



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter



May 2025

Welcome to our May newsletter. What a marvellous May it has been, with plenty of sunshine and outdoor play to keep us busy. We hope you have all enjoyed the nicer weather, and hopefully it will return soon!

What happened in May?

Sunshine-filled and super busy, May also saw us welcome new families to the ECC, and some of our children transition through to the Jungle Room from the Ocean Room. We welcomed some new staff: Lynsey Murray, Equity and Excellence Lead from Riccarton ECC (on loan to Cairns), Abbie Whannel, our new permanent Support Assistant, and from the Avenue Childcare, Jenna Dolan and Claire McGinney, who join us as the identified key staff member to the Rhinos (Jungle Room) and the Piglets (Farm Room).

Our Community Walks were well attended; it was lovely to get out for a walk each day and we hope we can make this a more regular part of our daily routine.

We are holding our Outdoor Stay and Play sessions in WB 26th May. Sadly the weather hasn't been on our side so far; hopefully it will brighten up over the rest of the week.

We made the difficult decision to cancel our Family Sports Day due to heavy rain and how wet the grass area is in the school grounds. We know this will have caused some disappointment however we need to ensure the safety of all. There are no plans to reschedule this as we have a very busy month of June.

What's coming up in June?

June is our last month of this academic session and we are looking forward to celebrating a great year with you all.

We will be learning more about healthy eating during Healthy Eating Week, which takes place in week beginning 9th June. Our Health and Wellbeing Leaders have organised smoothie making sessions, where the children will be able to create their own smoothies from a variety of fruits.

Our end of term parties for our Ocean Room and Jungle Room take place on Friday 20th June. For our Ocean Room children, we have organised a party with Jiggly Wrigglers. This will be a fun-filled sensory and music session in their playroom. For the Jungle Room children, Cairns Fest is back, with lots of fun activities for the children as well as temporary tattoos, face-painting and nail-painting stations. We will also have a special guest performance from the one and only Smarti Marti, and disco music from our very own Cairns DJ.

We have organised for Wayne's Ices to visit the ECC over lunch time, and all children will receive an ice cream treat. Any allergens will also be catered for.

For our Farm Room, Jiggly Wrigglers will provide a fun, sensory-filled party on Wednesday 25th June. This will take place from 9:30am. This is for any of our children who attend the Farm Room.

Please note, Cairns Bairns will finish on Wednesday 11th June for this academic session.

Graduation

Our Preschool Graduation will take place on Wednesday 18th June in our Farm Room. Due to the size of the room, we would ask to limit attendance to no more than 2 people per family. The celebration will last no more than 30 minutes.

The group times are as follows:

Elephants: 9:15am

Zebras: 10:00am

Pandas and Monkeys: 10:45am

Crocodiles and Rhinos: 1:30pm

Hippos and Meerkats: 2:15pm

Children will receive their Graduation certificate and gift on the day.

We look forward to welcoming you in to celebrate your child's Graduation from Cairns ECC. This is only for any children heading to primary school in August.

Maternity Leave

Firstly, we let you know Regan McNamara, keyworker to the Monkey Group, has started maternity leave a bit earlier than expected, from Monday 26th May.

Caitlin Mullen, keyworker to the Elephants, and Lauren Young, keyworker to the Meerkats will both be finishing up on Friday 6th June.

All three staff are very Caring, Nurturing and all-round fantastic practitioners, and already amazing Mums to their little growing babies. We know you will join us in wishing them a continued healthy pregnancy, and good luck when the time comes to meet their little ones. You have all worked really hard and we thank you for everything you have done for our children and families. We can't wait to meet the newest members of mini Team Cairns very soon!

Jungle Room staffing

We are in the process of recruiting maternity leave cover for our 3 staff however this is not going to be completed in time for the end of term. We will be using supply staff where

required to meet our adult to child ratios however the key contacts for the keyworker groups are as follows:

Elephants: Taylor Russell (SELCP)

Monkeys: Aimee Duff (ELC SA, supported by Taylor)

Meerkats: Gillian Kelly (EEL)

Learning Journals update – The Jungle Room

For the month of June, there will be a change to the number of posts published on your child's Learning Journal. We will end the term with a monthly narrative for all children, with weekly photos of what your child has been doing. The monthly narrative will be posted on the last Thursday of the month (June 26th) and will be an overview of what your child has been learning over the month of June.

We will continue to post weekly updates on Facebook too.

Parent/Carer feedback

We have posted a questionnaire on your child's Learning Journal, seeking your views on our Improvement Plan. This was posted on 5th May and can also be accessed via this link:

[Improvement Plan Questionnaire](#)

We have also received questionnaire links from the Care Inspectorate as we are due to be inspected very soon. The link has been posted on your child's Learning Journal and can also be accessed via this link:

[Care Inspectorate Questionnaire](#)

We very much appreciate your feedback as it helps us to make improvements, as well as recognising what a great job the staff team do. Thank you!

Robert's Retirement

Our amazing janitor, Robert, is retiring at the end of term. Robert is such a valued member of both Team Cairns and Team Hillhead. He goes above and beyond for everyone, and the children are always delighted to see him when he comes in to the ECC. It will be a very sad day on 28th June, when Robert hangs up his keys. Please join us in wishing Robert a very happy, healthy, and long retirement. It is truly well-deserved.

Have a joy-filled June!

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.

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 –

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.

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:
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