truth.

WE WANT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO

THRIVE

RATHCOOLE & MONKSTOWN

Our partnership with THRiVE aims to promote aspiration, achievement, wellbeing and collaboration.

This month in Nursery we would like to celebrate how:

We can learn.

Our Nursery children are learning all about things which sparkle and shine, as well as the change of season and the start of the Christmas festivities.

We can be healthy and well.

The children are learning about how we can stay warm, healthy and well as the cold season of winter rolls in.

Thank you for visiting the Health Visitor's for your children's 3+ reviews.

We can be connected.

This month our children will have their first school trip outside of Nursery to The Wee Village. We are so excited to continue to develop our links with organisations and businesses in the local area.

We look forward to your continued support this month including our preparations for our Christmas Concerts and supporting our Santa Fundraiser.

Please remember to have a look at our Community Notice board. If you belong to any local groups or organisations, and would like to contribute to our board please leave your promotion in the office with Mrs Brown.

Nursery Fund



Thank you for your continued support towards our Nursery fund. Your contribution towards our Nursery Fund goes a long way towards enhancing the experiences and opportunities we provide for our Nursery children.

This term your contribution has meant that we have been able to provide:

- Daily snack
- Our monthly birthday cupcakes & birthday bubbles
- Replenishable resources for play such as playdough etc.
- Monthly Jo Jingles sessions
- Our Christmas Trip to The Wee Village
- Invested in a collection of small world resources for Harvest & Halloween

We hope you are able to continue to support our Nursery Fund. We have lots of exciting things planned for Term 2.