



Lennoxtown Early Years Centre

August 2021



Welcome

Dear Families, I hope you have all enjoyed the lovely weather of late and the fabulous summer activities that the team have provided. It's certainly been a busy time and there have been plenty of opportunities to learn outdoors and go out and about in our local area. As school returns this week it will see our playground and surrounding area busy as ever! Please continue to support us with our procedures as we move towards recovery. This means being mindful of any contact with other adults that may be considered as a close contact and also continuing to wear a mask/face covering for drop off and pick up. I appreciate our covid journey has been somewhat long and difficult at times but as we continue to pull together and help and support one another it takes us closer to our pre-pandemic lives! Very best wishes to all for the coming weeks.

Rena Coughlan

Head Teacher

Drop off and collection

We hope everyone has located their new drop off and collection point if your child has just started or moved pod.

Please remember to drop and collect as close to your child's allocated time as possible and to leave the playground as soon as possible after drop off.

Thank you for your support.

Children's Belongings

- Please use the drawstring bags that were supplied by the nursery to transport the children's belongings to and from the nursery. These bags should be **carried by an adult** and handed over to staff.
- Children should arrive at nursery dressed ready for outdoor play as they will be given the choice of staying out or going in when they arrive.
- Please ensure your child has indoor shoes for when they are playing indoors.
- Please ensure your child always has spare clothing in their bag at all times and if toilet training they may need multiple changes.
- Please also ensure if your child is in nappies or pull ups that you always check with staff if they need more nappies/wipes or pull ups.
- The windows will be opened for ventilation so please put a jumper or zipper in your child's bag in case they need it.

Unfortunately, we do not have space to store indoor, spare clothing, outdoor clothing or shoes so please use the bag to bring these daily. If you have lost or misplaced your child's bag please let us know and we can give you another one.

Please remember to put your child's name on all their belonging as there are often different staff in the morning and afternoon so they will not know what your child was wearing when they were dropped off.

Children's Learning

During the first few weeks in August the staff will be taking time to get to know the children who have just started or who have moved to their group. This will involve observations and consultation with parents and children. Some of the children have not attended during the summer so they may take some time to settle back in to the routines of the Centre. Once the staff have all the information they need they will work together with the children and parents to set personal learning targets for the children for the next few months. These will be shared with children and parents and parents can share any learning they do with their child on Learning journal.

Staff will also be looking at different ways they can help the children share their achievements in nursery and on learning journals. Parents can also share any achievements on their learning journals.

This time will also allow staff to observe and record children's interest which they will use to build on their previous learning.

We will keep you informed through Learning Journals, Twitter and the website of the learning experiences provided for the children.

Children's Thoughts

The children are looking forward to spending time with their friend's and drawing pictures for them. They are also looking forward to playing outside in the gardens. Other popular requests were playing Mummies and Daddies and with the babies (the children had previously asked for new dolls which were recently delivered). Other suggestions included the doll's house and some new pink toys (we will need further consultation to see what pink toys are desired!).

Summer Learning and Fun

The summer fun and learning programme was very successful over the summer holiday period and if you head to the website you can see just some of the experiences the children participated in. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Nursery treat fund over this period, as you can see, it allowed us to do many things on the list!



Holiday's 2021-2022

The Centre is closed to all children on these days

In-Service Day

Tuesday 10th August 2021

Wednesday 11th August 2021

September weekend

Friday 24th September 2021

Monday 27th September 2021

In-Service Day

Friday 8th October 2021

Christmas holidays

Monday 27th December 2021

Until

Wednesday 5th January 2022

In-Service Day

Wednesday 9th February 2022

Easter

Friday 15th April 2020

Monday 18th April 2020

May Day

Monday 2th May 2022

In-Service

Thursday 5th May 2022

May weekend

Friday 27th May 2020

Monday 30th May 2020

Local Holiday

Monday 18th July 2020

Please keep these dates to hand. Reminders will be sent out and the dates will also be on the website.

Sun Safety

The NHS recommends that from March to October in the UK, children should:

- cover up with suitable clothing
- spend time in the shade, particularly from 11am to 3pm
- wear at least SPF30 sunscreen

There have been some children arriving at nursery in the recent hot weather without any suncream and we have very limited stock so we thought this year we could start a sun club. Parents can then choose to pay £6 for the year and we will supply the suncream factor 50/5 star rated or they can still supply their own individual bottle. Look out for more information coming soon.

Thanks you for your support in keeping the children safe while they are with us.

Care Plan Updates

All children's care plans will be updated during the month August so if you have not already had a call you will receive one soon. These update happen 3 times a year but you can contact us at any time with any updates to contact details, emergency contacts or any other relevant information.

Treat Fund

Thanks you to everyone who has contributed to the treat fund. This treat is a voluntary donation of 40p per session up to a maximum of £2 per week and any contributions are most welcome. This is used to pay for consumables such as ingredients for playdough, resources for sensory exploration, Christmas gifts and parties, summer fun days and activities and the Graduation.

There is a new milk and health snack fund which provides the children with 1 portion of fruit or veg per day and approximately 1/3 of pint of milk or a unsweetened milk alternative. This money is only for these items and we rely on the treat fund for other snack items such as cereal, rice cakes & bread etc.

This fund is also used to purchase snack and resources for messy play and making playdough etc. At this time of the year it also funds the children's graduation and some fun events for the children.

This year due to circumstance the treat fund donations have been really low and we do not have a large back up fund so if you are able to contribute anything it would be very much appreciated.

If you wish to contribute payments can be made weekly, monthly or termly and should be placed in an envelope with your child's name on the front and the amount. If you wish to know how much it would be for a month or a term just give us a call and Fiona will be happy to help.

Thank again for your continued support.

Family Champion and Family Learning

Just a wee reminder that you can still access advice on parenting issues through the Family Champion Initiative by telephoning the nursery on 0141 955 2268. I can still address parenting issues through the use of our Tip Sheets or, if you would prefer a more direct approach, I could arrange a chat on Microsoft Teams at a time suitable to us both. Please telephone me if you would be happy to do this. I am aware that some of you might not have appropriate resources like laptops or tablets to access these kind of sessions. If this is an issue for you, we can offer face to face meetings at per arranged appointment times.

Hopefully we are all feeling that wee bit more positive and can begin to see some light at the end of the long dark tunnel we have been in. Never again will any of take for granted the ability to drop into the nursery for a chat and a cuppa when we need to share our worries and concerns.

We will be consulting with you in the coming weeks able the types of family learning we can offer moving forward.

Nancy

Lunches

There is a new lunch menu from Thursday 12th August which you can view online at

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/school-meals/catering-service>

We will continue to send out a form to be completed in advance and ask that this is completed by all parents even if your child will be bringing their own lunch as we do not want to be wasting meals that are not required.

If your child is not going to need a lunch on a particular day, please let us know by 9.30am (this applies to both am and pm children) and this will also help to reduce waste. This is particularly important for the children who pay for their lunches, if we order a lunch you will be required to pay even if your child is not in nursery to eat it.

Staff Update

Zoe and Pamela are both expecting babies in Aug/Sept and will be working from home prior to their maternity leave. Fingers crossed that Covid restriction will be eased and they can visit with their babies when they arrive.

We also have some new staff members and role changes

Jessikah Graham started in July and Sophie Evans is due to start in August.

Donna Forbes is our new acting senior while Pamela is on her Mat leave

Sadly, we are losing Andrew Steven who is moving on to pastures new soon.

Under 3's Team

Senior - Donna Forbes

Babies

Ashley Duncan
Gwen Hendren (term time only)
Chloe Stephenson (am)
Geraldine Smith (pm)

2-3 Room

Jenna Todd (full time)
Sharon Percy (am)
Andrew Steven (pm)
Tracy Corlett (pm)

3-5 Team

Senior - Nancy Temporal

Adam Stubbs (Teacher, term time only)
Lynne Frew (term time only)
Ainsley Gillen (Full time)
Donna Ryan (Tues, Wed & Thursday)
Dominique Taggart (Full time)
Sophie Evans (am)
Kirsty Smith (pm)

Debbie Bryson (Thurs & Fri term time only)
Natalie Andrews (Full time)
Kirsty McCormick (Full time)
Jessikah Graham (Mon & Fri)
Andrew Steven (pm)
Jenna Blades (am)
Jillian Russell (Early years support worker)

The Rest of the Team

Isabel Bott (DHoC)
Lynsey Kincaid (Housekeeper)
Trisha MacDonald (Day Cleaner am)

Fiona Garlinge (clerical assistant)
Margaret McFall (Cleaner)
Debbie Jarvis (Day Cleaner pm)