

December 2025 Newsletter



Ravenscroft
NURSERY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

The programme and activities during December are centred around the excitement and enjoyment of Christmas so there is plenty of glitter, shiny silver/gold things and red and green in use. Our aim remains, of course, to provide good learning opportunities for all the children.

Parent Volunteers

December is a very busy time in Nursery school - we are always grateful for parent volunteers willing to help with any Christmas arts/crafts/general activities. Let us know if you can help in any way. We would especially welcome helpers to get ready for the Santa Trail and to man the stalls, please do talk to us if you or a family member (teens included) could volunteer to make this special event even more special. Thank you for all your support.



Look Who's 4 !!

Happy Birthday to

Liam

Zack

Korey

Aria

Very important Christmas dates for your diary:

December 2nd Ellie the Elf visits for story time.

December 11th Santa Trail from 5:30-7 pm.

December 12th Christmas Singalong 9:30 am - 10.15 am, Nursery 1.

December 12th Christmas Singalong 10:45 am - 11:30 am, Nursery 2.

Parents or other family members are invited to come along and join us for the singalongs, a grown ups lap for each child ideally :)

December 15th Trip to Mr Hullaballo's Christmas Panto, Snow White. Parents, if you're buying additional tickets for yourself or your other children, it is £10 each. We cover the cost for the pupils.

December 18th Family morning at Walkway with Mr Giggles. Parents/extended family members are invited to join us from 10.30 am until 12.00, show begins at 11.00am. Children go home at 12.00 today.

December 19th Christmas party for the children and end of term. School finishes at 11.30am for Christmas break. Children may wear their own clothes or something festive if they wish.

Want to sync your diary with school events? Head to the school website and subscribe to our [digital calendar](#).

ea Education Authority

Applying for a Pre-School place for September 2026: Key Dates

For **target age** children born on or between **2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023**
For **underage** children born on or between **2 July 2023 and 1 July 2024**
If you are deferring your child from starting Primary School, you can apply for a Pre-School place.

Stage 1				Stage 2			
Dec 2025 10	Jan 2026 7 12:00 noon	Jan 2026 21 12:00 noon	Jan 2026 26 4:00pm	Mar 2026 23	Mar 2026 23	Apr 2026 1 4:00pm	May 2026 19
Admissions Criteria Published on EA Admissions Website	EA Connect Opens at 12 noon for Applications	EA Connect Closes at 12 noon for Punctual Applications	EA Connect Closes for Birth Certs & supporting documents Deadline for late Applications Closes at 4pm	Outcome of Stage 1 Target Age only Applications	Stage 2 Process EA Connect Opens for Applications	Stage 2 Closes for Applications	Outcome of Stage 2 Target Age & Underage Applications

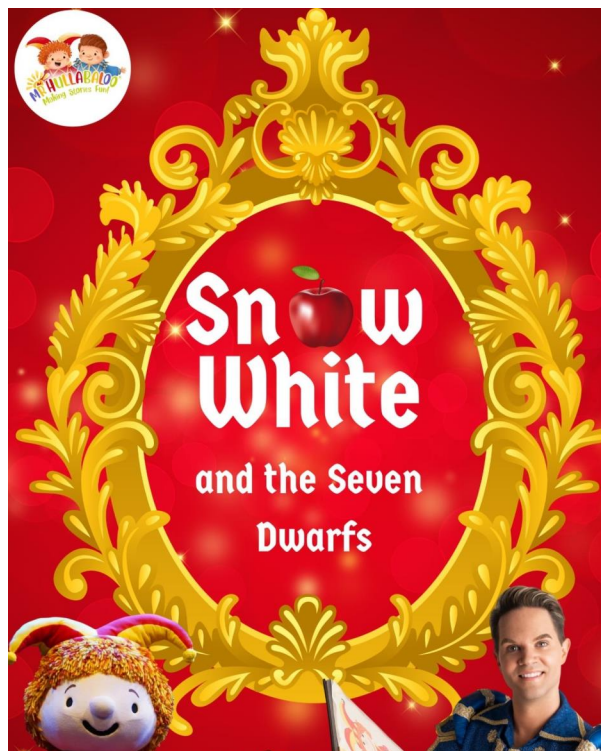
IMPORTANT
Submit a Punctual Application within these dates/times
eacconnect

It is important to read:
 the pre-school admissions guide; and
 the published Admissions Criteria of your listed Pre-Schools
Visit www.eani.org.uk/admissions for further information

Enrolment for Primary schools will open and close in January 2025, keep an eye out for further updates on our website. If your child was born between 1st April and 1st July then they are eligible to defer starting Primary School should you wish to avail of this. Teachers are very happy to help you in making an informed decision about this, just ask.

Open Enrolment Stage One for primary and nursery schools begins on Wednesday, the 7th of January 2026 at noon, and ends on the 21st of January at noon.

Information can be found [here](#).



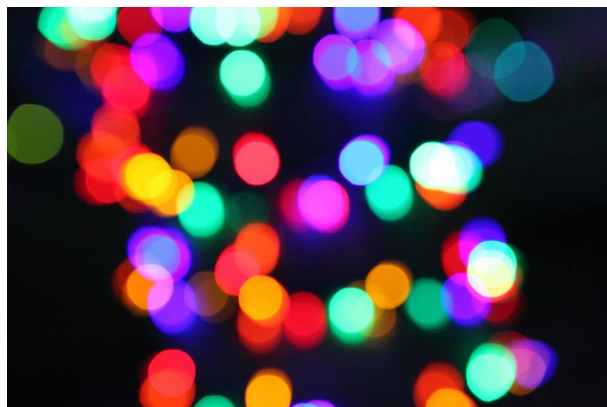


1 - We are going to the pantomime!

We are going to the pantomime! We are so excited about our trip to the The Reading Rooms Theatre, St Comgall's Recreation Club, Larne, to see Mr Hullabaloo's Snow White Christmas Panto.

This is on the 15th of December.

Let us know ASAP if you'd like to purchase extra tickets if you have not already done so.





We will be having our Santa Trail on the 11th of December, from 5.30 - 7pm pm here at Ravenscroft. Join us as we have a hot chocolate station, a sweet shop, make some reindeer food, make Christmas arts and crafts, Christmas dough station, decorate a Christmas biscuit.... and get to meet The Big Guy, Santa himself!, where the children will receive their very own presents. Please do pre-book this so that we know numbers/have enough for every child attending. Siblings and extended family members are welcome, tickets may be reserved by talking to a staff member, let us know ASAP as preparations are well underway.

Donations to the school fund are gratefully received on the night. Any donations received on the evening will go towards our Christmas Fareshare food delivery which we will receive on 4th and 11th of December - we'll make this available on 5th/11th & 12th to families. Sorry about the 4th, we can't guarantee the delivery will be here on time for 1.30 as it's quite a big order this time.

Gates open at 5.30pm and the event runs until 7pm.

Dress warm.



2 - Mr Giggles will be joining us at the Walkway Centre on the 18th



Our partnership with the Walkway continues. We'll be making several visits over the next couple of weeks. Parents and extended family members are welcome to join us over at The Walkway to share the fun. We'll be over at 10.30 and the event finishes at 12.00 noon, children go home straight after. Please do let us know if daycare is picking your child up that day, thanks. No dinner served this day.

Cold Weather

Please bring in a set of hats/gloves for your child (labelled with their name) to stay in school. No scarves are permitted but a snood is great.

Please encourage children not to bring any toys into school. Some 'conflicts' have already arisen over 'favourite' toys from home. Now that the children are well settled, they should no longer require a comfort toy from home.

Eco Schools News

This month we will be introducing our 'EcoSchools' classroom practice to the children. We will be encouraging re-cycling, awareness of litter/tidy environments and nominate an 'Eco helper' each day to take charge of the eco tasks. We will be planting indoors and outdoors. We will be taking time to turn off lights. The children will be meeting our 'Eco bear' Ellie the Christmas Elf from BCC has warmed the children to this theme during her recent visit.



Mrs Symington



Mrs Calderwood



Mrs McGowan



Miss Nicholl



Mrs Duncan



Mrs McNeilly



Mrs Cavanagh



Miss McCullough



Miss Ball



Mr McKee



Mrs Bronka



Miss McKee

Seesaw is a great way to contact us about general enquiries. This account is set up on Mrs Symington's name but all staff can use it- this means that seesaw will automatically attach only Mrs Symington's name to any messages you receive through the mailbox function.

All staff have access to seesaw messages and posts.

Anything of a sensitive nature is best discussed directly with your class teacher rather than through seesaw. You can speak face to face at drop off and pick up if it's a quick and easy thing to sort or if a more in depth discussion would be better, you can phone or email the school. We are always happy to set up a time to meet if needed.

The school email address is nsymington031@c2ken.net should you wish to raise a concern or complaint.

Staff don't routinely respond to any messages on seesaw outside of working hours other than if there is a critical incident. We appreciate that it may work for you to send messages in the evening on the understanding that a reply will follow the next day.

We often get a number of similar posts/queries coming in, when this happens it's easier to send a blanket message rather than individual replies.

All staff have an emoji/icon that they use when signing off, so you know who has sent out any messages you receive. We also use them when posting on your child's journal.

We are happy to receive any feedback about seesaw, our aim is always to keep it useful and helpful. If you are having any problems with it, let us know, we should be able to sort it out for you.

Our Christmas Singalong playlist

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Santa is his name 0

5 little elves 🧝♂️

5 little reindeer

Jingle bells 🔔

Santa, Santa high in the sky

Rudolf the red nose reindeer

I'm little 🧊 ***snowman***

Hello Reindeer

Father Christmas he got stuck

Santa got stuck up the chimney

We wish you a merry Christmas 🎄

School resumes on 5th Jan at 9.00am. Morning room available that day.

We will have two new, permanent Nursery Assistants starting with us that day, Mrs Yvonne Gillespie who some of you will already know and Miss Louise Burns. Miss Cavanagh will be there the first week for a handover period before returning to her first love of youth/older children work. We have been very fortunate to have had her here with us in Ravenscroft for the first term whilst we recruited new staff and we will miss her very much. Good luck and best wishes go her way from all of us.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a

Happy Holiday season.

TOGETHERNESS

Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH
inourplace

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers.
Welcome to East Belfast Sure Start!

Did you know every child plays and communicates differently and there is no 'right' way to play and communicate.

Want to know more about your child and neurodiversity?

Just scan the QR code below and you will find information on tuning in to what your child needs, reading their behaviours and communication and how to support their development.

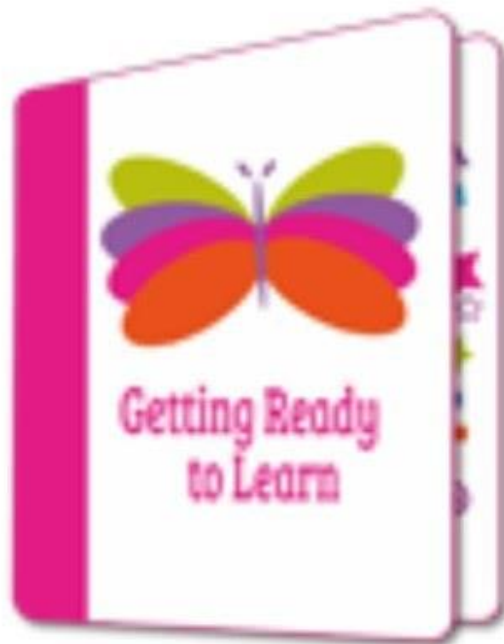
All this is FREE for families that live in Northern Ireland. Just enter **NIFAMILIES** into the access checker. It is all there for you to watch at your own pace and in a wide range of languages.

Our Sure Start team are also here to accompany you on your parenting journey. You can contact them on 02890735686 for more information on the Solihull Courses or Sure Start services.



Apply Access Code
NIFAMILIES
Apply Code

Select Language Powered by Google Translate



Why don't you see what's new at [Getting Ready to Learn?](#)

