



Lenzie Meadow EYC

Newsletter

October 2020

I am delighted to welcome all of our new children and families to Lenzie Meadow Early Years Centre and welcome back all of our returning children after the lockdown period. The children have all settled in really well to nursery life and are now familiar with our new routines, staff and are making new friends. We pride ourselves at Lenzie Meadow in providing high quality learning and teaching experiences and having a welcoming and caring environment for your child to develop and thrive in. As you know things are a little different at the moment. I would like to thank you all for your co-operation and understanding with our new procedures and supporting us to keep everyone safe. As a team we are continually evaluating and updating procedures as we go. It is a learning curve for us all and we appreciate your patience as we make changes. I hope you will be happy with our service and am looking forward to getting to know you all. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns and I will be happy to help.

Lesley Reid, Depute Head of Centre



Treat Fund

We ask parents to pay 40p per day for the nursery treat fund. This helps to pay for things such as our healthy daily snacks, party food, entertainment and essential items and baking ingredients. Please hand in your contributions to the nursery office by placing the correct cash in an envelope with your child's name clearly written on it. Parents/carers are welcome to pay this on a weekly, monthly or termly basis.

Nursery Parking

Please use the nursery drop off zone when bringing your child to nursery by car. Please only use the disabled bay if you are a blue badge holder. If you cannot get a space you will need to park out with the school grounds and walk in.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Clothing and Footwear Provision

Thank you so much for providing your child with the appropriate clothing for outdoor play. As the weather gets colder please remember to provide a hat and gloves (scarves are not necessary). We also find that a warm pair of welly socks really helps children happily play outside for longer periods of time. Please also provide a spare change of clothing for your child in his/her backpack. **Please label all of your child's belongings. As you can appreciate we have over 100 children and cannot keep track of every child's belongings.**

Scottish Government Covid Guidance Reminder

We would stress that a child should not attend nursery:

- if they have the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- ☒ a new persistent cough, fever, or a loss of sense of smell and /or taste

They should stay at home and parents should arrange for coronavirus testing; you can do this online at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect>

or by calling 08000282816 if you cannot get online.

- if they are living with someone who has coronavirus symptoms, they should stay at home and follow the relevant advice;
- If they have returned (or come) to Scotland from a country which is not exempt from the UK quarantine rules, they should stay at home following the relevant guidance.

Please do not send your child to nursery if they are unwell; there will be times when children get a cold or a virus, they should stay at home until they are well and not attend nursery.

UPCOMING DIARY DATES:

9th October – in-service day – nursery closed

12th – 16th October – school October week – nursery open as usual

w.c. 26th October – Halloween week – further information to follow

Parent Council Meeting – date TBC

PTA meeting – date TBC

24th December – nursery closes for Christmas

5th January – nursery re-opens

Parents as Partners

Unfortunately, at the moment we are unable to have parents come into the nursery building so we will be unable to host our usual Stay and Play sessions and have our Curriculum Evening.

To compensate for this, we are going to be putting together a virtual tour and a 'typical day' at Lenzie Meadow EYC video to share with you to let you see how our nursery is looking and some typical learning experiences that happen throughout the day.

I will also share a Curriculum Powerpoint with you via email that I would usually share at our Curriculum Evening.

We would love you to get involved remotely at our PTA and Parent Council meetings. The next meeting dates will be shared soon. If you have anything you would like to raise or any ideas for the nursery please speak to either myself (Lesley Reid, Depute Head of Centre) or to one of our parent council parent representatives (Susan Tate and Emma Henderson)

If you would like to speak with your child's keyworker or a member of the management team then please give us a call anytime.

Absence Reporting

Please notify the nursery office before 9.30am (am sessions) and before 1.30pm (afternoon sessions) if your child will not be attending nursery. Also, if your child is going to be late to nursery please give us a call to let us know so that we can put through a lunch order for your child.

Collections

Please ensure your child is collected on time at the end of their session i.e. for 12pm, 4pm and 5pm, 5.30pm and 6pm session end times.

If you have said you will collect your child earlier than their end of session time and are then running late, please give us a call to let us know. Otherwise, we will get your child ready for your arrival.

Nursery Lunches

Our current lunch menu consists of soup, a sandwich/baguette/wrap, fruit, oat crisps and a drink of milk or water.

Lunches are free for children on funded days as follows:

If your child does 2 days 8-4 and 1 day 8-12 or 1-5 then your child will have a free lunch on the 2 full days only

If your child does 2 days 8-6 then they will receive a free lunch both days

If your child does 2 days 8-6 and you buy in an additional day 8-5 then your child will receive a free lunch on the 2 funded days and you will be charged for lunch on the additional day

There have been some technical issues with the cashless catering system so we have been unable to issue you with a login reference number. This should be rectified shortly and you will receive a letter with login details and instructions with how to pay.

Thank you for your patience.

Staff Team

I am pleased to introduce to you our staff team for session 20/21. We have a wonderful range of experience, skills and expertise and everyone is working together to provide a high quality of early learning and childcare.

Mrs Sheona Allen – head teacher

Mrs Lesley Reid – depute head of centre

Mrs Heather Hill – senior early years worker (on maternity leave – returning end of November)

Mrs Lisa Burke – acting senior early years worker

Mrs Kirsty Quinn – nursery teacher (wed – fri)

Mrs Amy Gray – nursery teacher (mon – tue)

Mrs Avril Zammit – nursery clerical assistant

Mrs Debbie Armstrong (mon & thur – on maternity leave)

PATHS/Forest Kindergarten) - Mrs Sharon Warner (ams)

LCFE Lead - Miss Suzanne Hay (ams)

Bubble 1

Giraffe group - Mrs Sandra Macdonald (mon – thur) and Mrs Diane Cowan (Fri)

Hippo group - Miss Aimee Clark (full time)

Panda group - Mrs Kirsty Mullaney (ams) and Miss Pamela Shovlin (pms)

Tiger group – Lisa Burke (mon-wed) and Rachel Johnstone (full time) and Isobel Rankin (Thur & Fri)

Mrs Louise McLaren – support worker (ams)

Bubble 2

Elephant group - Miss Rachel McMillan (full time)

Crocodile Group - Mrs Tracey Elliott (full time)

Zebra group – Miss Jeanna Nisbet (ams) and Mrs Wendy Stirling (pms)

Lion group – Miss Lauren Barrie (mon-wed) and Miss Lynsey McMillan (thur – fri)

Mr Grant McNeil – support worker (ams)

Miss Ailish Docherty – modern apprentice (full time)

Bubble 3

Miss Lesley Irving (full time)

Mrs Nicola Paterson (full time)

Mrs Lorna Anderson (ams)

We are also very fortunate to have 4 practitioners from the new Lairdsland nursery with us until it opens. They are Matthew McLean, Rachel Johnstone, Lynsey Wilson and Michelle Mitchell. We are delighted to have them with us at Lenzie Meadow.

Learning Journals

You should all have now received a log in for your child's personal Learning Journal. Your child's keyworker will share your child's learning with you via Learning Journals and will track his/her progress across the curriculum. Our staff team are currently working on identifying 'next steps for learning' for every child and will then share this with you via Learning Journals. Please leave your key worker a comment and we would love for you to share some of your child's learning from home too.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or development please do get in touch. We are here to help and support you and your child and work together to achieve the best outcomes possible.

Communication

We will communicate with you via email, group text and nursery facebook page (closed group). If you have not joined our Facebook page already please find us at Lenzie Meadow Nursery. Unfortunately staff are not permitted to be friends with parents on their personal facebook accounts so please avoid friend requesting any members of staff.

We also use twitter to share our learning.

Please notify us of any changes to your contact details so that we can get hold of you in an emergency situation and so that we know you are receiving our correspondence. If you would prefer information to come to you in paper format please notify the nursery office.

Find us on 

We are collecting conkers for the children to explore and would appreciate any donations. So if you are out on an Autumn walk please keep your eyes open and bring some lovely Autumn treasures back for the nursery.

Improvement Planning

Our priorities for this session centre around the **health and wellbeing** of our children and families. There is a big focus on outdoor learning and we will be continuing our journey towards accreditation in being a Language and Communication Friendly establishment. We will also be considering **transitions** and **family engagement** within restricted guidelines and looking forward with some alternative ways to meet children and families' needs.

Sharing the Learning

In both the 2-3 room and 3-5 room we are adopting a 'planning in the moment' approach to learning. This means we will be following the children's interests and development needs when planning for learning. In time, we hope for children to have increased confidence in leading their own learning.

We will share examples of learning experiences with you regularly on our facebook page.

For children in the 3-5 room, we will email out a 4 weekly Nursery:Home Learning Links sheet that will give you information on what we will be focusing on in terms of Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy and some ideas of how you can support your child at home.

Zones

So far we are really pleased with how well the children in the 3-5 room have adapted to having a blue zone and a red zone. Almost all of the children understand and follow the rules of staying within their zone. Both zones are designed to offer all areas of the curriculum across indoors and outdoors so that children have access to a balanced curriculum at all times. Both zones offer free flow access to outdoors so children can move between inside and outside as they wish. At the moment the children will stay in the same zone for 4 weeks before swapping over to the other zone.

Drop Offs and Collections

Drop off points stay the same no matter what zone the children are in so as to avoid any confusion. Drop offs and pick-ups seem to be going smoothly and I am pleased to see all parents adhering to the 2m physical distancing. We have had some issues with our outdoor doorbell not working at times and for this we apologise and ask you to bear with us. We have also purchased walkie talkies to support communication between bubbles. As you may realise, when you are dropping off or picking up your child, staff in the office will use the walkie talkie to let a member of staff in your child's bubble know you are here. This is to minimise the number of adults being in contact with your child where possible.