



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter



February 2025

Welcome to our February newsletter. We have had a very busy month so let's see what we've been up to...

What happened in February?

We welcomed Martin, our new Senior ELCP, and Leigh, our temporary Depute Manager to the ECC. We wished Christine, ELCP in the Farm room, the best of luck as she takes up a temporary post within the Community Practitioner team. Recruitment is underway for a new ELCP to cover Christine's post.

We recognised Children's Mental Health week from 3rd February to 9th February. It was great to see you all taking part, across the week, by wearing the different colours of the Colour Monster feelings. My favourite day was definitely Valentine's Day! It was also great to see some of the things you love to do when you're not at nursery, and the things you love about nursery, shared on your Learning Journals! Thank you to everyone for taking part. We have seen such a positive impact through using the Colour Monster to speak about feelings and emotions, with children having a greater understanding of what these feelings mean and showing us this by labelling those feelings when they feel that way.

Our drop-in session with Linda, Community Practitioner, went really well. Thank you to the parents/carers who came along. We hope you gained some useful knowledge on the importance of secure attachments and using the voice of your child to support their mental health and wellbeing.

Registration for August 2025 – June 2026 session opened for all 3 & 4 year olds. If your child currently attends the Ocean Room, you must complete an application for their 3-year-old funded hours by Friday 28th February. Applications should be completed via the East Ayrshire Council website.

If you are looking for an additional year of ELC, you must complete the additional year form by Friday 28th February. The link to this form can be requested from Laura.

What's coming up in March?

It's World Book Day on 6th March. Our Literacy Leaders, Taylor, Carrie, Caitlin M and Nicola have planned a book exchange, which will be available in the reception area of the ECC from Monday 3rd March. We are hoping you will donate a book with a message inside – it could be about what you liked about the story, or who you think would like the story – and you will be welcome to pick a different book to take home. It is hoped these books will be passed around the community, encouraging you all to share books you love to read.



Children (and their grown-ups and staff) are welcome to wear pyjamas, to be cosy, or a favourite character costume on the day. We do ask that no accessories or masks come in to the ECC.

We will be recognising British Science week from 10th March through 14th March. The theme this year is around change and adapt, thinking about how the seasons change and the environment, including animals, adapt to this change. We have planned some animal-themed yoga sessions, some junk-modelling to make the animals from our playrooms (the farm, the ocean and the jungle), a very fun science experiment, and an interactive counting and colour matching game in the garden. We are also planning local walks in the community for the Ocean and the Jungle Room on Wednesday 12th March, where we will go on a spring scavenger hunt. There will be one walk at 9:30am and one walk at 1:30pm. Sign-up sheets will be available in the cloakroom area – we'd love to have some parent/carer helpers to allow us to take as many of the children out as possible.

March Stay and Plays

We are hosting Stay and Play sessions in March with a creative theme: make an Easter bonnet. Last year we made Easter bonnets and took part in a full ECC sponsored Easter bonnet parade, where we raised lots of money for the ECC. We are going to do the same again this year, and would love for you to come along to a Stay and Play session to make an Easter bonnet, supplied by the ECC, with your child. Sign-up sheets are in the cloakroom area for the Ocean and the Jungle Rooms and sessions are as follows:

Monday 24th March – 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Tuesday 25th March – 9:30am to 10:30am

Wednesday 26th March – 9:30am to 10:30am

Thursday 27th March – 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Please don't worry if you can't attend a session; we will make sure your child has the opportunity to make an Easter bonnet for the community walk.

There will also be some fun activities to join in with including a Bookbug session, literacy and numeracy activities, and outdoor Easter egg hunts.

For our children in the Farm, you are invited to an Easter party from 9:30am to 10:30am. You can make an Easter bonnet with your child and take part in some fun Easter-themed activities.

Sponsored Easter bonnet parade

Our sponsored Easter bonnet parade will take place on Wednesday 2nd April. Sponsor sheets will be available to collect from the office from WB 17th March. Each sponsor sheet will have a number allocated, and any families who collect a sponsor sheet will be entered into a raffle to win passes for the Galleon Centre, just in time for the Easter break. We will be raising funds for the ECC, including to purchase our Graduation gifts and to provide a special treat at the children's summer party!

We will be looking for as many parents/carers to join us on the walk as this will allow us to take all of the children out into the community! Last year, although the weather was miserable, we waved to so many members of the community, who stood outside their homes to wave as we passed. We will also be heading up to Gracelands to wave to the residents of our local care home. Please keep an eye out for sign-up sheets to join the walk.

Donations

We are looking for donations of any of the following items, which will be used for our Stay and Play days in March:

- Easter themed crafts – stickers, sequences, pom-poms
- Plastic or foam Easter eggs for an Easter egg hunt
- Mini chicks, rabbits, carrots and flowers
- Different colours of shredded paper
- Different colours of ribbon
- Sunflower seeds
- Planting pots
- Gardening tools for children
- Any flowering seeds we can plant
- Easter baskets

We are also hoping to hand in some donations to Gracelands for the residents. Donations of tea, coffee, sugar, sweetener, hot chocolate, herbal teas and biscuits can be left in our Community Pantry box in the reception area.

Any donations to the ECC are always gratefully received, and we thank you for your continued donations of wipes, kitchen roll, tissues, socks, pants and leggings/trousers.

If anyone knows of any companies looking to donate an Easter treat for the children, please speak with Laura ☺

Nurture questionnaire

Our Nurture questionnaire is available for any of our families who may not have completed this before. You can scan the QR code below to be taken to the questionnaire.

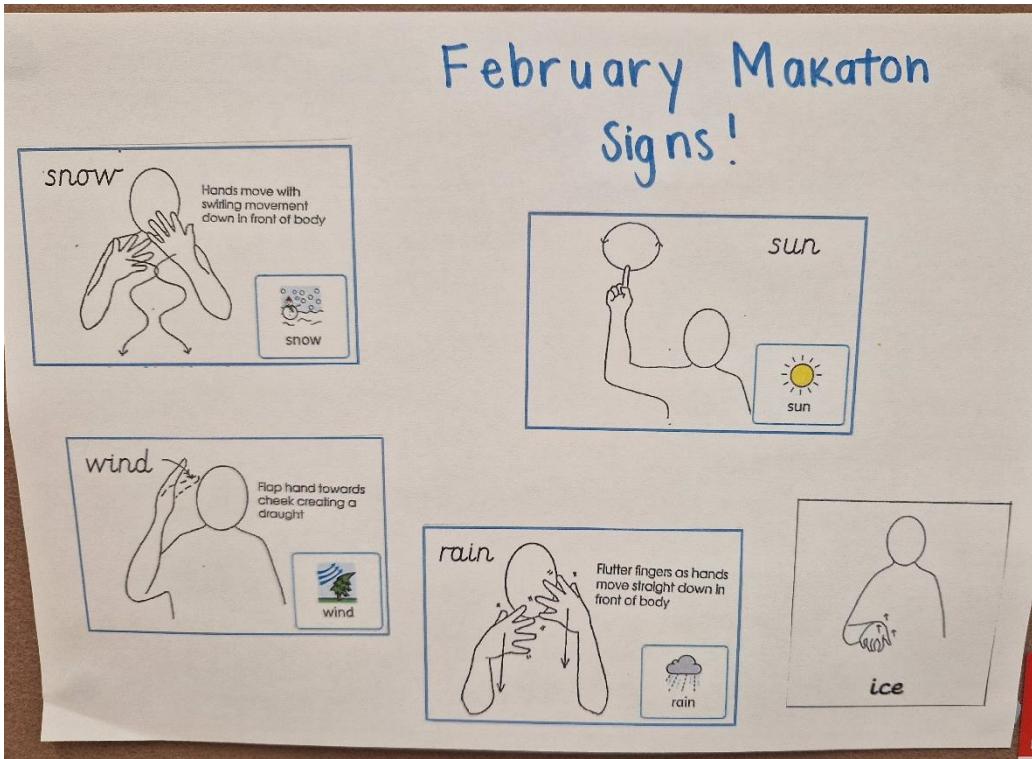
Our Nurture Policy is available to read on our ECC blog, however please ask if you would like a paper copy.

Nurture questionnaire



Makaton signs of the month

Across the ECC, the children have been really interested in the weather, especially when they are outside in the garden. This month we are learning the signs for different types of weather. Look out for our videos on our Facebook page!



Have a magnificent March!

Team Cairns ☺

Key dates for 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.

February – Registration for ECC usually opens this month

March

1st – St David’s Day

4th – Pancake Day

5th – 17th April – Lent begins / ends

6th – World Book Day

7th – 16th – British Science week (recognising from 10th – 14th March)

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) – sign-up sheets in the cloakrooms

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 – 9:45am start, more info to follow shortly

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

12th – Tempest Photographer in the ECC

15th - Graduation photo

16th - Preschool transition reports will be completed and shared at progress meetings

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 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.

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.

