

Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter

September 2024



Welcome to the September newsletter. We hope you are all keeping yourselves well, and it has been lovely getting to know our new children and families.

We hope your time at Cairns ECC is an enjoyable one, where you and your child can make lots of lovely memories. If you do need to speak with us about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We love to hear your feedback and would always ask you give us the opportunity to help out if needed. You will find a parent/carer suggestion box in the cloakroom area, just outside the Jungle room double doors.

What happened in September?

September was all about our children settling in to their new environment and becoming familiar with the routine in their playroom. We were lucky to have some great weather, and most of the children enjoyed being in the garden, playing in the mud kitchen, building obstacle courses and learning more about forces, capacity and measure. You'll find photos on our Facebook page.

We held our first Parent and Carer group meeting on the 25th; thank you to those parents and carers who came along. Donna, Christine, Gillian K and Sophie from Speech and Language, were there to speak with parents and carers about what supports we can offer in the ECC, as well as to hear your ideas on what you would like to see more of. Our next parent/carer coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 29th January from 9:15am.

What's coming up in October?

We will host our first Stay and Play sessions of the year, where we invite parents/carers to come along for an hour and find out more about some of the learning that happens in the ECC. These will take place in the week beginning October 7th and the sign-up sheets are now in the 2-5 cloakroom area. Information on the days and times are in the "key dates" section below.

On 10th October, it is World Mental Health Day. The theme this year is prioritising mental health in the workplace. As well as promoting staff mental health, we continue to support children's mental health by exploring feelings and emotions through the book The Colour Monster. Laura is a fully qualified Mental Health First Aider and can provide practical support if and when required.

We will also have our Halloween parties on Wednesday 23rd October for Cairns Bairns, and Friday 25th October (in-line with Killieween) for the Ocean Room and Jungle Room. The

children are welcome to dress up – we do ask that they don't come with masks or any other accessories as some children can find this distressing, and we don't want accessories to go missing.

Donations

We are looking for art and craft donations for our Halloween Stay and Plays, and would appreciate any donations to be handed in by Thursday 3rd October, to the office.

We will also be looking for donations for our Halloween parties at the end of the month. We do not accept food donations for parties as our Central Kitchen will usually provide a themed menu around celebrations, and we are an allergen aware ECC. We are looking for any Halloween decorations, costumes you may no longer need, Halloween craft materials, face paints and Halloween tattoos.

We always appreciate donations of wipes, tissues and kitchen roll, and we will be looking to start a donations box to hand in any non-perishable food items for our Community Pantry, which will be available to access in our Family Room.

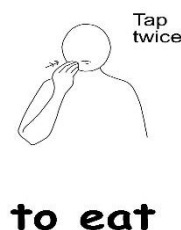
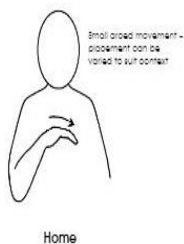
Thank you to everyone who has donated to the ECC so far; your generosity is much appreciated.

Makaton

Part of our Improvement Plan is to support our ECC to further develop a total communication approach. One of the ways we have decided to do this is by learning up to 5 Makaton signs each month. We have a number of staff who are trained to use Makaton and BSL, and we have noticed a positive impact on our children who choose to use signs and visuals as their method of communication when we are all able to communicate to their style.

This month we will be learning signs which will help us with our daily routine and to communicate some of our needs:

- Home
- Milk
- Water (to drink)
- Snack / to eat
- Play



Look out for videos on how to do these signs on our Facebook page! Please also ask your child about what Makaton signs they have been learning.

Children's Rights

We have updated our Rights board in the 2-5 cloakroom with information on the UNCRC articles we will be focusing on. These are:

Article 7 – I have the right to a name

Article 8 – I have the right to an identity

Article 15 – I have the right to choose my friends

Here are some of the ways we're supporting our children to understand these rights:

- We ask them "what's your name?" and use their name when talking to them
- We address others by their name and ask the children "what's their name?"
- We use a variety of books and media to talk about who we are, where we come from and what makes us unique
- We have snack cards, coat pegs, and we encourage children to become familiar with what belongs to them as a result
- Our family photo books are helping children to talk about who they live with and build friendships with their peers as they talk about the photos together

We are still looking for family photos for our books. You can upload photos to your child's Learning Journals and we will print them from there.

Lending Library

We have a display case of books for all ages just outside the Star Room. You are welcome to take a book home to read with your child (or one for yourself) and return once you are finished with it. We also welcome any donations of books. These can be handed into the office.

Allergies

We have a number of allergies in the ECC and therefore ask you do not bring any food items into the ECC for your child's consumption. We have risk assessments and mitigations in place to protect those who may be vulnerable due to allergies however we need your support in ensuring you do not bring any food items into the ECC which we may not know about and, in turn, could cause a serious allergic reaction. If your child does arrive to the ECC eating anything, we will ask you to wait in the main reception to finish the food or take it away with you. Any questions on this should be directed to Laura.

October half-term

The ECC will be closed on Monday 14th October right through to Monday 21st October for the half-term break. We hope you have an enjoyable half-term and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 22nd October.

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.

October

2nd – Cairns Bairns Bookbug with Lauren from 9:15am

4th – 10th – World Space week

7th – 10th – Stay and Play sessions (2-3 and 3-5) – sign-up sheets in cloakroom

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Wed – AM - 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

10th - World Mental Health day

23rd – Cairns Bairns Halloween Party – 9:15am to 10:45am

25th – 2-3 and 3-5 Halloween Parties

28th – Bookbug with Margo for the Ocean Room (2-3) – 9:30am – 10:15am

31st Bookbug with Lauren for the Jungle Room (3-5) – 1:45pm – 2:30pm

November

1st – Diwali – festival of lights

5th – Bonfire night

11th – Remembrance Day

11th – 15th – World Nursery Rhyme Week

11th – 15th – Parent/Carer progress meetings – look out for sign-up sheets

15th – Children in Need – wear jammies or something Pudsey related

17th – 23rd – Road Safety Week

Road safety walks (2-3 and 3-5) – look out for sign-up sheets

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Wed – AM - 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

December

10th – Human Rights Day

12th – Christmas jumper day – wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC

12th – The Jungle Room presents – A Roaring Christmas Carol Concert – 9:45am (info closer to the time)

2-3 Christmas Stay and Play – 17th in the AM & 19th in the PM (more info to follow)

0-2 Christmas Stay and Play – 18th (more info to follow)

3-5 Christmas party – 20th (more info to follow)

We will share key dates for 2025 in our November newsletter. We will also share on our Facebook page and/or via your child's Learning Journal, any celebration days each month.

Holiday dates and ECC closures 2023 – 2024

Cairns ECC is now a term-time service which means we are closed during all school holidays, public holidays and local holidays. We also have a further 3 in-service days this academic session where the ECC is closed for children to allow for staff training to take place.

October

Monday 14th – Friday 18th

Monday 21st – in-service day

December

We close on Friday 20th at 3pm for the children and don't return until Monday 6th January 2025

February

Monday 10th

Tuesday 11th – in-service day

April

We close on Friday 4th April at 3pm for the children and don't return until Tuesday 22nd April

May

Monday 5th

Tuesday 6th – in-service

June

We close on Friday 27th June at 3pm for our children and children do not return until Wednesday 20th August

Get involved with the ECC

**Find us on Facebook & X (twitter)
@CairnsECC**

**Cairns Bairns (0-2 children)
Every Wed 9:15am – 10:45am
Bookbug on first Wednesday of each
month (0-3)**

**Bookbug sessions
Last Thursday of the month from 1:45pm
(3-5)
Last Monday of the month from 9:30am
(2-3)**



**We always appreciate donations of:
Baby wipes
Tissues
Kitchen roll
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