



Pre-School Newsletter 3



Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Thank you

First of all, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the Pre-School families for their kind words and thoughtful gifts at Christmas.

We were very humbled to receive such kindness especially during a very expensive time of the year and truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.



New Topic: Winter

With hardly a day back to school and straight into our topic about Winter we couldn't believe our good fortune to have had snow, ice, frost to explore in our outdoor environment!

We have enjoyed being outdoors exploring the seasonal changes and throwing a snowball or two at Mrs McCorry!

Ask your child to tell you about their time outdoors in the snow this week.

Early Mathematical Experiences In our early Mathematical experiences this month we are exploring pattern.



We are looking at pattern on clothing, on the floor, the marks we make with our footwear in the snow.



We are noticing that pattern can be swirly, zig zagged, spotty or can have twists, stripes or sometimes repeating shapes.



Have a look when you are at home or on the move with your child to see what patterns you can find.

Take a photo and send it to us on Seesaw.



RISE NI is a wonderful resource for families of Pre-School to early Primary School aged children.

The website contains many valuable leaflets, resources, parent training videos and activities across four areas:

- Social skills, emotions and behaviour
- Talking and listening
- Gross motor skills and
- Fine motor skills, visual perception, self-care and sensory

You might find some valuable information or activities to help you support your child in their learning.

All the materials were developed by clinical psychologists, behaviour therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and physiotherapists.

<https://view.pagetiger.com/RISENI/parents>

Pupil Language Development target for the month is:

To show some improvement in attention and listening.

We will be focused on the improvement aspect of the target. This is a skill that all of us continue to develop over time both children and adults.

We will be looking at improvement in various contexts:

- Good morning/registration time
- Responding to direction
- Responding in conversation or discussion times
- Story/rhyme/music time

'Outdoor Play'

This is an important time in the Pre-School day as young children require plenty of opportunity to move, run, have freedom to explore and develop curiosity.

The opportunity to get outdoors and to develop gross motor movement (running, climbing, jumping) promotes and further develops fine motor skills (stronger core to sit upright, use paintbrushes, small pegs, or jigsaws).

Getting outdoors and physical activity also promotes emotional wellbeing aiding self-regulation and leading to an increased 'readiness to learn' state which in turn promotes self-esteem and confidence in skills.

St. MacNissi's Pre-School children are a hardy bunch. We regularly go outdoors in all weathers...rain, cold temperatures or snow rarely stops us!

You do not need a lot of equipment for outdoor play - the most obvious things often pass us by but are regularly viewed by children as having wonderful potential and so bring lots of learning, curiosity, excitement and imaginative play...

Have a look to see if these things are outside where you live...





Then, just a small nudge from you may spark a creative and imaginative response!



Keeping Cosy

As we are now well into the cold weather it is vital that your child is equipped with appropriate clothing for playing in the outdoor environment especially a warm coat.



If you have not already done so, send in a pair of wellies for your child.

It can be a little cold wearing a skirt to school on these wintery days so to keep extra cosy it is acceptable to wear dark leggings under skirts or dark joggers in place of skirts during this time of year.

Also send in a pair of thick socks that your child can keep at school to wear with their wellies for extra cosiness.



Dates for your diary

- Friday 17th January 'Jo Jingles'
- Wednesday 22nd January 09:45 - 10:20 'Grandparents' Assembly'



To all our Pre-School friends who are now four! Hip, Hip, Hooray!

- Emilia - 15th November
- Liana - 19th November
- Lena - 23rd November
- Faye - 28th November
- Sophia - 4th December
- Sadie - 4th January

Primary School Admissions Key Dates

Friday 10th January - at 12:00 noon
EA Connect opens for online applications for Primary 1.

Friday 24th January 2025 - at 12:00 noon
EA Connect closes for online applications for Primary 1.

Wednesday 29th January 2025 by 4:00pm
Deadline for submission of verification/supporting documentation online

Take care from,

Mrs McCorry, Mrs Lavery and Miss Mamo