**Cairns Early Childhood Centre**

**Family Newsletter**

**September 2025**

Welcome to our September newsletter. It has been a busy month of getting to know all our children, both returning and new, settling-in, and becoming familiar with the routine of the ECC. It has been lovely getting to know all our families. We hope your time at Cairns ECC is an enjoyable one, where you and your child can make lots of lovely memories. If you do need to speak with us about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We love to hear your feedback and would always ask you to give us the opportunity to help if needed. You will find a parent/carer suggestion box in the cloakroom area, just outside the Jungle room double doors.

**What happened in September?**

September has seen us settling into the ECC routine and getting to know all our children and staff. The children have been exploring different experiences and lots of new resources. We have enjoyed play and learning experiences, both indoors and out. We upload photos every week onto our Facebook page. We will also add on observations of your child’s learning to their individual Learning Journal.

We hosted two Bookbug sessions on International Literacy Day. Thank you to parents and carers who came along to a session. The Jungle Room children had their first piece of “homework” for the session, with a home-link focusing on environmental print and initial sounds. It was great to see so many parents and carers uploading a contribution to their child’s Learning Journal!

We held our first parent/carer coffee morning where Gillian K, Bobbi and Donna caught up with some of our families to talk about our journey to becoming Rights Respecting. It was great to have you join us for a hot drink and some toast, and a chat. Our Family Room is available for parents and carers to use for their own coffee mornings if you wish to do this. We ask you provide us with notice to ensure we can have the room available as we do sometimes use this room for meetings too.

**What’s happening in October?**

We will be holding Family Learning sessions on Wednesday 1st October and Wednesday 8th October, and these are open for all playrooms to attend. There will be 2 sessions each day, one at 9:15am and one at 2:00pm. On Wednesday 1st October, we will be focusing on Literacy experiences and on Wednesday 8th October, we will be focusing on Numeracy experiences. The theme will be The Colour Monster. These are active sessions where we will ask you to join in with the learning activities with your child. Staff will be there to facilitate the session. They will be held in our Farm Room. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main cloakroom.

World Space Week is from 4th October to 10th October, and we’ll be learning more about living in space. We have a fun home-link for you to take part in too. This will be posted on your child’s Learning Journal, and we also have some paper copies available to take from the cloakroom. We’re looking for any donations of tinfoil, empty plastic bottles and kitchen roll tubes. Please hand these into the playrooms.

We have our half-term break from Monday 13th October through to Friday 17th October. There is a staff in-service day on Monday 20th October, so children won’t return to the ECC until Tuesday 21st October.

We will celebrate Halloween on 31st October, which falls on the Friday, and children are welcome to wear a costume to the ECC. We would ask that no masks or accessories come in with the costumes to ensure they don’t get misplaced.

**Pumpkin trail**

This year we are going to host a pumpkin trail for all our families to enjoy and to raise funds for the ECC. We are hoping to arrange a summer trip for all our children to attend, and we’ll be hosting different fund-raising events throughout the session to raise funds for this. We are also looking at purchasing some larger play equipment for our outdoor areas. For the pumpkin trail, we will have sponsor sheets available to collect from the main office from Wednesday 8th October through to Friday 24th October. Any monies can be handed into the ECC by Friday 31st October.

The pumpkin trail will take place on Wednesday 29th October, starting at Cairns ECC and going all the way to Gracelands Care Home. We will be looking for as many parents and carers to join us on the trail, and sign-up sheets will be in the cloakroom for you to sign-up from 21st October. You and your child are welcome to dress-up as we will be visiting the residents to show them off.

To make our pumpkin trail extra special, we would love for families to make their own pumpkins at home and bring into the ECC on Tuesday 28th October so we can place them along the trail on the morning of the walk. We will also have a small number of pumpkins in the ECC to make and add to the trail.

We hope you can join us for this fun event!

**Cairns has been inspected**

On Tuesday 9th September through to Thursday 11th September, the Care Inspectorate visited the ECC to complete an inspection. Our report and grades will be published soon, and we will notify you when this is available to read. Thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to complete the Care Inspectorate questionnaire and to the staff, who work really hard every day!

We hope you have an outstanding October!

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.

**September**

29th – World Heart Day – we will be hosting a special coffee morning on this day at 9:15am

30th – Flu vaccines for children in the ECC

**October**

1st – Family Learning – Colour Monster Literacy – see our sign-up sheets in the cloakroom

4th – 10th – World Space week

5th – Grandparents Day

8th - Family Learning – Colour Monster Numeracy – see our sign-up sheets in the cloakroom

10th - World Mental Health Day

18th – 22nd – Diwali

22nd – Bookbug sessions – 9:15am and 2pm

29th – Pumpkin trail – look out for sign-up sheets in the cloakroom

31st – Halloween celebrations

**November**

5th – Bonfire night

9th – Remembrance Day

10th – 14th – World Nursery Rhyme Week

WB 10th – Parent/Carer progress meetings – look out for sign-up sheets

12th – Tempest Photographer

13th – World Kindness Day

14th – Children in Need

15th – 21st – Book Week Scotland

17th – 23rd – Road Safety Week

Road safety walks (Ocean and Jungle Room) – look out for sign-up sheets

Mon – PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Tues – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

Thurs – PM - 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Fri – AM – 9:30am – 10:30am

26th – Enrolment visits for new children joining the Jungle Room in January – 3:15pm

28th – Celebrating St Andrews Day in the ECC

**December**

10th – Human Rights Day

10th – The Jungle Room presents – A Roaring Christmas Carol Concert – 9:45am (info closer to the time)

11th – Christmas jumper day – wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC

16th & 18th – Ocean Room Christmas stay and play AM – 9:15 – 10:15

17th – Farm Room Christmas come and play

18th – Jungle Room Christmas celebration

We will share key dates for 2026 in our November newsletter. We will also share on our Facebook page and via your child’s Learning Journal, any celebration days each month.

**Holiday dates and ECC closures 2025 - 2026**

Cairns ECC is a term-time service which means we are closed during all school holidays, public holidays and local holidays. We also have a further 3 in-service days this academic session where the ECC is closed for children to allow for staff training to take place.

**October**

Monday 13th – Friday 17th

Monday 20th – In-service Day

**December**

We close on Friday 19th at 3pm and don’t return until Monday 5th January 2026

**February**

Monday 9th – Local holiday

Tuesday 10th – In-service Day

**April**

We close on Friday 3rd April at 3pm for the children and don’t return until Monday 20th April 2026

**May**

Monday 4th – May bank holiday

Thursday 7th – In-service

**June**

We close on Friday 26th June at 3pm and children do not return until Wednesday 19th August 2026

**Get involved with the ECC**

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| **Find us on Facebook & X (twitter)****@CairnsECC** | **Upload to your child’s Learning Journal** |
|  |  |
| **We always appreciate donations of:****Baby wipes****Tissues****Kitchen roll****Socks, pants and trousers** | **Contact us:****01563 533177****eaCairns.ECC@eastayrshire.org.uk** |