



# Lenzie Meadow Early Years Centre

## Newsletter

January - February 2020

### Nursery Registration

Final call for nursery registration. The deadline is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February – all applications must be submitted online and documents uploaded or brought into nursery.

Please remember that you are registering for the session running from August 2020 – July 2021. If your child turns 3 within this time period you must register. Also, you must re-register if your child is already attending the nursery.

Please ask in the nursery office if you have any questions or need some support completing your form.

### Makaton

As part of our journey towards becoming a Language and Communication Friendly establishment, we are introducing Makaton into our practice.

All of our staff team received training during the February in-service day. We worked together to identify key functional signs that would be beneficial to start introducing to the children. We will then introduced new signs every fortnight. We identified Kirsty Quinn as our Sign Champion who will lead and keep you informed along the way.

Using signs can result in:

- Increased eye contact
- Improved attention
- Improved understanding
- Increased ability to convey a message, thereby decreasing frustration and resultant behaviour
- Improved sociability

Please join us at home with using Makaton signs with your child – remember always speak when signing!!

### 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.

### Nursery Website

We have created an 'events' area on our nursery website with photographs of some of our planned events throughout the year. Please have a look.....

### Lunch Orders

We must notify the school kitchen before **9.30am** each day of our lunch orders. Please ensure you have completed the order record in the foyer – it may be helpful to complete it for the week. If your child is going to be late into nursery please telephone before 9.30am to place your child's order.

## Nursery : Primary Transition Programme

Our pre-school transition visits are going very well. In Block 3 we had successful literacy/shared reading visits. We are now moving into Block 4 which starts in March and 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, highland dancing and 'tossing the caber'. 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 and our Talk 4 Writing text "There Was A Wee Lassie Who Swallowed A Midgie"!



## 2 year old and ante-pre-school parent meetings

Thank you for your recent attendance at our parent meetings. If you have not managed to meet with your child's keyworker please contact the nursery office and we will arrange a suitable date and time.

## Fairtrade Fortnight – 24/2/20 – 6/3/20



### "She Deserves"

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
- Making our own fair-trade hot chocolate
- Fairtrade chocolate playdough
- Fairtrade packaging collage
- Small group visit to Regent Centre, Kirkintilloch for the East Dunbartonshire Fairtrade Nurseries event
- Selling Fairtrade products at our Fairtrade shop while developing our literacy and numeracy skills
- Learning about the journey from cocoa bean to chocolate bar - primary 4s will be coming into nursery to work with our little learners to sequence the journey

### Parental Engagement and home links:

- Fairtrade logo hunt – homework sheet accompanying newsletter
- Fairtrade Bake Off – parent and children baking experiences throughout the fortnight (parent helpers required)
- Bring in your fairtrade packaging for our display

## World Book Day –

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020



We will be celebrating our love of books and stories on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Our focus this year is on bedtime stories so we would welcome all children to come to nursery in their pyjamas with a teddy and their favourite bedtime book. Please write your child's name in the inside cover so that the book can be safely returned home.

If your child would prefer to dress up as their favourite character then they are welcome to do so.

## Staff Continuous Professional Development

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

Child Protection Specific Level training – external

Supporting Communication and Child's Voice – external

Observation & Tracking Using Learning Journals - internal

Loose Parts and Schematic Play - external

First Aid – external training

REHIS – external training

Outdoor learning – external training

Language and Communication Friendly Establishment Training – external training

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

## Dates for Your Diary:

5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day – Come to nursery dressed in pyjamas with teddy and favourite bedtime story

5<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm – 8pm – PTA meeting

w.c. 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March – Pre-school transition visits (Block 4)

23<sup>rd</sup> March 6.30pm – 8pm – Parent Council meeting

w.c. 23<sup>rd</sup> March – World of Work Week

26<sup>th</sup> March 4.30pm – 6.15pm – pre-school movie afternoon

27<sup>th</sup> March – Dress for the Future Day

2<sup>nd</sup> April – Easter bonnet parade and Spring sing-a-long

3<sup>rd</sup> April – term-timers finish up for Easter holidays

10<sup>th</sup> April – 13<sup>th</sup> April – NURSERY CLOSED FOR EASTER WEEKEND

## Fundraising

We raised a fantastic **£848** from the nursery nativity tickets, raffle and Christmas Fayre in December. Thank you so much for your generous contributions. We would like to purchase resources to enhance our outdoor learning provision.

We are currently consulting with the children as to what they would like us to buy. So far bikes seem top of the agenda.

We would also like your involvement. Please give us your ideas when you are next in the nursery.

As a staff team we have recognised the need for better storage and would like to invest in more outdoor clothing.

## World of Work Week



Week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Learning Journals

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!

There is now a new Learning Journal App: please type in Learning Journals Parents in your app store and find logging in even easier!



Thank you to those of you who completed the recent Learning Journal survey. I had a really good response and will be displaying the results in the nursery foyer. It has helped us to determine our next steps for improvement.

## 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 over 100 children with pegs in the foyer and the impossible task of tracking belongings. Your support is much appreciated with this.

## Health and Wellbeing Update

### Meadow Movers

We have replaced the daily mile for the time being with 'Meadow Movers'. At the start of each session we will be getting the children moving and ready to start learning with fun physical exercises, dance and movement to music.

### SFA Football

The children are thoroughly enjoying their time with coach Danny on a Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. They have been developing their balance, co-ordination and gross motor skills. The children are also learning to listen and follow instructions and develop an awareness of space. Please can we request that your child has indoor shoes or trainers for football sessions.



### Forest Kindergarten

Sharon, our Forest Kindergarten Champion, has successfully completed 2 blocks of 6 week sessions twice per week. We are now moving onto block 3. We are currently prioritising our pre-school children but hope to reach some of our younger children before June.

### Outdoor Learning

We are really committed to delivering quality outdoor learning experiences and really value the benefits that being outdoors brings to our learners. During the colder months we are finding many of our children are reluctant to play outdoors. Could we please ask that you talk to your children at home and encourage them to spend some time outside while at nursery.

Spare hats, gloves and welly socks would be gratefully received and could help us overcome the "it's too cold" usual comments!

### PRE-SCHOOL : PRIMARY ONE TRANSITION PROGRAMME

#### Pre-school Movie Afternoon

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - 4pm – 5.45pm

All pre-school children are invited along to our annual movie afternoon in the school gym hall. 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 4pm and parents can collect from the school at 5.45pm. There is no need to bring any drinks or snacks as these will be provided by our lovely PTA!!

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.

**Please note: this is for children going to school in August 2020 only.**



#### Head Lice

Please be vigilant in checking your child at home for headlice. Regular combing through is always advisable.

NHS guidance suggests to treat your child's hair only when live lice are found.

