

Cairns Early Childhood Centre
Parent and Carer Newsletter
March 2024



Welcome to our March newsletter! It's officially spring time, although the weather doesn't appear to have realised this. Hopefully some sunshine is on the way soon. As we move into a new season, you could ask your child what they notice when they are outside – what's happening to the trees or to the ground? How does it feel outside – is it cold or warm? There are so many different things to see, hear, touch and smell outdoors!

Stay and Play feedback

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Stay and Play sessions last week. These were very well attended and we really hope you enjoyed coming in to make an Easter bonnet with your child, as well as finding out what your child gets up to.

We really appreciate parents, grandparents and carers taking the time to complete our feedback questionnaire. This helps us make improvements based on your suggestions, and it's always so nice to get such positive comments from you all. The staff team work really hard to make sure your child has the best possible experience at Cairns, and it always makes me (Laura) really happy and proud of my team when their hard work is recognised through your lovely comments. Thank you!

We will collate all your feedback and use this to help us plan future Stay and Play events – most of you want to see more of these too!

Easter Bonnet Parade

All of the children in the ECC had the opportunity to make their own Easter bonnet and we will be parading through the streets of Altonhill Avenue and up to the care home to show off our marvellous creations on Wednesday 27th March at 11am. Thank you to those parents and carers who have signed up to help out – we wouldn't be able to do this without your support as our adult to child ratios change as soon as we leave the building. If you are helping out, please arrive to the ECC for 10:50am prompt so we can get organised to leave for 11am. Our 0-2 children and families will leave through their garden, our 2-3 children and families will leave from their playroom and through the main entrance, and our 3-5 children will be split between 3 of our playroom exits and the main entrance. We will be there to keep everyone safe, and we hope everyone has fun!

Hopefully the weather will be on our side – if it is really too wet on the day, we will have a parade in the ECC for the children and share this on their Learning Journals. Keep your fingers crossed for dry weather please! Thank you also to everyone who picked up a sponsor sheet from the office. We will share our fund-raising total and prize winners shortly!

Thank you to the "top" Tesco

Tesco on Glasgow Road have very kindly donated a voucher for us to purchase Easter treats for all the children in the ECC. The children will receive these on Thursday 28th March before they leave the ECC. If your child doesn't attend a Thursday, we will make sure you have this before you leave on your last day in the ECC before the Easter break.

What's coming up in April?

The ECC will be closed to Term Time children **from March 29th – 14th April** (inclusive). We hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 15th April.

For our full year children, the ECC will be closed for **Good Friday 29th March and Easter Monday 1st April**. We hope you have a lovely Easter weekend and look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 2nd April. I will be on annual leave until 8th April however leave you with Taylor, Jodie, Tammy and Gillian during my absence.

From week beginning 22nd April, there will be sign-up sheets in the cloakroom for our parent/carer progress meetings. These will take place from Tuesday 7th May through to Friday 10th May. This is an opportunity for you to have a meeting with your child's keyworker to find out how they are getting on and to review their Personal Plan and targets.

For any of our children leaving us to go to Primary school in August, you will receive your child's transition report. These will be issued in the week beginning Monday 29th April. We will also share a copy of this report with your child's school so they can get to know a little more about your child before they join them.

Change of clothes

A wee reminder to provide a change of clothes for your child in their bag. This change should include underwear and socks please. We are running really low on our own clothes, and sometimes these don't always make their way back to the ECC – which is OK however we rely on donations of old clothes etc. from parents/carers. If you can provide a change, or two, please do so.

Hillhead Primary transition events

Please see the key date's section for information regarding Hillhead Primary school transition events which are happening between May and June. Alongside the mini classroom experience on a Friday morning, there are a number of events for which parents/carers will need to collect their child from the ECC to attend the transition event. These dates are also displayed in the cloakroom area on the parent/carer noticeboard.

Sports Day Stay and Play

We have organised two dates for Sports Day, and from feedback we've received regarding Stay and Plays, and how much parents and carers are enjoying these, we will host Sports Day Stay and Play sessions in our outdoor area. To allow you to spend time with your child, in their

group and with their keyworker, we will have some group sessions on the 15th of May and some group sessions on the 22nd of May. We will share more info on this in our April newsletter.

Improvement Plan consultation

We will begin consultation on our 2024-2025 Improvement Plan in May. We will be looking for feedback and suggestions from the children, parents and carers, the staff team, and our partner agencies we work alongside. This will help inform our improvement priorities and we would really appreciate if you can take the time to complete a questionnaire when this is shared. Keep an eye out on your child’s Learning Journal and for QR codes around the ECC. I will also be sharing a questionnaire for parents and carers to complete regarding how nurturing you feel the ECC is. This will help us as we work towards a Whole Centre Approach to Nurture, so please take the time to complete this if you can.

We hope you have a restful break over the Easter period whatever you and your family are getting up to. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Team Cairns 😊

Key dates for 2024

We understand how useful it can be to have a note of any key dates for special events in the ECC to allow you to be able to attend.

April

2nd – 14th – Term-time children off for Easter break, ECC only open to full-year children

2nd – World Autism Day

15th – Term-time children return

18th – Hillhead Primary disco – information in the cloakroom area

22nd – Earth Day

29th – Pre-school children's reports issued

May

6th – Local holiday – term-time children off

WB 6th – Parent/Carer meetings with child's keyworker

WB 6th – Screen-free week, Deaf awareness week and Sun awareness week

15th – Sports Day Stay and Play – more info to follow

22nd – Sports Day Stay and Play – more info to follow

20th – World Bee Day

23rd – Paddington's Party at Hillhead Primary – **transition event 2pm – 2:45pm**

29th – Parent and carer committee meeting – **9:15am – 10:15am**

June

5th – World Environment Day

6th – Mini classroom graduation at Hillhead Primary – **transition event 2pm – 2:45pm**

13th – Lunch visit at Hillhead Primary – **transition event 11:30am – 12:15pm**

18th – Buddy's Sports Day at Hillhead Primary – **transition event 2pm – 2:45pm**

19th – Pre-school graduation – more info nearer the time

21st – 2-3 and 3-5 end of term party – more info nearer the time

26th – 0-2 end of term party – more info nearer the time

28th – Last day of term for our term-time children

Get involved with the ECC

**Find us on Facebook & Twitter
@CairnsECC**

**Cairns Bairns (0-2 children)
Every Wed 9:15am – 11:15am
Bookbug on first Wednesday of each
month (0-3)**

**Bookbug sessions (3-5)
Weekly on Tuesday @ 2pm**



**We always appreciate donations of:
Baby wipes
Tissues
Socks, pants and trousers**

**Contact us:
01563 533177
eaCairns.ECC@eastayrshire.org.uk**

We are TEAM CAIRNS

Trust, Empathy, Approachable, Mindful, Caring, Achieving, Inclusive, Respectful, Nurturing, Safe