



# Cairns Early Childhood Centre Parent and Carer Newsletter



March 2025

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

## **What happened in March?**

We had a very busy month in March! We recognised World Book Day, and it was great to see so many of you dressed up as your favourite storybook character, or in your PJs. Thank you to some of the P6 Buddies from Hillhead PS for coming to see us, and join in with reading stories with us.

Morag, from Crosshouse Children's Fund, visited us in the ECC. She spoke with some of the children about what it is like when you come to hospital to be looked after. We donated £71 to the charity, raised from our coffee morning in February. The funds are going towards making the wards in the hospital much more inviting for any of the children (and their families) who have to visit hospital. Louise has very kindly offered to raise funds for the charity when she takes part in the Great North Run!

Family engagement this month has been fantastic, and we thank you all so much for taking part in our community walks and Stay and Plays, as well as all of your kind donations of crafts, Easter treats and items for our gardens. We had a total of 52 grown-ups join in our Stay and Plays, which is absolutely amazing, as well as 20 helpers during our litter pick. Thank you! Our Family Engagement floor book is available to look through at the table outside the Jungle Room; there's been lots of updates added to this!

There is still time to sign-up for our Easter bonnet parade on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 9:45am. We need as many helpers as possible so we can take all of the children out of the ECC to show off our fabulous Easter bonnets.

## **What's coming up in April?**

The ECC will close on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April for the half-term break. We will not reopen until Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. We wish you all a lovely, restful break. Some of the staff have been busy decorating Easter eggs, which will be hidden around Kilmarnock. Keep an eye on Learning Journals and our Facebook Page to see if you can find the Easter Eggs if you are out and about over the break. You can upload a photo to your child's Learning Journal of any Easter eggs you find.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a drop-in session with Laura for anyone who wishes to come along and chat about the ECC, and on April 30<sup>th</sup>, we will host another parent/carers coffee morning. Please see the key dates below for more information.

## **Head of Centre**

Interviews for the permanent Head of Centre post took place on 25<sup>th</sup> March, where Laura was successful in gaining the permanent post. Laura has been Acting Head of Centre since August 2023 and is delighted to have been offered the post on a permanent basis.

Thank you to the staff and parents/carers who took part in the Focus Group as part of the interview process.

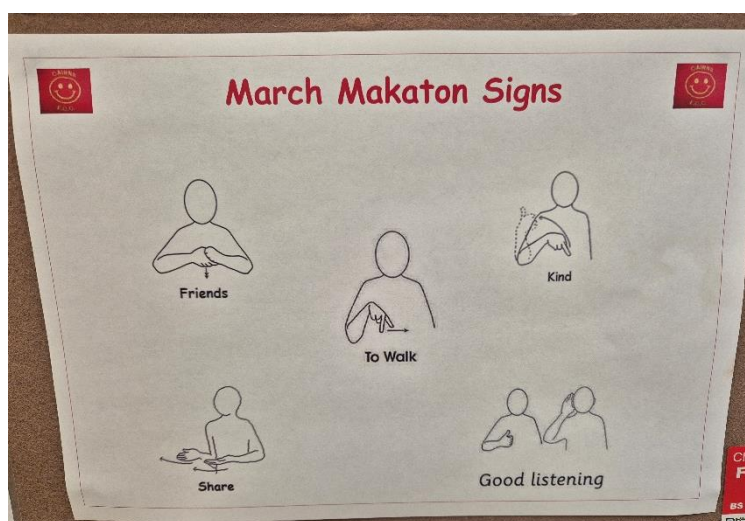
## **Staffing update**

Lizzy, our Senior Clerical, has taken on a secondment opportunity until December 2025 at Loudoun Academy. Whilst we await recruitment to cover her post, it will leave us without office support from 1:30pm every day. As much as practically possible, a member of the Leadership Team will be in one of the offices from 1:30pm however our priority is the children and staff team so we would kindly ask for your patience and understanding at this time. Our main doors open at 2:35pm each day, and we ask you collect your child between 2:35pm, and no later than 3pm. We appreciate there may be times you need to collect your child earlier, and any pre-agreed arrangements will be fulfilled. If you do need to collect early, please inform office staff to ensure this is captured accordingly. The same applies for any holidays/days off. Thank you for your cooperation.

Recruitment is also underway for a number of permanent Support Assistant posts, as well as a number of temporary Practitioner posts. During this process, we may use bank staff to ensure we are able to meet our staffing requirements, and this may mean short-notice cover depending on bank staff availability. This may also mean members of the Leadership Team will be covering in playrooms. We appreciate your understanding on this and will endeavour to keep consistency for the children as much as practically possible.

## **Makaton signs of the month**

This month's signs are: walking, good listening, kind, friends and share. Check out the Facebook page for the video of Martin and Louise showing you how to do the signs.



## **Community Pantry**

A reminder of our community pantry, available in our Family Room, for anyone who may require this. Please see Laura or a member of the Leadership Team and we will be happy to help. Our donation box is available at reception for anyone who would like to hand in any dried foods, tinned foods and hygiene products. We are also looking for any tea/coffee, hot chocolate, sugar/sweetener, and biscuits to hand in to the local care home before we finish up for Easter break.

Have an amazing April

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.

### **April**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Easter bonnet parade – 9:45am start, more info to follow shortly

21.04.25 – 25.04.25 – Allergy awareness week

22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day

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

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

### **May**

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Deaf awareness week / Screen free week

12<sup>th</sup> – Tempest Photographer in the ECC

15<sup>th</sup> - Graduation photo

16<sup>th</sup> - Preschool transition reports will be completed and shared at progress meetings

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

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Walk to school week

26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> – 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

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

### **June**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> – Child safety week

9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Healthy eating week

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

15<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day

18<sup>th</sup> – Graduation – more info to follow

20<sup>th</sup> – End of term parties – 2-5 – more info to follow

25<sup>th</sup> – 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 4<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm for the children and don't return until Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

### **May**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – in-service

### **June**

We close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm for our children, and children do not return until Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

## **Get involved with the ECC**

Find us on Facebook & X (twitter)

@CairnsECC

Cairns Bairns

Every Wed 9:15am – 10:45am

Bookbug on first Wednesday of each month

We always appreciate donations of:

Baby wipes

Tissues

Kitchen roll

Socks, pants and trousers

Bookbug sessions

Last Thursday of the month from 1:45pm  
(The Jungle)

Last Monday of the month from 9:30am  
(The Ocean)



Contact us:

01563 533177

eaCairns.ECC@eastayrshire.org.uk