

Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter

January 2024



Welcome to our January 2024 newsletter and a warm welcome to any new children and families who have joined us over the last few weeks. We would also like to welcome Nicola Blythe, who has joined us as a Support Assistant in the 3-5 room.

What happened in January?

We were excited to welcome everyone back after the festive break, eager to hear what you had all been up to. We welcomed some new friends into our playrooms as some of our children transitioned from our 0-2 room into our 2-3 room, and some of our children joined the 3-5 room from the 2-3 room. We also had some new friends join us who have never been to nursery before; we hope you will all have the best time with us at Cairns; learning, growing, and making new friends.

Transition is the theme of the month as some of our pre-school children had the opportunity to attend a Scottish transition event in Hillhead Primary School as well as the mini classroom experience, which started on Friday 26th January. Caitlin, ELCP in the 3-5 room, has been supporting the children with their visits and reports back that they have all had a great time.

For any of our children moving on to other Primary Schools, we will keep you posted on any transition events shared with us as soon as we have this information.

What's coming up in February?

Jane Ritchie, Occupational Therapist, and Christine Barr, Speech and Language Therapist, are holding a drop-in session for any parents/carers to come along to on February 5th at 3:15pm. Our last drop-in session in January was really well attended and we got some great feedback from parents/carers who came along. Fiona Cowan, Health Visitor, will also be joining the drop-in.

There is a local holiday on 9th February and 12th February which means the ECC will be closed to all of our term-time children. The ECC is closed to all on 13th February for a staff in-service day.

On February 2nd, we would love if you could wear something red to the ECC in recognition of congenital heart disease, something which is close to the hearts' of one of our families in the ECC.

We will be celebrating Pancake Day and Valentine's Day on February 14th.

Our Vision and Aims

We recently consulted our parents/carers on our vision and aims for the ECC and, along-with the staff and children's views, we have refreshed our vision, values and aims for Cairns. These will be shared separately on your child's Learning Journal, the APP, and they are displayed in the reception area for all to see.

Thank you so much for taking the time to help us refresh our vision, values and aims!

A Day in the Life (3-5 Jungle Room)

Some of the feedback from our October Stay and Play sessions was to have some information on what the children get up to in the ECC, for example, a day in the life. This month, we're sharing an overview of what our 3-5 room routine looks like...

Our friends join us at different times throughout the day, depending on what session they attend. Our morning friends arrive at 8am, along-with our friends who are here for a full day session. Some more friends join at 8:30am, and almost all of our friends have arrived by 9am. On arrival, we are greeted by the staff in the Cosy Corner. This is so we can come in to a quiet, relaxing space which can be helpful if we've just woken up and aren't quite ready to go and play yet. We find our snack names and our toothbrushes, which helps with our early reading skills.

We go off to play once we have brushed our teeth; we have lots of different places to explore: Construction, Imaginative, Creative, Outdoors and the Cosy Corner. The staff always plan such exciting activities for us because they know us so well. Snack is open from 9:30am where we can choose a piece of fruit and a drink of milk or water. Sometimes we will help choose and prepare the snack; we really like to do this and we're getting really good at being safe and responsible whilst cutting up our fruit.

We have group time at 11:30am every day, and this is a great opportunity for us to spend time with our keyworker. They are very good at planning activities to help us learn more and achieve our targets. We know it is time to tidy up for group time when we hear the tambourine.

We have lunch at 11:45am; we get to choose where we would like to sit but we must remember to wash our hands before we eat. The staff have been helping us to serve ourselves and we can choose what we would like to eat. We can see pictures of the lunch in the lunch area so we already know what we're going to have before it arrives. We use cutlery and can pour our own drinks. We're getting really good at taking our plate up to the "tidy up" zone. We can scrape our food into the food bin and put our cutlery and plates away, ready for Helen and Anne Marie to collect. We're also getting really good at knowing about different allergies and diets, such as dairy-free, vegan, vegetarian and Halal.

After lunch, we can go back to play. Some of our friends get ready to go home so they head to the Cosy Corner to relax before they get picked up. At 1:15pm, our afternoon friends arrive. They get to have time in the Cosy Corner to find their snack name and brush their teeth, and then they come to play with us. Sometimes we go to Bookbug in the afternoon with Taylor or

Mairi. It's great when our grown-ups come along too. The Cosy Corner is always available to us if we want some quiet time; being 3, 4 and 5, we still need a little bit of rest and time to regulate if we're feeling a bit overwhelmed with big feelings.

Sometimes we'll go on visits to the school, the local park, or we'll go a bit further and visit different places in the community. Sometimes our grown-ups will come to the Stay and Play days. Sometimes we'll celebrate different special events.

When the tambourine shakes again at 2:30pm, we know it is time for some of us to go home so we help tidy up and gather all of our belongings. Sometimes this might include art work or special things we've made. We love to share those with our grown-ups. We will listen to a story or sing some songs. On a Friday, we get to watch a short story on the Promethean board or we'll do some dancing to our favourite songs.

Some of us stay a little bit later so we go with some of the staff to the Creative area for a group time. Once all of our friends who finish at 3pm have gone, we go through to the smaller playroom; this is so we can play safely with our friends and the late shift staff. We have dinner at 3:45pm; we always remember to wash our hands and, as we do at lunch time, we serve up our food and pour our drinks ourselves. We help tidy up before going back to play. Sometimes we'll have more focused activities such as counting games or listening games, and sometimes we'll play outside in the smaller garden – it's got a great hill for using the guttering pipes and cars or balls to roll down the hill. Sometimes we go for a walk and we visit the local park which is lots of fun.

We always have a very busy day at Cairns! You can see weekly photos on our Facebook page as well as individual photos of your child on their Learning Journal.

Additional year of ELC

If you are considering an additional year of Early Learning and Childcare for your child(ren), please visit the East Ayrshire Council website to complete the deferred entry form before the 29th February. The Scottish Government have extended the option for an additional year of ELC to include any child who has their 5th birthday after the start of the school term in August and before 1st January. Previously it was only children who have their 5th birthday in January or February who were entitled to an additional year of ELC.

If you have any questions regarding an additional year of ELC, please see Laura to discuss further.

We hope you have a fantastic February!

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.

February

2nd – Wear something red in recognition of congenital heart disease

WB 5th – Children’s Mental Health week

5th – Drop-in session with Jane, Christine and Fiona – 3:15pm

9th – 12th – Term-time children off (local holiday)

13th – ECC closed to all for in-service day

14th – Pancake Day and Valentine’s Day

16th – Valentine’s Disco at Hillhead Primary School – Pre-school children (4:15 – 5pm)

March

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

8th – International Women’s Day

18th – Global Recycling Day

WB 18th – Easter Stay and Play days (more info to follow)

21st – World Down Syndrome Day

21st – Easter transition event at Hillhead Primary

27th – Sponsored Easter bonnet parade (more info to follow)

29th March & 1st April – ECC closed Easter holidays

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

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 for the full ECC (22nd May back-up)
- 20th – World Bee Day
- 23rd – Paddington’s Party at Hillhead Primary – transition event
- 29th – Parent and carer committee meeting (time to follow)

June

- 5th – World Environment Day
- 6th – Mini classroom graduation at Hillhead Primary – transition event
- 13th – Lunch visit at Hillhead Primary – transition event
- 18th – Buddy’s Sports Day at Hillhead Primary – transition event
- 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**

**Parent/Carer Social Group
Every Wed 9:15am – 10:30am**

**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