



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Family Newsletter

November 2025



Welcome to our November newsletter! This month has been very busy, with lots of exciting events and celebrations in the ECC. As we approach the busiest month of the year, we want to thank you for your continued support of the ECC. We really do appreciate you taking the time to engage with the ECC and support our children's play and learning!

We'd like to welcome back Maegan, who has returned after her maternity leave. Maegan has taken over as keyworker to the Hippo group in the Jungle playroom.

Over the next few weeks, we will have Joanne H looking after the Meerkat group and Joanne M looking after the Monkey group at the beginning of the week. Louise will be part-time from next week, working alternate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Recruitment checks are underway for a part-time, temporary Practitioner, who will be keyworker to the Monkey group at the beginning of the week. Recruitment checks are also underway for a permanent, full-time Practitioner. Both staff should be due to start with us in January 2026.

Pumpkin trail sponsored walk

Thank you to everyone who came along to support us with the Pumpkin trail. Without all our helpers, we wouldn't manage to get the full ECC out and into the Community. It was great to see so many of the houses decorated for Halloween, and we also got lovely feedback from some of the residents on how nice it was to see the children out looking for pumpkins.

Thank you for raising £1633.50 for the ECC. We are using this money to put towards a new climbing frame for our garden. The Outdoor staff asked the children what one they wanted to buy, and they picked the one pictured below.



What happened in November?

We hosted a Family Learning session where John and Louise spoke to children and their grown-ups about how to keep safe around a fire in honour of Bonfire Night. Almost all of the children in the ECC have had the opportunity to take part in our fire safety activities and it was great to have parents/carers join us to see how we offer this learning experience in the Centre.

We took part in daily community walks to learn more about keeping ourselves safe near the roads during Road Safety Week. A few children were able to talk about the steps we take before crossing the road, "Stop, Look, Listen!" and "red means stop, green means go!" We learned the difference between a pelican crossing and a zebra crossing – we know that we have a zebra crossing outside the entrance to Hillhead Primary School but if we walk further up, we can use a pelican crossing and the green person tells us it is safe to cross.

We also celebrated Children in Need by wearing our favourite jammies and/or Pudsey outfits, and we got to have a special Pudsey-themed lunch.

Book Week Scotland and World Nursery Rhyme Week also took place in November. Taylor hid lots of story books around the ECC grounds for children to find, read, and then share with someone else. One parent told us they loved finding the books with their child, whilst another told us they took a book home and read it at bedtime.

What's happening in December?

December is one of the busiest months in the ECC! We will be starting the month off with accepting donations for our Festive Tombola. We are raising funds for our spring and summer activities, and we are aiming to raise enough money to book a special summer trip for our children in the Jungle Room as well as trips for the Ocean and Farm Room. Thank you to those who have donated prizes and vouchers so far.

The Festive Tombola will take place from Monday 8th December. You will be able to purchase raffle tickets at drop-off and pick-up. We can only accept cash payment. Tickets will cost £1 for 5 and prizes will be any tickets ending in a 0 or 5. Once all the prizes are gone, the tombola will close.

On Tuesday 9th December, we will be hosting a coffee morning for any parents/carers who would like to come along. Home-baking, made by the staff, will be available too for a small donation. Any funds raised from this coffee morning will be donated to Crosshouse Children's Fund. Our home-baking coffee mornings are always very popular.

On 11th December, children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC. We will also be having our Christmas lunch that day. The menu is displayed in the cloakroom. Any allergens will be catered for too.

On 15th December, our preschool children have been invited to watch Hillhead Primary School's P1-3 Nativity. If you do not wish your child to attend this, please let Taylor or their keyworker know.

We will close for the festive break on Friday 19th December at 3pm. The main reception doors will be open from 2:15pm onwards if you wish to collect your child before all schools close at 2:30pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly to allow staff to finish up at 3:15pm. The ECC reopens on Monday 5th January 2026.

The Jungle Room Presents “A Roaring Christmas Carol Concert!”

Tickets will be available from the office from 1st December. One ticket admits 2 people and tickets are limited to 1 per family. We will have a wait list for anyone who would like extra tickets, please let us know if you would like to be added to this. Similarly, if only 1 person will be attending, let us know so we can offer up the space to another family. This is due to the size of the hall.

There is a change of location for the Carol Concert, which won't be on the tickets as we had already had them printed before the change was made. The Carol Concert will now take place in Hillhead Primary School dinner hall. The date of Wednesday 10th December and time of 9:30am are still the same.

Children are welcome to wear something festive on the day if they wish.

If you do not want your child to take part in the Carol Concert, please let us know so we can ensure our playroom is staffed to allow your child to stay in the ECC during the Carol Concert.

Thank you to Taylor and the Jungle Room staff who have been working hard to prepare for the Carol Concert. Louise has also created a video to share the Makaton signs for one of our songs “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, and this is available on Facebook and your child's Learning Journal.

Come and Play sessions – Farm and Ocean Room

We would like to invite parents/carers of children in the Farm and the Ocean Room to a special festive “come and play” session. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the playroom and spend time with your child, engaging in different activities and seeing what they get up to in the ECC.

Come and Play in the Farm on **Wednesday 17th December from 9:30am to 10:30am.**

Come and Play in the Ocean on **Tuesday 16th December or Thursday 18th December from 1:30pm to 2:30pm.** We have changed this from an originally planned morning session so you can take your child home as soon as the session has finished.

Sign-up sheets will be available from the week beginning 8th December at the playroom doors so please ask a member of staff to sign you up if you'd like to come and play!

Jungle Room Festive Celebration

The Jungle Room will have a special Christmas celebration day on Thursday 18th December. Children are welcome to wear something festive, and a special visitor will be coming to see them to deliver a very special gift.

Colder weather

Can we ask for children to have a hat and gloves in their bags when they come to the ECC – as it gets frosty, a lot of the children want to explore the ice and (if we get any) the snow. We want them to be able to explore their garden and keep warm. If any items of clothing could be clearly labelled with their names or initials so if anything does get misplaced, we can make sure it gets returned to your child. Please also provide a full change of clothing in your child's bag, with a couple of changes of underwear and socks.

Toys from home

We understand children may want to bring a toy with them to the ECC, but can we ask that these are either left in bags at their pegs or taken home at drop-off please. When toys come into the playroom it can be upsetting for other children who might not understand that this toy doesn't belong to the ECC, as well as upsetting the child who the toy does belong to if someone else really wants to play with the toy. If you have any questions around this, please speak with a member of the Leadership Team. Someone is always available at drop-off.

We hope you have an amazing last month of 2025!

Team Cairns ☺

Key dates for 2025 and 2026

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.

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 and Christmas lunch – wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC

16th & 18th – Ocean Room Christmas stay and play PM – 1:30pm – 2:30pm

17th – Farm Room Christmas come and play

18th – Jungle Room Christmas celebration

January 2026

Registration for Primary 1 opens in January – details to follow

5th – ECC reopens to returning children

6th – New children start in Jungle and Ocean Rooms

WB 12th – Personal Plan appointments

17th – 23rd – Energy Saving Week

19th – 23rd – Scottish Week

23rd – 25th – RSPB big garden bird watch

23rd – Celebrate Robert Burns Day

28th – Parent/Carer coffee morning

29th – Drop-in to chat with Laura

Mini classroom transition visits for any children going to Hillhead Primary School start in January

February 2026

Registration for Early Learning and Childcare provision usually opens this month

6th – NSPCC Number Day

9th – 15th – Children's Mental Health Week

14th – Valentines Day

17th – Pancake Day

17th – 3rd March – Chinese New Year

17th – 18th March - Ramadan

18th – Lent begins

18th – Enrolment visit for any of our April starts to the Jungle Room

March 2026

1st – St David's Day

5th – World Book Day

6th – 15th – British Science Week

15th – Mother's Day

WB 16th – Ocean Room children will start transition visits to Jungle Room

17th – St Patrick's Day

17th – 23rd – British Sign Language week

18th – Global Recycling Day

19th – 20th – Eid

21st – World Down Syndrome Day

WB 23rd – Farm Room children will start transition visits to the Ocean Room

WB 23rd – Easter bonnets stay and play sessions

April 2026

1st – Easter bonnet parade

WB 20th – New children begin in the Jungle and Ocean Rooms

22nd – Earth Day

23rd – Drop-in to chat with Laura

29th – Parent/carers coffee morning

May 2026

Our summer trips should take place this month – more information to follow

4th – 10th – Deaf awareness week and screen-free week

13th – Preschool Graduation photo

WB 18th – Parent/Carer progress meetings

19th – 23rd – Walk to school week

27th – Family sports day

June 2026

WB 1st – Ocean Room will start transition visits to the Jungle Room

2nd – 8th – Child safety week

WB 8th – Farm Room will start transition visits to the Ocean Room

10th – 14th – Healthy eating week

10th – Preschool Graduation

11th – Enrolment visits for the Jungle Room August starts

19th – End of term celebrations for the Ocean and Jungle Room

21st – Father's Day

24th – End of term celebrations for the Farm Room

26th – Last day of term

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 2 in-service days this academic session where the ECC is closed for children to allow for staff training to take place.

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

Find us on Facebook & X (twitter)

@CairnsECC

Upload to your child's Learning Journal

Ask us about accessing the Safer Schools

APP

We always appreciate donations of:

Baby wipes (Plastic free)

Tissues

Kitchen roll

Socks, pants and trousers

Contact us:

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