



# RAVENSCROFT

## NURSERY SCHOOL

### January 2026 Newsletter

---

*Dear Parents*

*Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all.*

*Firstly, a big thank you to all our families who donated to FareShare in December.*

*January sees the beginning of the Open Enrolment process for Nursery and Primary Schools. We are happy to chat to anyone considering a late deferral to primary school; children born between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2022 are eligible for this option.*

---



---

*Look Who's 4 !!*

*Happy Birthday to*

*Lois*

*James*

*Staffing updates:*

*Mrs Gillespie (N1) and Miss Burns (N2) have started their permanent posts as Nursery Assistants in the school. We say goodbye to Ms Cavanagh who has been wonderful with the children throughout first term. She kindly facilitated a handover this week - we say our goodbyes to her this Friday.*














*Miss Ciara Mc Kenna has been appointed as N2 Teacher Thurs/Fri until the end of June. The children met her on panto day, when she accompanied us to the performance.*

*Mrs Duncan will continue to do Wednesdays, though for the next wee while will be in N2 on Wednesdays until Mrs Mc Gowan is well enough to come back.*

*Mrs Mc Grenaghan will do Wednesdays in N1 during this time.*

*Mr Mc Kee is back with us working mornings.*

---

	Mrs Symington		Mrs Bronka
	Mrs McGowan		Miss Nicholl
	Mrs Duncan		Mrs McNeilly
	Miss McKenna		Miss McCullough
	Miss Ball		Mr McKee
	Miss Burns		Miss McKee
	Mrs Gillespie		

## Dinners

---

*Dinner prices have risen from January 5th. The new price for each meal is £3.00 so £15.00 per week.*

*School Fund contribution remains unchanged at £5.00 weekly.*

*If you pay for school meals your weekly total to pay is £20.00*

---




---

*Our dental nurse will be joining us on Tuesday, the 14th of January, from 12.30-1.30pm. We would appreciate parents to come along, so that you can work with their children on*

*their brushing skills if you wish. The dental nurse can also answer any general queries you might have.*

---



*Now that the weather is colder, the children will need a hat and mittens for outdoor play - they can be sent into your child's cubby indoors should you wish to send in a hat and mittens (not gloves) for your child.*

*Please label each item.*

---



---

*In keeping with the characteristics of the month our theme for January is “Wintery Weather”. We shall be talking about and observing the various types of weather in winter, including ice, fog, snow, frost, wind etc. We will be exploring concepts such as freezing, precipitation, melting, flooding and investigating wind forces. We will even be making a wind tunnel! The children will also be encouraged to think about birds that visit the garden and how we can help them during the winter.*

*P.S. if anyone could help us to fix up our wind tunnel it would be greatly appreciated. The wooden frame is intact but the large perspex sheet needs to be replaced, curved and re affixed to the frame.*

---





---

*We will be using 'Frozen' as a theme - We will be using large frozen ice blocks - if you would have room at home in your freezer to make some of these, would you Seesaw a message to staff.*

*Colours for the month will be black and white.*

---



***Parents, we are in the process of digitising our song lists for Wintery Weather and Space themes so keep checking back on this swag, we'll add the links in which you can access by clicking on the same/original link for the newsletter.***

---

*All the children are coping very well putting on their outdoor coats unaided. We are currently encouraging them to zip or button up coats themselves. Some are already quite adept at this and helping others master the skill. Please support your child's efforts at home and school to encourage independence.*

---



---

*The children will be role playing in our Ravenscroft Accessories Shop, and X Factor stage this month - we would be most grateful for any donations of old jewellery, scarves, bags, popstar outfits, musical instruments, etc. if you have them.*

*As part of our Eco Schools Project and in preparation for the Big Bird Watch 26-28th January, we will be making bird feeders. We will ask for donations of old bread and seeds later in the month.*

*Here are some links to our SeeSaw resources*

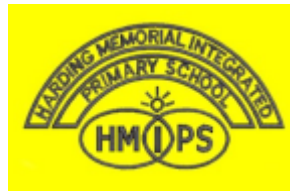
[\*Animals In Winter\*](#)

[\*Pete the Cat Snow Daze\*](#)

[\*Winter is Here\*](#)

---

## *Dates for your diary*



---

On Wednesday, the 14th of January, Harding Memorial Primary School will host a coffee morning for parents of prospective students from 10-11am. The invitation is extended to Ravenscroft parents exclusively on this date. Mrs Symington will also be there and available should you wish to take the opportunity to chat to her about Primary School options.

---

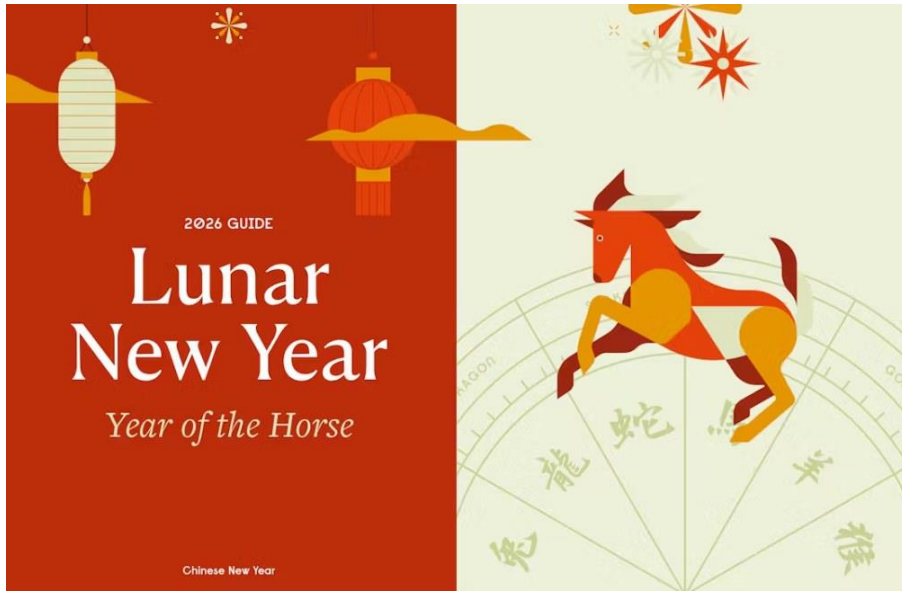


1 - 23-25 January - [Big Bird Watch](#)

---

**11-13 February - midterm break**

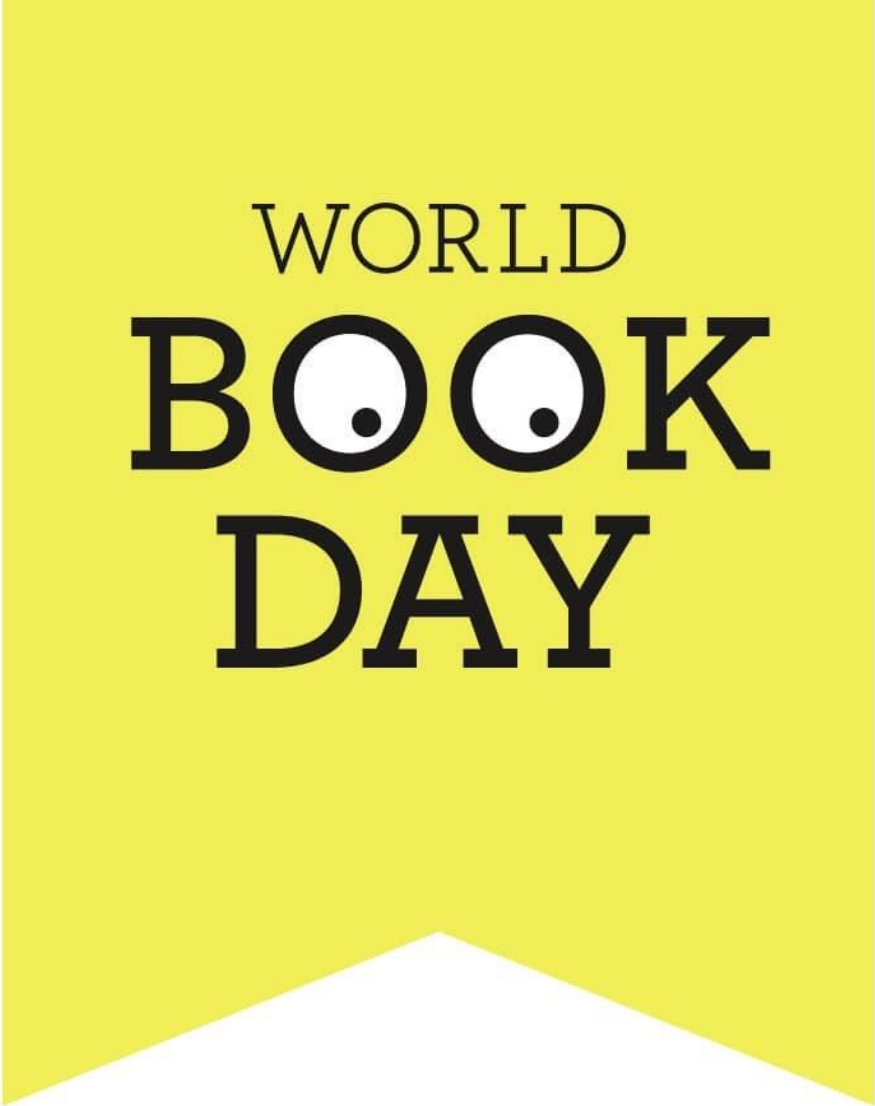
---



---

*17 February - Chinese New Year*

---



WORLD  
**BOOK**  
DAY

---

*WORLD BOOK DAY will be the 5th of March, and we will do a Night As Day theme for our Big Bedtime Read. The children come to school dressed for bed, and bring their favourite story, which we will read during the day. Please send your child with outdoor shoes in a clearly labelled bag if they are coming to school in slippers.*

*05 March - World Book Day*

*16-17 March - St Patrick's Day holiday*

*20 March - Mr Hullabaloo*

*30 March - field trip to W5*

*31 March - family singalong*

*31 March - school closes at 12 for Easter holidays*

*01 to 10 April - school closed for Easter holidays*

*22 April - Earth Day*

*24 April - Forest Schools Nursery One*

*30 April - Forest Schools Nursery Two*

*01 - 05 May - school closed for May Day holiday*

*12 May - Graduation photos*

*15 May - Forest Schools both classes*

*20 May - Jump, Jiggle and Jive for World Bee Day*

*21 May - Ulster Museum, both classes*

*22-25 May - school closed for May bank holiday*

*29 May - Forest Schools both classes*

*12 June - Forest Schools both classes*

*26 June - Mr Giggles*

*30 June - School closes at 11:30 for the summer holiday*

---

Click here to learn about [Applying for Primary School](#) and on our website: [Admissions | Ravenscroft Nursery School](#)

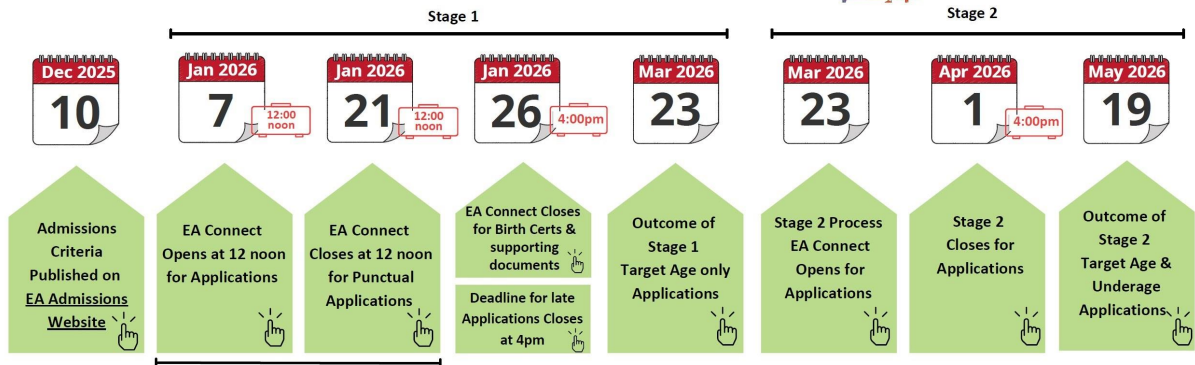


### Applying for a Pre-School place for September 2026: Key Dates

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.*



**IMPORTANT**  
Submit a Punctual Application within these dates/times



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](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) for further information



# TOGETHERNESS

Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world

## Pregnancy and Baby Brain

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD  
SOLIHULL APPROACH  
inourplace




Dear Parents/ Carers

**Welcome to East Belfast Sure Start!**

Did you know your baby's senses develop in the womb and their brain is already building millions of connections?

Want to know more about your pregnancy, labour, birth and baby?

Just scan the QR code below. Here you will find information on getting to know you baby in the womb, the stages of labour and birth, feeding your baby and more!

All this is FREE for families that live in Northern Ireland. Just enter **NIFAMILIES** into the access checker. Once you are on the website, it is all there for you and in a wide range of languages.

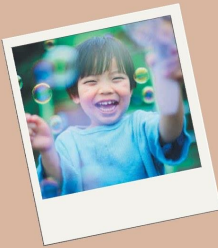
Select Language Powered by Google Translate

Apply Access Code

Our Sure Start Midwife Christine and Jenny 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.




## 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.



Select Language  Powered by Google Translate

Apply Access Code  
NIFAMILIES  
Apply Code

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.



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



Would you like to find out more about your baby and how their brain grows?



Did you know your baby's senses develop in the womb and their brain is already building millions of connections?

Did you know a child's behaviour is how they communicate?

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

Just scan the QR code below and you will find information on all of the above and more including information on pregnancy and labour, tuning in to what your child needs, reading your child's behaviour, processing feelings and emotions and how to nurture them from a baby to a teenager!

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.

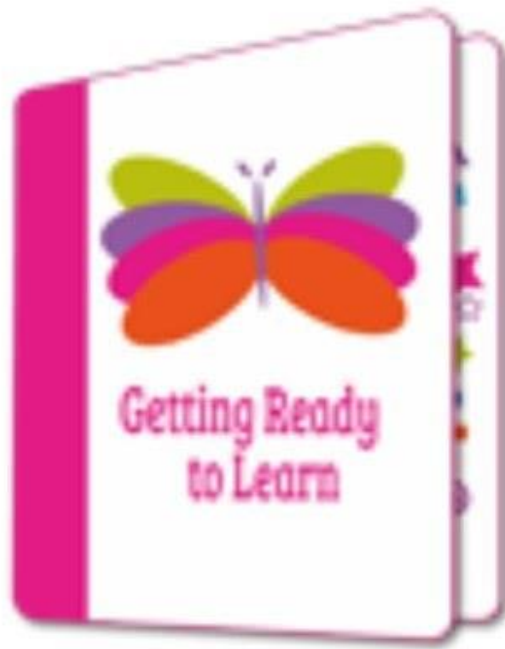
Our Sure Start team are also here to accompany you on your parenting journey. You can contact them on 02890735686 for more information on the Solihull Courses or Sure Start services.



Select Language  Powered by Google Translate

Apply Access Code  
NIFAMILIES  
Apply Code





---

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

---

