

# Cairns Early Childhood Centre

## Parent and Carer Newsletter

### February 2024



Welcome to our February newsletter! You may notice a familiar face back in the ECC as we welcome back our Senior ELCP, Tammy, who has returned, part-time, after maternity leave. Jodie will be job-sharing with Tammy until further notice so will spend half of the week as Senior ELCP and the other half of the week, when Tammy is in, as ELCP in the 0-2 room.

We said good luck but see you soon to Joanne, 2-3 room ELCP, who has taken up a temporary post at Gargieston ECC. Emma, 2-3 room ELCP, is still there as keyworker for the Otter group.

### What happened in February?

February seemed to go by in a flash! We were feeling the love throughout the ECC as we celebrated the people we love on Valentine's Day. I loved the big heart the 3-5 Jungle Room children had made and displayed in the cloakroom, and we hoped you liked it too.

We were closed for in-service day on 13<sup>th</sup> February and had a very productive day as a staff team, focusing on outdoor play and our leadership roles. The staff have expressed an interest in an area of our learning they would like to develop, and will be looking for your input to help them build on what we currently have and make it better. Our leadership roles are in the following areas of learning and curriculum:

Outdoor Leaders: John, Louise and Cheryl

Literacy Leaders: Nicola C, Caitlin M, Carrie and Leah

STEAM Leaders: Kristeen, Maegan, Sharlene, Catherine and Gillian O

Rights and ECO committee: Angela, Gillian K, Mairi, Caitlyn Mc and Bobbi

Parent and Carer committee: Donna and Christine

Health and Wellbeing Leaders: Margo, Jodie, Kirsty and Emma

Communication Champions: Taylor, Gillian K, Louise, Courtney, Lauren Y, Cara and Lauren C

### What's coming up in March?

We will be taking part in World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March where children are welcome to dress-up as their favourite storybook character or in their jammies. We will have some of the P6 children from Hillhead PS visit to read stories with the children. We will also have 2 Bookbug sessions with Mairi: one at 9:30am and one at 2:00pm. We would love it if you could come along for these and join in with a Bookbug session with your child.

In the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> March, we are hosting Stay and Play sessions for all playrooms. Sign-up sheets for the 2-3 and 3-5 rooms are in the cloakroom area whilst the 0-2 Stay and Play will take place during our weekly Cairns Bairns sessions. During the Stay and Play, we will have different Easter themed activities as well as an Easter Bonnet decorating activity. We would love for you to join your child to make an Easter Bonnet for our Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Our Easter Bonnet Parade will take place in our local community on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. We are making this a sponsored Easter Bonnet Parade to raise funds for a summer party for all the children. You will be able to collect a sponsor sheet from the office in the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> March – please note this is optional and all children will be able to take part in the Easter Bonnet Parade regardless. Every sponsor sheet will have a number allocated to it as we have some Galleon Leisure Centre passes available as prizes and we will draw the winning sponsor sheets from a random number generator so it's important to leave your details with the office when you collect a sponsor sheet.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help us take all of the children out of the ECC on the day – keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets in the cloakrooms. We will rely on volunteers to help us make this possible.

### **Additional sessions for term-time children**

In the past we have offered a limited number of additional sessions to children out with their funded hours to support families in different ways. Our service operates full year to allow families to use their child's funded hours over different models which includes full year provision, therefore we will no longer be offering any hours over and above your child's funded hours. If you feel you need support over the holiday period, it may be beneficial to look at your child's pattern of attendance, especially if they are currently accessing a term-time session. Our long morning, long afternoon and 2.5 day sessions are ideal, particularly if you don't have childcare over the holiday periods.

### **Applications for Early Learning and Childcare 3 & 4 year olds 2024-2025**

Applications are now open on the East Ayrshire Council website for the new academic session in our 3-5 Jungle Room. They will close on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2024.

You should apply if your child will turn 3 between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. You will require your child's full birth certificate and proof of address to upload to your application.

Please note, if your child is currently attending our 2-3 playroom, you must still complete an application. You **only** need to reapply if you wish to change your child's pattern or Centre.

You can find the full allocation policy on the East Ayrshire website. If you have any questions, please see Lizzy or Beccy.

We hope you have a marvellous March!

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.

### **March**

7<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day – dress up as your favourite storybook character or in your jammies for a special Bookbug

8<sup>th</sup> – International Women’s Day

18<sup>th</sup> – Global Recycling Day

WB 18<sup>th</sup> – Easter Stay and Play days – sign-up sheets in the cloak room

21<sup>st</sup> – World Down Syndrome Day

21<sup>st</sup> – Easter transition event at Hillhead Primary

27<sup>th</sup> – Sponsored Easter bonnet parade (time to follow – keep an eye out on the app and FB)

29<sup>th</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April – ECC closed Easter holidays

### **April**

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

2<sup>nd</sup> – World Autism Day

15<sup>th</sup> – Term-time children return

22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day

29<sup>th</sup> – Pre-school children’s reports issued

### **May**

6<sup>th</sup> – Local holiday – term-time children off

WB 6<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Carer meetings with child’s keyworker

WB 6<sup>th</sup> – Screen-free week, Deaf awareness week and Sun awareness week

15<sup>th</sup> – Sports day for the full ECC (22<sup>nd</sup> May back-up)

20<sup>th</sup> – World Bee Day

23<sup>rd</sup> – Paddington’s Party at Hillhead Primary – transition event

29<sup>th</sup> – Parent and carer committee meeting (time to follow)

### **June**

5<sup>th</sup> – World Environment Day

6<sup>th</sup> – Mini classroom graduation at Hillhead Primary – transition event

- 13<sup>th</sup> – Lunch visit at Hillhead Primary – transition event
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Buddy’s Sports Day at Hillhead Primary – transition event
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Pre-school graduation – more info nearer the time
- 21<sup>st</sup> – 2-3 and 3-5 end of term party – more info nearer the time
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 0-2 end of term party – more info nearer the time
- 28<sup>th</sup> – 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 sessions  
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**