



Ballyclare Nursery School  
Home Learning Information  
for Parents and Carers  
January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very sorry that we will not be seeing your child in Nursery School for the coming weeks. However, although we cannot see them face to face, we hope that our Home Learning information, resources bag and online learning activities, give you and your child lots of fun, happy and worthwhile experiences to do together at home.

We have thought very carefully about how we could best support you, your child and their pre-school learning during this time. We hope that you find everything useful, as our aim is to make everything as personal for you all as we can- from a distance!

Much of a child's learning in nursery is around socialising, playing and talking and listening with others.

Whilst of course we cannot expect to recreate the same experiences that children have in school, we hope that you will be able to make use of some, or all of the ideas and activities we have put together, in order to support your child in their continuing learning and development whilst they are home with you.

We know that many people have different family circumstances, and we do not want any parent or carer to feel under pressure. Talking, listening, reading stories and playing with your child as much as possible means they will be learning no matter what!

In this information booklet you will find a list of the items that we have provided in the resources bag.

You will find activities and ideas in this booklet for each of the items. *Of course, these are only a few suggestions, so please feel free to use the items in any way that you and your child would like!*

You will also find activity videos on the 'Home Learning' page of our website. We hope that your child will enjoy watching us using the materials they have in their resources bag! Perhaps by doing so they will be able to do some of the activities by themselves! You may also find the videos useful to give you further ideas about the types of activities you can do together. We also give you examples of the language or questions we would use in school in order to develop the children's own language and thinking.

The bag is intended to provide you with materials to last over the next 6-week period. We will be adding further activities and ideas to our website on a weekly basis that may require different items found within the home.

**If you would like to, please take photos of the things that you are doing at home and upload them via your child's class home learning page. (The password for this was provided in an app message last year. If you need a reminder then please email us!)**

Staff will be available to look at your pictures and respond to any messages during normal nursery session times. **We would appreciate no more than one message per family per week if possible, so please send all pictures of your completed activities once weekly.** This will enable staff to be able to look at your activities and respond to everybody individually in a manageable way. We will endeavour to send a response to everybody as quickly as possible, but this will not necessarily be on the same day that you have messaged us.

***\*Any urgent or pressing queries that require a quick response should be sent via email to the usual school email address please.***

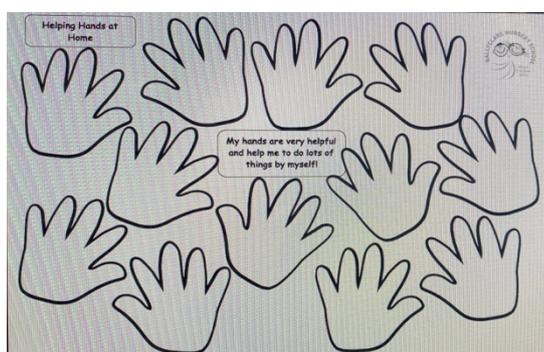
Emails will be checked daily during normal nursery hours.

We really hope that during this period of 'Home Learning' your family remains safe and well. Enjoy this time with your little one as they do grow up so quickly!

Mrs Corry

In the resources bag you will find:

- Collage/art/ creative materials
  - Writing materials- paper/pencil, rubber and sharpener
  - Sellotape
  - Ice cube bags
  - Ice pop
  - Porridge
  - Jelly
  - Chunky chalk stick
  - Post it notes
  - Cutting activities \* (scissors available to borrow if required)
- 
- ‘Helping Hands’ achievement stickers and chart:



The stickers and sticker chart are to encourage your child to continue their learning at home. We have focussed on things that we would also be encouraging in school and will help to promote independence skills. Over the next 6 weeks of home learning, we hope you enjoy working with your child to develop these practical achievements. There is no rush to complete these skills so please work at your child’s own pace. We are looking forward to seeing your child’s achievements when we are finally back at school. There will be a special gift for everyone to celebrate their hard work!

Our theme for this half term is 'Things that change'. (You will find an overview of what we usually do in school on our website under 'Learning Themes')



We have provided some things that will help your child to experience this: Making ice cubes and then seeing what happens to the water when it freezes and gets warm again, making jelly and ice pops and using taste as a sensory experience to describe how these things feel both in the mouth and to touch. (video available)

You will be able to watch the story of The Magic Porridge Pot being read on our Home Learning Page and see a video of porridge being made. This may give you some ideas about talking with your child how the porridge changes when it is cooked.

We have provided a wide range of creative materials for your child to enjoy. This is to continue the skills that your child has been working on in Nursery School, for example, cutting, sticking, printing and modelling.



They can watch a video of some ideas of how these things could be used, but also come up with their own ideas! Using Sellotape to join items such as household junk to make models is a great skill and will take time to achieve. Please be patient as your child will need time to practice! One of the best ways to help your child is to talk about what they are doing or have done. This will help them to develop their language and will show them that you value their work and that it is important.

The chalk, post it notes and other writing resources are to encourage your child to try to make marks on paper and draw pictures. It is really important that the children feel they are 'writing' for a reason. Although you may think they are just 'scribbling' talking to them about what they have written gives purpose to their work. You may

want to ask them to write a list for you of things you need to buy or remember for example. Encouraging your child to make marks and being positive about their writing will give them the confidence they need when they begin more formal writing practice in P1.



The cutting skills sheets (or anything you have at home) will allow your child to practice and develop their fine motor control. Don't worry if your child struggles with using scissors to begin with. ***There are some great video links on our website to give you some ideas of appropriate ways to help your child.***

\*Don't expect your child to be able to cut along a line to begin with. They just need to practice the physical movement of cutting to begin with.

All of these activities help to develop children's pre-writing skills by developing hand/eye co-ordination and building up muscles and control in their hands.

### **Storytelling:**

Read to your child every day. In school, story time begins with "listening ears, looking eyes, hands on knees sitting still".

Pick a story that is not too long and that your child enjoys. There are plenty of stories on websites and also some on the school website. However, the person your child would most like to hear tell the story and talk about it with, is you!

When you have finished reading the story, talk together about what happened in the story. On our website there are some ideas for the sorts of discussions you may have with your child to develop their knowledge of books.



**We hope that you have a great time doing some of these activities!**

**We are looking forward to seeing what you do.**

**Please remember! This is such a challenging time for everyone.  
Whatever you do with your child- enjoy it!**