



# Lennoxtown Early Years Centre

## September 2021



Welcome

Dear Families,

As the seasons change so we begin a countdown into Autumn and all of the lovely learning opportunities that this time of year brings. We continue to thank you for your patience and support as we navigate covid but hope you feel involved in the life and work of the nursery regardless. As always, we have loads to catch you up on so sit back, make yourself a wee cuppa and enjoy our news!

*Rena Coughlan*

Head Teacher



### Drop off and collection

As you know the children in the 3-5 room now have access to the whole room, but they should continue to enter and leave via their designated Banana or Strawberry Pod gates. You may be aware the current number of positive cases is very high so this will continue to minimise the numbers of parents at each entry point.

It is essential that we are kept up to date with any changes to the people who can or cannot collect children as this can be difficult if this has changed and we are not aware as we will not allow children to leave until we have contacted you. It is essential that you tell the member of staff collection your child at the gate who will be collecting your child at the end of the session. If someone new is coming to collect, please ensure they have the password.

These procedures are essential to ensure that children are safe.

### Children's Belongings

Recently we have had a few children who have needed a change of clothing during their session for a number of reasons and at times they do not have any spare clothing in their bags. Please ensure that your child has a change of clothing in the bag every day in case of accidents. If your child is toilet training, please supply as many set of spare clothing as possible.

All children's belonging should be clearly labelled with their name.

Children should not bring any toys to nursery unless they are settling and require these for comforting.

Thanks you for your support.

### 3-5 Room

The children have all settled well and are getting used to being back in the nursery routines. They have been very active in the outdoor area and staff have observed more children becoming involved in "Risky Play". We hope to encourage this and we aim to provide more opportunities for the children to use assault courses and other structures. The children will be encouraged to contribute their own suggestions and ideas and will be given the opportunities to create their own structures with some safety advice from staff. The children have been making good use of the rear space now that their new fence has been put up. The children have also been demonstrating their building skills by creating some fabulous structures outdoors and we hope that we can provide more materials to encourage their creative ideas.

The children have been showing an interest in science based activities within the nursery. The staff hope to encourage the children in this area as science activities provide opportunities for children to ask questions and develop curiosity which extends their learning. We will also be building on the children's interest in role play. This is not confined to the "house corner" but is seen and heard throughout the nursery. Some children have been showing lots of interest in the dinosaurs as well as the construction resources and Lego. The staff will be encouraging the children to design and create using construction resources....and who knows ...maybe the dinosaurs will all get a home built from Lego etc.



### Children's Thoughts about Their Learning

Lots of children are enjoying learning different nursery rhymes and would like to spend some time learning a few new ones which the ladies will be working on during group times. In our new creative area, the children are looking forward to using felt tips, clay and scissors to create different models and pictures to bring home. The outside areas are currently a hive of activity and children are wanting to learn more about the different forms of transport as well as explore new and exciting ways of building dens with the pallets and camouflage nets. Finally, we have a new set of measuring scales in the nursery which the children are very excited about investigating by weighing different objects.

## 0-2 Room

During the last few weeks the children have enjoyed lots of water including dishes, pouring, filling and emptying, watering the plants, washing the babies and using the spray bottles. All these activities help to develop language skills, curiosity and motor skills. They have also been making playdough and then exploring it with a variety of different resources. The new colour puzzle has been popular and it helps children to learn their colours through matching. There are lots of new children joining the baby room so they are building new relationships and learning to share with each other. The children have also started to learn a new welcome song which they are practising daily.

As always the outdoors is always popular and the current favourite activity is marching and running which is great for developing gross motor skills.



## 2-3 Room

The children have been involved in lots of risky play and have been developing their balance, coordination and gross motor skills using woods, tyres, logs and pallets. The children are showing increased confidence and safety awareness as a result of these activities.

The staff have also introduced Story Stars to the children they have been engaging with stories and props during these sessions, developing their language and communication skills with active literacy.

Some children have been following trajectory schemas and they have been exploring this through a range of activities such as rolling balls and cars down the pallets and slide and also using the pipes with water.

We will be continuing to provide opportunities for children to further develop these skills and many more over the next few weeks.



## Remaining Holiday's 2021-2022

The Centre is closed to all children on these days

September weekend

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

In-Service Day

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Christmas holidays

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Until

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

In-Service Day

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Easter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020

May Day

Monday 2<sup>th</sup> May 2022

In-Service

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

May weekend

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Local Holiday

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 sun cream 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 sun cream 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.

## Learning Journals

We are currently having some issues with our Wi-Fi which means we are not always to upload the information to the journals as fast as we normally do. The IT department is working on this so it should be resolved soon.

If you are new to Learning to Learning journals, I will be running a virtual information session later this month so watch out for details.

## Personal Learning Plan Updates

The staff spent the first few weeks in August observing the children and they have started contacting parents to update the children's personal learning plans with the targets for the next few months. The children are also consulted about their progress to date and setting their goals for the future. Remember to have a look at their progress and add anything they are doing at home to their Learning Journal.

## 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 fund is used to purchase snack and resources for messy play and making playdough etc.

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.

Unfortunately, we have not had a chance to consult with you regarding family learning yet but we will be doing so soon.

Nancy

## Staff Update

Zoe had a baby boy and all the staff and children sent them best wishes, hopefully we will get to meet him some time soon.

Andrew Steven has now moved to his new post. We also have some new staff members and role changes

Sadly, we are losing Jillian Russell our Early Years Support Worker. Jillian, completed her qualification while working with us and has now secured her first Early Years Worker post out with our centre.

We will be interviewing soon for a temporary support worker and an additional clerical post and the adverts for Andrew and Jillian post should be on myjobscotland soon.