



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter



April 2025

Welcome to our April newsletter. We would like to welcome all of our new children, who started last week, and their families to the ECC.

What happened in April?

April was a quick month for us due to the Easter break. We hope you all enjoyed your time off and are ready for the last term of the academic session; it's going to be a busy one.

Thank you once again to everyone who came along to our Easter bonnet parade. We got a great turnout and fantastic weather! It was lovely to visit the residents at Gracelands; this is something we want to continue to do more frequently as the children and residents get so much from this.

We were fund-raising as part of the Easter bonnet parade. Thank you to everyone who collected a sponsor sheet. We raised £981.00 for the ECC. This will go towards our summer parties and Graduation gifts for our preschool children. Thank you again for your generosity.

What's coming up in May?

We have lots of opportunities for you to be involved in the ECC this month, and we really hope you can come along to some of our planned events.

Tempest Photography will be in the ECC on Monday 12th May for any individual, sibling and family photos. These will take place in our Family Room. As before, we ask anyone looking for family photos with any siblings who don't attend the ECC, as well as any of our children who don't attend on a Monday, to come along in the morning if you would like to get photographs taken.

On Thursday 15th May, we will be taking our preschool children's Graduation photo. We will do this as early on in the morning to save any lunch spills or creative/outdoor play mess. We are aware some school transitions may be taking place on this day; we will make sure your child's photo is done for you either before they go or when they come in, depending on transition times.

WB 19th May is Parent/Carer progress meeting week. Your child's keyworker will have a list of appointment times on set days, and will catch up with you to schedule time to go over your child's Personal Plan and, if they are moving on to primary education after the summer break, their progress report, which will be shared with their primary school.

WB 19th May is also Walk to School Week. We will be linking in with Hillhead Primary School for the theme this year and will share more information shortly. We will also be looking at

ways to further support the good work we are doing towards our ECO award, and Rights Respecting School Award.

In WB 26th May, our Outdoor Stay and Play sessions will take place. Our children in the Jungle and Ocean Rooms want to create a fairy garden in their outdoor spaces and we're looking for your help to create this magical space for them. We will be looking for donations so please keep an eye on your child's Learning Journal, and on our noticeboards for both a donation list and our sign-up sheets. These will take place on Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th and Thursday 28th. More info in our key date section on times.

On Wednesday 28th May, we will be hosting a family sports day. This will be weather depending as we will be outdoors, using Hillhead Primary School's playing field. This will take place from 9:30am to around 10:30am. We will have various potted sports stations and there will be some fun races at the end. We hope as many of you can attend to join in!

Staffing update

We recently interviewed for 2 Support Assistant vacancies, and we appointed two permanent members of staff in Abbie Whannel and Lynsey Smith. They will be starting with us shortly. Coral Reid has finished up with us in the last week; we wish her all the best for the future.

We welcomed Lynsey Murray, Equity and Excellence Lead from Riccarton ECC, on Tuesday 29th April. Lynsey is joining to support with staffing in the ECC at this time. Lynsey has worked in the authority for a number of years, in various ECCs, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her.

Parent/Carer improvement plan newsletter

We shared an update on our improvement plan and our journey this year in a newsletter. This has been posted on your child's Learning Journal, and is also available on our glow blog. If you would like a paper copy, please let us know.

Important information reminder

- Please contact our office on 01563 533177 if your child is going to be absent from the ECC – we will call you if your child is absent from the ECC without prior notice, and please let the office staff know of any days off, holidays etc.
- You can also notify us of absence via the school app – please see the office for information on how to download and set this up
- If your child has an episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea, there is a 48-hour exclusion period from the last episode – please do not send your child in if they have been sick and/or had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours to ensure we avoid spreading any illness – if our staff become ill due to this, they too are required to be off and this can impact our service delivery. If you are in any doubt as to whether your child can come into the ECC with certain infections/illnesses, please call beforehand

- We have 3 fully trained First Aiders in our ECC – Laura, Gillian O and John; we also have a number of Emergency First Aiders. Laura is also a Mental Health First Aider and ASIST trained
- If your child requires medication during their session, we will require a prescription label before anything can be administered to your child, and we require to complete a consent form with you therefore it may be useful to call ahead to let us know or set time aside when dropping your child off with medication
- Please arrive on time for your child's session and please collect on time at the end of your child's session – we know sometimes things come up and you can be running late so please contact our office if you are delayed however the doors open at 8:40am and close at 9am / open at 2:35pm and close at 3pm to allow staff to clean and prepare for the next day
- Please do not come for your child before their collection time unless this is for an appointment or pre-agreed – we are very busy playing and learning right up until the end of our sessions
- We would appreciate if you would avoid putting any food or drink items in your child's bag – some of our friends in the ECC have allergies which can make them very ill
- If your child prefers to drink water or milk from a specific style cup, please let us know so we can support them with this whilst also offering them the opportunity to try using our cups too
- Please provide your child with a change of clothes (a few sets if they are learning to use the toilet or are recently using the toilet independently) and include a few pairs of socks and underwear
- Please label your child's belongings with their name – we're a big ECC and things can easily get mixed up so this will help items to be returned to their owner
- Please provide wipes, nappies or pull-ups, sun cream and a sunhat, and a puddle suit and wellies for your child if you can – we do have our own which the children can use
- We always appreciate donations of wipes, tissues and nappies, and we rely on donations of clothing items, particularly socks, pants and trousers/leggings – thank you

- Our uniform is not compulsory but can be purchased from a number of school-wear shops in Ayrshire – we do recommend your child wears clothing you don't mind getting messy.

Have a marvellous May!

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.

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 – more info to follow

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 – 10:30am on Hillhead PS playing fields

June

2nd – 6th – Child safety week

9th – 13th – Healthy eating week

10th – Jungle Room August in-take enrolment visit – 3:15pm

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.

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
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

