



## Hollybank Pre-School News Sheet January 2020

Topics - Winter/Café/Library - Concept - Hot/Cold  
Colours - Blue/White Number - 5 Shape - Rectangle



### **WELCOME BACK!**

I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas Holiday Season and had a visit from `The Big Man`. We are looking forward to another exciting term and hearing the children sharing their experiences during the holidays.

Another busy term begins and this month we will be having visits from Jump, Jiggle & Jive and our friend Amanda from Rathcoole Library. As you can see from the information supplied above we continue to progress with a new shape, number and colours and ask for your help and input reinforcing your child's learning. If anyone has any Christmas cards they did not donate to charity if you would bring them into the pre-school where we can put them to good use letting the children practise their cutting skills.

Can I ask that the children refrain from bringing toys in from home as some of these are being broken or lost causing undue distress to the children.

We will be starting a **SHOW & TELL DAY on the 1st Monday of each month** (February 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th etc.) when your child can bring in ONE small item from home to show their friends and if they choose, tell them a little about its origin and why they like it so much.

Show and Tell will commence on the first Monday in February and each month after until the end of term, I will send home reminder via SeeSaw.

☺ Thank you for your support with our Christmas Art & Craft activity and Nativity it was great to see such a large turn out on both occasions, and the children were delighted to be able to share the experiences.

**TOPICS** - **Winter/Library & Cafe** - We will be discussing the changing seasons with the children, talking about frost, ice and snow and making arts and crafts within this theme. During the month we will also be adding a library to the classroom to extend the children's interest in books and stories. I would encourage all families to join their local library and establish early awareness in the services they provide. As discussed with our Story Bags, reading to your child provides numerous benefits in a holistic way to their learning process. Our café will help promote awareness of people in our environment and mathematical skills.

**CONCEPT** - **Hot & Cold** - The children will be given opportunities to examine pictures of hot and cold objects and discuss their differences making comparisons between the two. This will also include discussion about personal safety with hot objects such as kettles and fire as well as the importance of warmer clothing as the winter arrives.

**COLOURS** - **Blue & White**

**SHAPE** - **Rectangle**

**NUMBER** - **5**

Two colours this month again as both are so relevant to our winter topic and will be used on numerous occasions. The rectangle shape can be a tricky one for some of the children to master because of its similarities to the square, please take the time to point out windows, televisions and any other rectangles they might encounter on a daily basis, to add to their learning process. The number 5 continues our sequence and once number 10 is reached as per our pre-school curriculum we then revise the numbers 1 to 10.

**STORY TIME** - As always our stories will incorporate both the areas of learning for the month alongside the children's requests and interests. Some of this month's titles we will read are: Teddy's Snowy Day/ The Winter Bear/ Peace at Last/ One Snowy Night. We will be continuing to send home some story sacks to ensure all children avail of the excitement and enjoyment of sharing some time and a story at home. We love to see the wonderful pictures they produce and what their thoughts and feelings are regarding the tales.

**CRAFTS** - The children will be producing a range of winter snowflakes, penguins along with winter wear including mitts/hats along with rectangular shaped wax & marble rolled paintings.

**MUSIC**- As well as using our wide range of instruments to explore sounds and rhyme we will be singing and reciting songs and rhymes including - Frosty the Snowman, Jack Frost, Five Little Fingers and 1,2,3,4,5, Once I caught A Fish Alive.

**\*PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS COLLECTED PROMPTLY AT 12.00 AS THEY CAN BECOME ANXIOUS IF THEY ARE NOT COLLECTED WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN AND THE PRE-SCHOOL IS NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE OUTSIDE THESE TIMES\***

Also please remember to keep staff updated of any changes in contact numbers and or email addresses. Also can you ensure that a change of clothing is placed in the gym bag supplied on your child's peg in case dry clothing are needed after water play. Last but by no means least,

**A VERY, VERY BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL THE STAFF FOR THE KINDNESS AND WONDERFUL GENEROSITY DEMONSTRATED IN THE BEAUTIFUL GIFTS WE RECEIVED FOR CHRISTMAS :-)**

Lorraine Brier ☺  
Pre-School Leader

**\*\*THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY ONLINE PORTAL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS WILL GO LIVE ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020 AT 12 NOON\*\***

**REMINDER OF MID-TERM HOLIDAY DATES/ TRAINING CLOSURE**

**The Pre-School will be closed the week commencing 17th February for mid-term. Re-opening on Monday 24th February.**

**\*\*We will also be closed on Friday 14th February for staff training.\*\***