

# November

---

## Catrine Early Childhood Centre Parent/Guardian Newsletter November 2016

---

We are now approaching the end of term and of course with the clocks going back we are now into darker nights and colder weather. All staff is working really hard in continuing to develop the playrooms to make them more attractive and child friendly. We have purchased two play-based units at a cost of £1000, which was funded by East Ayrshire Council. These are very welcomed resources and will be a great asset in taking the children learning forward and stimulating choice.

### Building updates

The railings in the childrens outdoor area are now painted; the wooden gate requested for the childrens green space has also been fitted as well as the new gate for the corridor, I am happy to report things are progressing well.

### Outdoor Learning

Children have been enjoying outdoor play and this will continue to the end of term. We have now organised key worker group outdoor learning within the green space. This will take place every Tuesday and Wednesday. I have noted your child's specific day below for your information. It is important that all children bring a pair of wellington boots, warm jacket, heavy socks, gloves, hat and scarf. The nursery will provide outdoor suits to go over your child's clothes ensuring that they are kept as dry as possible; it would be helpful if you could bring an extra pair of socks.

STAFF	GROUPS	DAYS
RENA	BLUE	TUESDAY
MICHELLE	YELLOW	
JULIE	RED	WEDNESDAY
JAN	GREEN	

### Come snack with me

A huge thank you to all the parents and guardians who joined their child for our "come snack with me" event, this was a huge success with 92% attendance. I am in the process of making a folder "working in partnership with parents and guardians", this will include photographs and comments of the day and other events throughout the year, which will be displayed with the planning books in the corridor area.



I would also like to invite you to contribute to these books through gathering your comments and feedback. Parental involvement and engagement is an important factor in helping us evaluate our service and enables us to strive for continuous improvement. You will also receive a "secret inspector's questionnaire" to complete which will help us gather views and opinions. Completed questionnaires should be posted in the suggestion box at the front entrance. I will of course collate all responses and feedback in December.

### Parents Progress Meetings

All parents and guardians should now have met with their child's keyworker to discuss progress and complete the care plan.

### New Starts

Parents/guardians will be asked by your child's keyworker to complete the first part of the care plan and then meet again within 28 days to complete the last page, you will also receive written feedback on their progress to date.

### Photographer

We are hoping to receive the photographs within the next week, thank you to everyone who placed an order, as you know we receive a small commission for the total purchased, this will help subsidise the childrens Christmas party.

### New Starts

We have five new children started this week and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all and hope that you become actively involved with the life and work here at Catrine ECC.

### Staff Training



It is important that staff attend further training ensuring they meet the requirement of registration with the SSSC. This also builds parents confidence in the service in that staff are well trained and takes responsibility for both professional and personal development.

### I have included some of the forthcoming training until February 2017.

LOST - Professional Learning for Achievement Network – Science in the Outdoors Lesleyanne Julie

EAST - Developing a vocabulary rich classroom (awareness raising) Caroline, Julie

LOST Professional Learning for Achievement Network - Arts and Crafts in the Natural Environment Lesleyanne

How to Develop Creativity - The Reggio Approach Lesleyanne Julie

Global Citizenship in the Early years(Early and First Levels) Lesleyanne, Julie

EAST - Solution Oriented Approaches Lesleyanne

Great Expectations - 2 Year Olds as Researchers and Inventors Caroline

Play or Curriculum – Are They Different? Lesleyanne, Caroline, Rena, Julie, Michelle Jan

EAST - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Awareness Raising Rena, Julie Jan

EAST - Looked After Children (LAC) – An Introduction to "We Can and Must Do Better" Lesleyanne, Julie, Michelle

EAST - Language and Communication Difficulties Rena, Julie. Jan



### Acting Head Teacher of Catrine Primary and ECC

Mrs Alison Wright is currently Acting Head in the absence of Mrs Avril Dante, a text message went out during the week also.

## Home Link Initiatives



We hope you and your child are enjoying the home link bags, research tells us that reading to your child and singing nursery rhymes on a regular basis is an important protective factor associated with better language development. More information can be accessed through GUS (growing up in scotland), this is a very informative website.

<http://growingupinScotland.org.uk/>

It is important home link bags are returned to your child's keyworker no later than **Wednesday of each week**. There are still some outstanding bags to be returned. Unfortunately, this makes it very difficult for staff to give out the next home link to the next group of children.

## Golden Tickets

We have now had our first golden ticket award, children are really responding to this new method of promoting a positive attitude; please remember to talk about the golden rules at home with your child, extra copies are available. Photographs of the children with their award certificate will be displayed on the wider achievement wall for a week and then put in their record of achievement book.

## Wider Achievement wall

We have four photographs now on display, please feel free to contribute to the achievement wall, don't forget it is not just the children but for parents, guardians, grandparents and extended family and friends. Let us celebrate and recognise everyone's achievements.



## Paper Hankies and Baby Wipes

Could I ask all parents and guardians to donate 1 box of paper tissues and 1 box of baby wipes, this would be greatly appreciated.

## Adverse Weather

In preparation for adverse weather, the following procedure will be followed:

The main path will be gritted with rock salt and coned off to mark a safe walking area. If we have severe weather, the car park may be closed. Janet our janitor does a marvellous job here at Catrine ECC ensuring children, parents and staff safety at all times.

## Christmas Hamper



We are organising a Christmas Hamper and will place a box in the main corridor for any donations, we propose to sell raffle tickets and hope we can manage two hampers. We would also like to organise a child's fun hamper as well, donations like books, small games, colouring in books, crayons, small dolls, car, childrens bubble bathetic. **Please do not purchase expensive toys or gifts.**

### Parents and Guardians with pets

In the safety of all children and families could I ask that all dogs are appropriately and securely chained to the outdoor railings facing the road, this ensures that we follow East Ayrshire Councils policy and guidelines.

### Childsmile

Childsmile is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland and reduce inequalities both in dental health and access to dental services. Childsmile Nursery provide twice-yearly fluoride varnish application for nurseries and schools.

Key components:

- admission is by consent form, usually given out either at the time of nursery enrolment or during Childsmile consent meetings
- twice yearly fluoride varnish applications to children's teeth
- opportunity to update medical history and personal details every six months.



Childsmile team will be visiting Catrine ECC on **Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December** to carry out Fluoride varnish, all parents should have completed consent form during enrolment.

### Toothbrushing

You will receive a letter about toothbrushing if for any reason you do not wish your child to participate in daily tooth brushing please call at the office and complete a form. All children have their own individual toothbrush with their own special picture, on no account do the children ever share toothbrushes. Staff also adhere to the toothbrushing programme National Standards. I have included a link here for further information and guidance.

[www.child-smile.org.uk](http://www.child-smile.org.uk)

### Toys from home

Could I ask all parents and guardians to encourage your child not to bring home toys to the nursery, this is becoming problematic and time consuming for staff to locate these within the nursery playrooms. There is also a high risk that toys will go missing or get broken which we cannot take any responsibility for. If children have just started the nursery and they need or have a special comforter then this will be duly respected, some children also require a comforter for example a special blanket which they need if they are tired or just need a little reassurance, I have no objections to this being available in their bags. I hope you will support us with this.



### Dates for your diary

### Parents Committee

Our first parents committee will be held on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November at 9.10am, please come along and join us for tea, coffee, and an informal chat. Everyone is welcome.

## Children in Need

Children in Need this year will be on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November



### Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November

Each child is welcome to come fancy dressed or wear something with spots on it or even have their face painted with spots. We will have some fun games and a special snack to celebrate this event. We will also provide a container in the corridor area to receive any donations.

### 16 Days of action against domestic violence

We will be participating in this annual event to raise childrens understanding of feelings, respect and positive relationships. I have included the agenda of the fun activities the children will be involved in on this day for your information.

Date/Time 25 <sup>th</sup> of November	Description of event/activity	Agency/Service	Venue	Target audience/group
9.10am- 9.30pm & 12.50pm-1.10pm	Circle time (instead of welcome time)	ELCP	Catrine ECC	Children
11.00am & 3.00pm	The role of our community police (people who help us)	Community Police		Children
Exploring feelings, happy and sad faces	Craft /sensory room	ELCP		Children
Pancake faces	Snack	ELCP		Children
Wall display	Highlighting 16days of Action	ELCP		Parents/guardians and children

### Christmas parent and child workshop

We warmly invite parents, guardians, grandparents and carers to join in this fun family event, you will have the opportunity to participate in tree decorating, making cards, calendars etc. I have enclosed your child's keyworker dates and times, if for any reason you cannot make it on this day you are more than welcome to join in any of the others days. Please come along and join in the festive fun.

Date	Keyworker	Time
Tuesday the 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Michelle Yellow Group	10.30am-11.30am and 2.30pm-3.30pm
Wednesday the 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Julie Red Group	10.30am-11.30am and 2.30pm-3.30pm
Thursday the 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Jan Green Group	10.30am-11.30am
Friday the 9 <sup>th</sup> of December	Rena Group Blue Group	10.30am-11.30am and 2.30pm-3.30pm



### Christmas Carol Singing

This will take place on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at  
Morning children will arrive at the square at 10.45am  
Afternoon children will arrive at 2.15pm.

Please come along and join in the fun.



### Children Christmas Party

The childrens Christmas party will take place on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of  
December, children will receive a small gift from Santa. Parents and  
Guardians are welcome to join us at **11.00am for morning children** and  
**2.15pm for afternoon children** when Santa will visit the nursery.  
We will also draw the Christmas Hampers on this day.



A huge thank you to all the staff at Catrine ECC who work effortlessly each day as we continue our  
journey to ensure we provide the highest standard of care and quality learning environment for all  
the children.

Thank You,  
Caroline.