

Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter

October 2024



Welcome to our October newsletter; it's officially autumn! Have you noticed the leaves are changing colours and falling from the trees? Does it feel colder in the morning? Can you find any pinecones, acorns or chestnuts when you're out for a walk? Please keep uploading all your lovely adventures to your Learning Journals; we love to look at them.

We'd like to welcome Holly, who joins us as an HNC Childhood Practice student, working with us on a Thursday and Friday. We also welcome Hannah Willow, one of our Early Years' teachers. Hannah will be working with us on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, sharing her passion for outdoors, caring for the environment and promoting wellbeing.

What happened in October?

We had our first Stay and Play sessions with a focus on autumn, World Space Week, and Halloween. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to a session and spend this time engaging in learning experiences with your children. We also kindly thank you for all your donations to help support the Stay and Play sessions as well as the Halloween activities on offer.

We received some lovely feedback from parents and carers who took the time to complete the Stay and Play questionnaire. You can read about this feedback in our Family Engagement floor book located outside the Jungle Room doors. The next opportunity to join in with the ECC is during Road Safety Week, which is week beginning 18th November.

We closed for the first time for October half term; for some of us this was very strange but we all managed to enjoy our break and we loved seeing your contributions to our home link on Learning Journals. Home links are a great way to reinforce and extend the learning from the ECC, building confidence in the skills your child is developing, so if you can take part, please do!

We celebrated Killieween on Friday 25th October, and we really enjoyed hearing about what you all got up to when you went trick or treating. Some of the children chose the story "Room on the Broom" because they had seen witches or had dressed up as a witch for Halloween. Caitlin M read the story to the children and then they made their own drawings of the story, using descriptive language when talking about their pictures.

What's coming up in November?

Tempest Photography will be in the ECC on **Friday 8th November**. This will be for individual and sibling photos in the ECC. The ECC staff will organise these with the photographer. If a

sibling doesn't attend Cairns ECC, you can bring them at **8:40am** for a group photo. If your child doesn't attend the ECC on a Friday but you would like to have a photo taken, please bring them from **8:40am** onwards. The photographer is here until approx. 2pm and usually has a lunch break around 11:45ish. Group photos tend to be popular so please be prepared to wait.

In the cloakroom you will find appointment times for a progress meeting with your child's keyworker. These will take place in the week beginning **11th November**. This is a chance to catch up with your child's keyworker and find out how they are getting on. Appointments will last 10 minutes – let us know if you would prefer a phone appointment.

Children in Need is on **15th November** where children are welcome to wear jammies or something Pudsey related if they wish. We won't be taking cash donations, however if you wish to donate, you can do so via the Children in Need website. We will share this on our Facebook page.

Road Safety week

In the week beginning 18th November, we will be taking part in Road Safety Week. We have organised walks in the local community and we are looking for parent/carer helpers to come along to support our walks. We can't go ahead without the help of parents/carers due to the adult to child ratios when we leave the ECC grounds changing significantly, so your help with this is greatly appreciated! Sign-up sheets will be in the cloakroom. These will take place for the Ocean Room and the Jungle Room as follows:

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Wed – AM - 9:30am – 10:30am (Cairns Bairns will also join in with us)

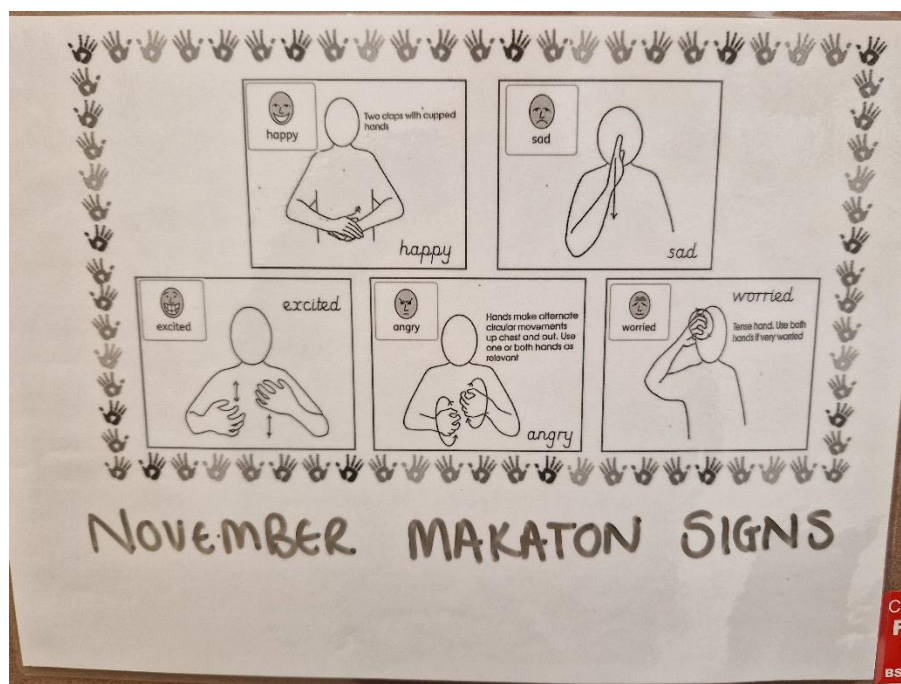
Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

We will share more information on what we will be focusing on during our road safety walks via your child's Learning Journal and our social media pages.

Makaton – Signs for the month of November

This month we are learning the signs for our feelings. In the ECC, we use the Colour Monster story to help the children to learn about and talk about emotions and the different feelings we have, how they make us feel and why we might feel this way. You can purchase the Colour Monster story for yourself to use at home, or ask us if you need any resources to help you talk about feelings at home with your child. Remember to look out for our videos showing you how to do the signs on the Facebook page, and remember to share your children using these at home on their Learning Journals.

Here are the Makaton signs for the month of November:



Christmas Carol Concert

Practice is already underway for our Christmas Carol Concert, performed by our children in the Jungle Room. This will take place on **12th December at 9:45am**. Look out for separate info on tickets and what to expect from this very festive morning. If last year is anything to go by, you will definitely be singing along with us and be feeling full of festive cheer by the end of the show! We will be hosted by Hillhead Primary School again – thank you to the staff for allowing us the use of their fabulous gym hall.

If you don't wish your child to take part in the Christmas Carol Concert or any of the Christmas activities, please let a member of the Leadership Team know.

Christmas fund-raising

Every year we raise funds at Christmas to help us organise spring and summer activities for the children. Last year, fund-raising helped us pay for a bouncy castle for the Ocean and the Jungle Room, and for Jiggly Wrigglers to visit the Farm children. We'd like to do a really fun end of term party for the children again, especially as we'll be closed for the summer holidays next year. We will be organising a Christmas tombola where you can win prizes on the spot. We will only be able to take cash for raffle tickets but will share more info on a separate poster.

We will be looking for donations of prizes – if you have contacts within local businesses who could donate a prize, this would be much appreciated. Staff will also be donating prizes to the tombola, and we will have a special hamper to raffle off at the Christmas Carol Concert too.

Community Pantry

In the reception area, you will find a donations box for any non-perishable food items and hygiene products which can be handed into the ECC. This will help us to stock our Community Pantry. This is located within our Family Room where, alongside clothes, anyone who needs help at any time can ask us, in confidence, for any food and/or hygiene products. We are all very aware of the impact the cost of living is having on many families within the community so if you can help, that's great, and if you need help, we hope we can make things a little bit easier for you. We also have a Financial Inclusion Officer available to the ECC; again contact can be arranged in confidence.

Key dates for 2024 and 2025

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.

November

1st – Diwali – festival of lights

5th – Bonfire night

11th – Remembrance Day

11th – 15th – World Nursery Rhyme Week

11th – 15th – Parent/Carer progress meetings – sign-up sheets in cloakroom

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

25th – Bookbug with Margo for the Ocean Room – 9:30am

28th – Bookbug with Lauren for the Jungle Room – 1:45pm

29th – Recognise St Andrews Day on 30th November by wearing something tartan

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)

16th – Bookbug with Margo for the Ocean Room – 9:30am

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)

19th – Bookbug with Lauren for the Jungle Room – 1:45pm

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

January 2025 – Registration for school usually opens this month

6th – ECC reopens to all returning and new children

14th – Ukraine celebrate “old new year” also known as the Orthodox new year

17th – 23rd – Energy saving week

19th – 24th – Scottish week

23rd - Parent/Carer drop-in 2pm – 2:45pm chat with Head of Centre

25th Burns Day – celebrate on 24th by wearing something tartan

29th – Parent/Carer coffee morning – 9:15am – 10:45am (drop-in)

29th – Chinese New Year (celebrated from 28th Jan – 3rd Feb and it is the year of the snake)

February – Registration for ECC usually opens this month

3rd – NSPCC number day

5th – 11th – children’s mental health week

13th – Pancake Day

14th – Valentine’s Day

17th – Random acts of kindness day

28th – Ramadan begins today

March

1st – St David’s Day

5th – 17th April – Lent begins / ends

6th – World Book Day

7th – 16th – British Science week

17th – St Patrick’s Day

18th – Global Recycling day

21st – World Down Syndrome Day

24th – 27th – Stay and Play sessions (2-3 and 3-5) – more info to follow

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Wed – AM - 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

30th – Mother’s Day

April

2nd - Easter bonnet parade – more info to follow

21.04.25 – 25.04.25 – Allergy awareness week

22nd – Earth Day

24th – Parent/Carer drop-in 2pm – 2:45pm chat with Head of Centre

30th – Parent/Carer coffee morning – 9:15am – 10:45am (drop-in)

May

5th – 11th – Deaf awareness week / Screen free week

15th - Graduation photo

16th - Preschool transition reports issued

19th – 23rd – Parent/Carer Progress meetings – more info to follow

19th – 23rd – Walk to school week

26th – 29th – Outdoor stay and play (2-3 and 3-5) – more info to follow

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

28th – Family Sports Day – 9:30am – 10:45am – more info to follow

June

2nd – 6th – Child safety week

9th – 13th – Healthy eating week

10th & 12th – 3-5 Enrolment visits 3:15pm – 4pm (TBC)

15th – Father’s Day

18th – Graduation – more info to follow

20th – End of term parties – 2-5 – more info to follow

25th – Cairns Bairns party – more info to follow

Holiday dates and ECC closures 2024 – 2025

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 2 in-service days this academic session where the ECC is closed for children to allow for staff training to take place.

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