



Lennoxtown Early Years Centre News



pARTY

December 2020

Welcome

Dear Families, I can't quite believe that we are almost at the end of this year and what an eventful year it has been! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Isabel, Donna, Nancy and the nursery team for their relentless efforts in keeping everything going and trying to maintain as much normality and connection possible. I'd also like to thank all of you for your kindness, support and patience over past months. We are hopeful for the new year that lies ahead and wish you and your family all the very best for the Christmas period.

Very best wishes to all.

Rena Coughlan

Website & Twitter

Our website is updated every month with information on the children's learning experiences both indoors and outdoors 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

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 think 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 threes so watch out for your invitation e-mail.



Christmas Celebration Dates

- Fri 11th Dec – Fun Christmas Jumper Day
- Tues 15th & Fri 18th Dec – Baby Room Parties
- Wed 16th Dec – Strawberry & Banana pods Parties
- Thurs 17th Dec – 2-3 Room Party



Each group has something special planned for their family and friends and these performances will be uploaded to Learning Journals this week.

Children's Clothing

The weather is changing and with snow forecast it is essential that the children have hats and gloves with them daily. Some have been bringing these in but forgetting to label them so we now have a large collection of unclaimed items. Please clearly label every piece of clothing your child brings to nursery so it can be returned if its not put back in the correct place.

Can we please also remind parents ensure that children have plenty spare clothing with them in case of accidents.



Holidays

Just a quick reminder that if you have told us your child will attend nursery on any of the school holiday days (Tues 22nd, Wed 23rd, Thurs 24th & Tues 5th Jan) please remember to let us know if you change your mind as we still have to follow normal absence procedures.

Upcoming Holidays

- Wednesday 10th Feb – Centre closed – reopens Thursday 11th Feb
- Friday 2nd & Monday 5th Apr - Centre closed reopens Tuesday 6th Apr
- Monday 3rd May – Centre closed reopens Tuesday 4th May
- Thursday 6th May – Centre closed reopens Friday 7th May
- Friday 28th & Monday 31st May – Centre closed reopens Tuesday 1st Jun
- Monday 19th Jul – Centre closed reopens Tuesday 20th Jul
- End of nursery place for pre-school children will be Friday 30th July 2021



2-3 Room

The 2-3 room children have been fascinated by the changes in the weather recently. They have been talking about how cold it is now and they were delighted to find some ice in our outdoor water tray. They were keen to explore the ice using their senses and have shown lots of interest in how it is formed.... more to follow on this.

They have also been very curious about different types of bugs. We had a great time exploring in the big school garden using magnifiers to find all sorts of bugs and insects. The children then did fabulous drawings and paintings of the bugs they saw and have created some wonderful wall displays.

This very busy month also found the children expressing an interest in People Who Help Us and can now describe what most of the emergency services do for us. They designed and created their own ambulance and have had lots of using it during role play.

We are now all looking forward to all the exciting Christmas activities and experiences ☺



3-5 Room Strawberry Pod

In the strawberry pod this month we have been exploring our problem solving skills through putting together lots of puzzles and exploring our construction area. There have been some very impressive towers created, some even as high as the children. During this time, we have been discussing measurement words and comparing things using the words bigger, smaller, tall and short.

Outside in the garden the children have particularly enjoyed playing with our new mud kitchen, handcrafted personally by Jennifer, they have been making pretend cakes, bread and even some sparkly potions. Water play is particularly popular at the moment in the garden as children fill containers, pour them from one to another and create their own muddy puddles. This is developing their balance, co-ordination and sharing skills.

Our home corner has had a move around recently and the children are spending lots of time playing families. This includes looking after the toy babies, setting up dinner tables and putting the children to bed. During these games children are increasing their knowledge of how to interact and play games with each other but also developing their understanding of how to look after babies and smaller children.

Across the room we are looking at developing children's counting skills. We are encouraging children to count the correct amount at lunchtime, counting out and sharing toys and also encouraging them to correctly count in order from 0-20. As the children's confidence increases with this task we will begin to look at counting out the correct amount of objects to match a given number.



3-5 Room Banana Pod

We have been developing our knowledge of science and engineering through experiments and exploration of resources. While we have been focusing on our senses this week we were learning about sight through activities such as exploring light and dark.

The children have been expanding their imagination through creative re-enacting of the story. They expanded their learning of literacy through-out the room with puppets, three little pigs story sequencing, lost and wanted posters and acting out the story in the garden.

Learning to work together through games and puzzles has been a focus this month, encouraging co-operation, sharing with our friends.

Within our outdoor environment we have been taking part in a lot of active, energetic and challenging games and activities. We have been developing our co-ordination and balance skills with ball games and rings, encouraging cooperative play and team building through-out.

The children have been showing a big interest in imaginative play and we have had many tea parties in the garden we used our creative skills to make tea, hot chocolate with marshmallows and yummy cakes with sand and water.

We will be starting our Christmas crafts this week and decorating our banana pod.



Baby Room

The babies have been exploring all things that roll both indoors and outdoors. Indoors they have been explored anything round that they could roll including the wheels on the trike, cushions, balls, cars and trains. They have also been investigating and problem solving as they try to roll things that are not round. Outdoors they have moved to bigger things such as tyres, cable reels, tubes and pipes. The babies really enjoy being outside as they have more space to experiment without crashing into each other.

This type of play is Schematic play and this is a rotational schema. Other things the children might do at home are twirling around, rolling their bodies, turning the taps on and off and winding and unwinding balls of string.

Gwen is developing a mud kitchen so any donations of kitchen utensils, pots, baking trays, metal or wooden bowls would be gratefully received.



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).

The response to our do it yourself sponsor was excellent and so far we have raised a phenomenal £826.30. There were sponsored bounces, cycles, walks, sing-a-longs, star jumps, colour naming and silence (we hope you enjoyed the peace and quiet) as well as sales of baking and Christmas crafts. There were also lots of donations. This money has been used to purchase the children's Christmas gift, party food and prizes for games.

The staff have also organised a raffle for their family and friends and we are using this money to buy trees, lights and decorations for outdoors.



Family Champion and Family Learning

Hi All,

I hope all is well with you during these uncertain times and the stresses and anxieties that accompany them. This is just a wee message to remind you all that I am still here with my Tip Sheets and advice for any parenting issues you may have such as Toilet Training, Mealtime Madness, Temper Tantrums. The list of issues is not exhaustible and no matter how big or small you feel your problem is, give me a telephone call and I can give some advice or direct you to someone who can.

I am in the process of trying to organise a virtual Triple P Group and will be in touch when this is organised and can be confirmed.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call and if I am unavailable I will call you back.

Take Care

Nancy



Lunches

Our hot lunches have been really popular and the system for ordering has been working really well. Thank you to everyone who takes the time to fill out the forms with their children. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas lunch for the children and staff this year but we will have a special Christmas snack day for each bubble of staff and children.



*Merry
Christmas and
A Happy New Year
from all the staff*

