



# Lennoxtown Early Years Centre News



November 2020

Welcome

Dear Families, November already, time really does fly when you are having fun! As you can see, we have an action packed newsletter for you with lots of great things to share! We may still be living in times of challenge but that doesn't stop the fun and learning in our centre and the children are a credit to you! As well as our newsletter, you can also catch up on Life in sunny Lennoxtown via our website and twitter account - details below.

Very best wishes to all.

*Rena Goughlan*

Head Teacher

## Website & Twitter

Our website is currently being updated with information on the children's learning experiences during October so please have a look and see what has been happening.

<http://www.lennoxtown.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/early-years-centre/welcome/>

Have you followed us on Twitter @Elennoxtown

## Contact & Communication Details

**Telephone**            **0414 955 2268**

**e-mail**                [nursery@lennoxtown.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@lennoxtown.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

**Twitter**                **@Elennoxtown**

**Website**              <http://www.lennoxtown.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/early-years-centre/>

It is really important that you keep us informed of any changes to telephone numbers and e-mails address and let us know if you thing we may not have the correct details.

We will also communicate using learning journals and if you respond to a message this will come direct to Isabel's e-mail, we do not however receive notification of comments made on observations/stories and staff monitor these as best as they can. Please give us a call or drop us e-mail if you have any question or if you want to chat about child's experience in nursery.

We are now able to offer a virtual meeting via Teams and have been using this to meet and update children's personal learning plans in the 3-5 room. We are now planning to move on to the under three's so watch out for your invitation e-mail.



## Drop off and Collection of Children

Thank you for your support in wearing face covering at drop off and collection time. As you are all aware infection rates are on the rise again and this is just one way we can protect staff, the children and you, our families. Can we also please ask that parents leave the school playground as soon as they have collected the child as the school children are in the playground at times and we need to keep them safe and ensure that the nursery children are coming into contact with them. Please remember to use our bells and not open gates. Please share with everyone who drops off or collects your child. Thanks

## Christmas Celebrations

We are all very aware of how different things are this year and staff are working really hard to ensure that we can make our Christmas celebrations as special as possible for our children and families. We will keep you informed and share information with you as soon as we can.



## Children's bags & Outdoor Clothing

Every child should have been issued with a small canvas bag to store their belongings in nursery as we do not have the space for large bags. Can all parents/carers ensure that they use this bag to transport their child's belongings to and from nursery. As you can imagine the space we have for the storage of outdoor clothing and bags is very limited and if children have large backpacks this restricts children on nearby pegs from accessing their outdoor clothing and their own bags. This can also lead to staff not knowing who items of clothing belong to and therefore children go out without wearing the items supplied by parents or sometimes children take the wrong item home. We do understand how difficult it is for everyone at the moment and we are trying to make this easier by ensuring there is a consistent approach through the nursery. The weather is changing and we have noticed that some children do not have suitable clothing for outdoor play so please if you need to borrow some outdoor clothing just let us know and we can arrange this.

Thank you



## Holidays

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Centre Closed-reopens Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

All children are on holiday for these days but we know some families choose to take a longer break and we will be in touch soon to ask if your child will be taking extra time off to match with the school break. This helps us to plan staffing levels and possibly allow more staff off than normal during this time.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Centre closed – reopens Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Apr - Centre closed reopens Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Apr

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Centre closed reopens Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Centre closed reopens Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> & Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Centre closed reopens Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Jun

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Jul – Centre closed reopens Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Jul

End of nursery place for pre-school children will be Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021



## 2-3 Room

As always the children have been really busy both inside and outside. They have been developing their balance and coordination skills by walking along beams outside, you will be amazed by how good they are doing this. The children have noticed the changes in the leaves and have been keen to explore these using them to make autumn pictures for their display indoors.

Indoors there have been lots of animal and jungle themed activities, providing opportunities to develop language skills, turn taking and sharing, looking at pattern and colour and being creative.

This creative is further developed and nurtured through loose parts play but we need your help as our resources are running low. If you have any of the following, please place them on a bag and give to staff these will be stored for 72hrs before putting out for the children. Resources needed are small boxes, tubs with lids, corks, lids from jars or bottles, Curtain rings, buttons, ribbons, wool, string or anything else you think the children will play with.



### 3-5 Room Strawberry Pod

The children have been taking part in lots of spooky activities from painting pumpkins to mixing potions in a huge cauldron. They have used the pumpkins to print with, to decorate and even to count the seeds inside using their counting skills.

The children have been very interested in different materials so they have also had the opportunity to explore lots of different textures and feelings by playing with sand in the sand tray, shaving foam in trays they have also been making mud pies outside in the garden talking about how they feel and look.

Our construction area has been very busy this month, children have enjoyed wearing their builder's hats to direct or even take part in building houses, schools and even a cinema. They have been comparing sizes of towers and measuring them using measuring tapes.

During group time children have been learning the days of the week and the months of the year. They also talk about the different weathers we experience every day and how this changes each season.

When the children play in the outdoor area as well as games such as 'floor is lava' or 'tig' they have been exploring filling and pouring using the jugs and cans full of rainwater. This exploration of capacity is allowing them to compare and describe different amounts of water as well as the sizes of containers.

### 3-5 Room Banana pod

The children thoroughly enjoyed their experiences in the banana pod and they dressed up and played with the spooky broomsticks, cauldrons and skeletons. They also had the opportunity to make their own ghosts, hats and skeletons.

They have been really interested in using the interactive whiteboard to play games from counting and ordering number games to recognising and matching shapes. The children also enjoy listening to music and dancing with their friends.

Whilst outside the children have been asking for lots of outdoor games from 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' to 'Can we cross Mr Crocodile?' This has allowed them to practice their speaking and listening skills whilst having fun with their friends.

Some of the children were very intrigued by the castle in one of our story books so with the help of some of the ladies they created a huge castle in our home corner using boxes and tubes and lots and lots of tape. They have enjoyed playing kings and queens, Anna and Elsa and scary witches.

The children were really enjoying making lists and writing out their own ideas so they now have small clipboards and pencils in each area of the room that they independently choose to write on. We have had registers to make sure all the children are in to shopping lists and pictures. This is a great opportunity to practice early mark making skills with all the children.

## Baby Room

The babies have been enjoying exploring the autumn leaves and splashing in the rain filled buckets. The children brought the leaves inside and they did some painting with them. As always learning to share at this age is tough but the children's continued interest and enjoyment in pegs and boxes has helped to promote this. This is a really simple activity you can repeat at home with the children. All you need is any empty box and some pegs or any other item they can post. A large cereal box is perfect, just cut some holes and then take turns with your child to post items through the holes. Big brother and sisters can join in too.



## Treat Fund and Fund Raiser

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the treat fund, this has allowed us to continue providing the children's choice of snack menu daily and also provide supplies such as flour for playdough (which we are currently using more of due to the restrictions caused by Covid 19). We asked for suggestions for fund raisers and as we had so many different suggestions and some parents have already raised funds for us we have decided on D.I.Y. sponsors/fund raiser. This is how it will work:-

1. Sponsor /fund raiser sheets will be issued to all children W/B 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020
2. Parents and children can decide how and if they wish to raise some funds. (sponsored walks, silence, readathon, making and selling crafts cakes to family and friends) Please remember Guidelines on social distancing when doing this. Remember to share your photographs so we can share on Twitter and the Website.
3. Sponsor sheets should be returned to the nursery by 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov with any money raised, anyone not wishing to participate should return unused sponsor sheets. Please place these in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front.
4. The funds raised will be used for Christmas gifts for the children.

There is no obligation for families to participate in this initiative, it is voluntary.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support at this time.

## Family Champion and Family Learning

We are working hard to get our family learning and home links up and running so look out for interesting development coming soon.

Nancy our Family Champion is available for 1 to 1 parenting support either by telephone or Teams meeting (video call). Just give us a call and we can arrange a time that suits.

## Reporting Absence

Please inform us as soon as you are able if your child is not going to be in nursery. Please ensure you give us the reason for their absence if leaving a message as we have additional reporting procedures in place due to current pandemic and we are required to inform the Care Inspectorate if we have any children off with possible symptoms of Covid 19.

Can we also remind you not to bring your child to nursery if they are unwell and require any medication such as antibiotics or Calpol. These medications could mask possible symptoms of Covid 19 and we need to ensure we are doing our best to limit the spread of infection.

We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone by our main priority is to ensure we do our very best to protect each other. Thanks you for your continued support.

## Lunches

As you know we have started to serve our hot lunches again. This has been very popular with the children. In order for us to make this run as smoothly as possible we need your help and support. An e-mail will be issued every Monday for you to complete with your child's lunches choices for the following week. We have had a good response so far and this has really helped with the smooth running of the lunch service. A small number of parents have not completed the form and we would be like to know why and if there is something we can do to help. If you have any issues with the form, please give us a call and we will do our very best to help.

