



Lenzie Meadow Nursery

Newsletter

January - February 2019

Nursery Registration

Please ensure you register your child before the closing date of 28th February for government funding. Please refer to my email sent out on 15th January for guidance.

*All 4 year old children are entitled to a funded place (Please complete the continuation form if staying in the same nursery)

*All 3 year old children are entitled to a funded place in the **term following** their 3rd birthday:

- Children born between 1 March 2016 and 31 August 2016 can start in August 2019
- Children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 December 2016 can start in January 2020.
- Children born between 1 January 2017 and 29 February 2017 can start in April 2020.

You can apply using the online application form and refer to the guidance notes. If you are unable to complete the online application form you can request a paper copy by emailing earlyyears@eastdunbarton.gov.uk.

Parking

A reminder that the nursery drop off zone is to be used for a maximum of 10 minutes at a time. The disabled parking bays are to be used by disabled badge holders only. If the parking bay is full then you must park out with the school grounds. Double parking is not permitted.

Treat Fund

Treat fund payments are now due. If you have not already handed in your payment could you please do so (40p per day). Please ask in the nursery office if you are unsure of how much to pay. Please remember you can pay weekly, monthly or termly.

Reindeer Visit

We were so excited to have a surprise visit from Santa's elves and their reindeer before Christmas. The children enjoyed touching the reindeer and finding out some information about their care. This then led nicely into our 'How to Catch a Cheeky Elf' text for our Talk for Writing focus for December.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA who contributed to the cost of bringing this lovely learning experience to our children.

Welcome

We would like to welcome all of our new children who have just started with us at the beginning of January. They are all settling in well and getting to know the staff, children and nursery routine.



Nursery : Primary Transition Programme

Our pre-school transition visits are going very well. We are now moving into Block 3 where there is a literacy/shared reading focus. Block 4 starts in March which has an outdoor focus around active maths. Block 5 is our Growing Up Project which runs for 4 weeks in April and May. We will be looking for parent helpers for this nearer the time.

Easter Holidays Provision

Forms are available at the nursery office for anyone looking to request holiday cover in the Easter Holidays. This will be subject to availability and staffing.

Burns Day Celebrations



Thank you to everyone who came along to join in with our Burns Day celebrations. The children participated in a variety of Scottish themed activities throughout the day including tartan weaving, tartan printing and highland dancing. They enjoyed trying some Scottish delicacies such as haggis, tatties and shortbread.

We were very lucky to have some of our family members come along at the end each session to see us perform some of the lovely Scottish songs we had been learning throughout the week. We even managed to fit in time for some fun Ceilidh dancing!!



2 year old and ante-pre-school parent meetings

You should have received a letter home with an appointment time for a parent meeting – please let us know if you have not got this. If you cannot make the allocated time please let us know and we can arrange a more suitable time for you.

Fairtrade Fortnight – 25/2/18 – 8/3/18



During fairtrade fortnight we will be teaching the children the meaning of Fairtrade using child friendly language and will be extending the children's knowledge and understanding using an interdisciplinary approach featuring experiences such as:

- Recreating the fairtrade logo using a variety of techniques and media
- Discussions about what is fair and unfair
- Fairtrade baking
- Fairtrade chocolate playdough
- Fairtrade packaging collage
- Small group visit to St Mary's for the East Dunbartonshire Nurseries Fair Games Event
- Selling Fairtrade products at our Fairtrade shop while developing our literacy and numeracy skills
- Fair trade book swap – every child will be encouraged to bring in a book from home to swap with another child in his/her group (a fair trade!)

Parental Engagement and home links:

- Fairtrade logo hunt – sheets will be sent home
- Fairtrade Bake Off – parent and children baking experiences throughout the fortnight (parent helpers required)
- Bring in your fairtrade packaging for our display

LATE COLLECTIONS

Just a gentle reminder of the importance of collecting your child on time at the end of the session. It affects our staff:child ratios and delays staff going for their lunch/finishing their shift when children are picked up late.

The morning session ends at 11.50am (or 12.00 for extended day children)

The afternoon session ends at 4pm

If your child stays till 5pm please ensure they are collected no later than 5pm. Thank you.

Staff Continuous Professional Development

So far this session, our practitioners have attended the following CPD courses:

Child Protection Update – internal training

First Aid – external training

Language and Communication Friendly Establishment Training – external training

Early Emerging Writing – external training

Oral Health – external training

Emerging Literacy – in-house training

Five to Thrive – external training

What Should a Play Environment Look Like? – external training

All of the above link in with our Improvement Plan priorities and staff personal PDR targets.

Dates for Your Diary:

11th – 12th February – February break - Term-time children off

13th February – NURSERY CLOSED FOR IN-SERVICE

14th February 9am – 10am – Stay and Play Session (Literacy focus)

15th February 3pm – 4pm – Stay and Play Session (Literacy focus)

w.c. 18th February – pre-school transition visits (Block 3)

W.c. 18th February – 2 year old and ante-pre parent meetings week

25th February – 8th March- Fairtrade Fortnight

6th March – World Book Day – Come to nursery dressed as a character from your favourite book

7th March, 6.30pm – 8pm – PTA meeting

w.c. 11th & 18th March – Pre-school transition visits (Block 4)

14th March 4.30pm – 6.15pm – pre-school movie afternoon

14th March 6.30pm – 8pm – Parent Council meeting

w.c. 25th March – World of Work Week

29th March – Dress for the Future Day

29th March – term-timers finish up for Easter holidays

7.30am Pilot – Ending Friday 29th March 2019

Our 7.30am opening time will be coming to an end due to insufficient demand. We will resume our 8am opening time from Monday 1st April.

World of Work Week



Week commencing 25th March is our World of Work week. We will have a variety of visitors coming in throughout the week to talk to the children about their interesting jobs. **Please let a member of staff know if you are able to come into the nursery to talk about your job.** To end the week we have 'Dress for the Future' day on the Friday where we would like the children to come dressed as what they would like to be when they grow up.

Please remember to check your child's Learning Journal. We have noticed that some of you have not logged in for a while – please let us know if you are having any problems and we can fix it for you!

3-5 Room Nativity

A Miracle in Town!



Well what a performance from our little stars in the 3-5 room!! We were so proud of each and every one of the children who gave it their very best. We had such wonderful feedback from all of our lovely families who managed to come along and support the nursery and children.



Labelling belongings

Could all parents/carers please label all of your child's belongings i.e. jackets, zippers, hats, scarves, gloves, wellies, indoor shoes etc. This may just be an initial in pen but enough for staff to be able to match the item to your child. As I'm sure you will understand we have nearly 100 children with pegs in the foyer and the impossible task of tracking belongings. Your support is much appreciated with this.

Literacy Update

Talk for Writing

The children have now built up a good bank of stories and texts that they have learned since we started our Talk for Writing approach in September. We have enjoyed The Enormous Turnip, Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding Hood, How to Catch a Cheeky Elf and Dear Zoo and are currently learning We're Going on a Bear Hunt. We are so impressed with how well the children are engaging with this approach and how much their confidence has grown with storytelling and writing storymaps. We hope you can make it along to our Literacy Stay and Play sessions and see it in action.

Promoting an Enjoyment of Books

We currently only have one grandparent helper running the lending library and she does an amazing job!

We would love one more person to help so we can reach all of the children quicker.

Please let a member of staff know if you can help.

We will be doing a book swap as part of Fairtrade Fortnight which we hope will continue to foster a love of books.



Mystery Reader

Thank you to all of you who have managed to come in and be the 'mystery reader'.

This has been incredibly popular and seems to be much more exciting than listening to stories read by the same staff every day!!



Language and Communication Friendly Establishment

As part of our LCFE journey we have carried out an environment audit and created an action plan to work on. We will be focusing on:

- Creating well defined play spaces
- Clearly labelling resources
- Creating a quiet space indoors and outdoors

All practitioners will also be focusing on specific aspects of the 'TALK techniques' when interacting with the children. We will share with you each month what we are focusing on and maybe you could join us too?

Health and Wellbeing - Physical Activity Programme – SFA Football

The children are thoroughly enjoying their time with coaches Ryan and Danny on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. They have been developing their balance, co-ordination and gross motor skills. I definitely think we have some stars in the making!!



Pre-school Movie Afternoon

Thursday 14th March 2019

4.30pm – 6.15pm

Please bring along a pillow and/or blanket. We will take the extended day children that usually attend on a Thursday afternoon along to the hall at 4.30 and parents can collect from the school at 6.15.

If you have not already done so please notify the nursery office if you wish your child to attend so that we can give final numbers to the PTA.



Fundraising

We raised a fantastic **£659** from the nursery nativity tickets and raffle in December. Thank you so much for your generous contributions. We would like to purchase resources to enhance our outdoor learning provision.

We would like your help to choose what to buy. Please cast your vote when you are next in the nursery. We are of course asking the children for their votes too!!

