



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Family Newsletter

October 2025



Welcome to our October newsletter; signs of Autumn are already here as the leaves turn golden and brown and the mornings and evenings are a little darker each day. Pumpkins have lined our community as Halloween approaches at the end of the week. This is a great time to talk to your child about the changing seasons and what differences they can see, hear and smell in their environment.

We'd like to welcome new staff to our ECC: Lorraine, Senior Clerical (Temp), Linzi (Early Learning and Childcare Practitioner Peripatetic – keyworker to the Lions), Kirsten (Early Learning and Childcare Practitioner Peripatetic – part time), and Karen (Equity and Excellence Lead). It's great to have you in Team Cairns. We also have Jill Mc joining us on supply on a Wednesday and/or Thursday every week, and we welcome back Joanne M, who is keyworker to the Tigers alongside Nicola. Later in November, we will be welcoming back Maegan, who is returning after maternity leave.

We're also delighted to welcome an HNC student to the Centre: Erin will be with us on a Thursday and Friday until mid-June and be based in the Jungle Room.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Lynsey M, Equity and Excellence Lead, who is heading back to her base at Riccarton ECC. It's been great having you Lynsey – you have been fantastic, and we will miss you lots. Lynsey finishes up with us on Friday.

What happened in October?

We had a busy month in October where we were learning more about space during World Space Week. It was great to see so many rockets being flown into the ECC – you all did an amazing job. We held our first Family Learning sessions and these went well. These sessions focused on Literacy and Numeracy activities using the Colour Monster. Courtney and Gillian O, along with Taylor, did a great job planning and delivering these sessions. Keep an eye out for more opportunities to attend these sessions.

We hope everyone had a restful October break. On our return, we sadly found a leak in our Ocean Room, so we spent the next few days getting the room safe for the children to return and took advantage of the opportunity to rearrange our playroom. This has had a positive impact on the children as they appear more settled in their new environment.

We're ending the month with our pumpkin trail (today) and our Halloween activities on Friday. We hope everyone has a spooktacular Halloween / Killiween. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pumpkin trail. We will share the total amount raised very soon. Thank you to Tesco, Glasgow Road, who very kindly donated pumpkins to the ECC too!

What's happening in November?

We will be hosting a Family Learning session around Bonfire Night on **Wednesday 5th November**. Please keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets. These sessions will be restricted in numbers as we will be using our fire-pit to talk about keeping safe near fires. This event will be subject to weather conditions as it will take place outside.

Tempest Photography will be in the ECC on **Wednesday 12th November**. This will be for individual and sibling photos in the ECC. The ECC staff will organise these with the photographer. If a sibling doesn't attend Cairns ECC, you can bring them at **8:40am** for a group photo. If your child doesn't attend the ECC on a Wednesday but you would like to have a photo taken, please bring them from **8:40am** onwards. The photographer is here until approx. 2pm and usually has a lunch break around 11:45ish. Group photos tend to be popular so please be prepared to wait. This year, the photos will be taken in our Farm Room therefore we will ask for you to enter via our garden door and exit via the main entrance. Staff will be there to guide you.

We will shortly be sharing appointment times for our parent/carers progress meetings, which will take place in the **week beginning 10th November**. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's keyworker and discuss their Personal Plan and how they are getting on in their playroom. Please let us know if the date/time allocated to your child's keyworker doesn't suit; these appointments can be in person or by phone.

Children in Need is on **Friday 14th November**. Children are welcome to wear something Pudsey-related or their jammies. We won't be taking donations in for Children in Need however you can donate via the Children in Need website if you wish. We will share this on our Facebook page.

We will also be celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week, Book Week Scotland and Road Safety Week in November with various in-house and community events. Please keep an eye on Facebook, Learning Journals and in the cloakroom for more information. We have decided not to ask for parent/carers helpers for our Road Safety Walks this year however we will take groups out into the community to support children's learning around keeping safe near traffic and roads.

First Aid and Incident Forms

We are a busy, active ECC and accidents/incidents can, unfortunately, happen throughout the session. Where there is an accident, we will administer first aid, seeking guidance from one of our first aiders, and complete an accident form. The accident form is then shared at collection of your child. If someone else collects your child, we will phone home to let you know about the accident. We will also make you aware, through a first aid form, if we have not been able to administer first aid, for example, if a child has refused.

In the instances of a head bump, we will phone a child's parent/carers to inform them. We will continue to monitor any head bump injuries throughout the day and inform you if your child's condition deteriorates. We will also phone a child's parent/carers if a child has a serious accident that requires further medical attention. Alongside first aid forms, depending on the

nature of the accident/incident, we are also required to notify the Care Inspectorate and complete any Local Authority health and safety forms/notifications.

When a child has been hurt due to an incident involving another child, we will complete a first aid form for the child who has been hurt, and we will complete an incident form to share with the parent/carer of the child who hurt a child. We are mindful of ages and stages of children's development as well as following our Respectful Relationships Policy and our Nurture Policy to support all children in the ECC. We recognise accidents and incidents can be upsetting for all involved. If you wish to discuss any accidents/incidents further, please ask to speak with a member of the Leadership Team in the first instance.

Christmas Carol Concert

Practice will shortly begin for our Christmas Carol Concert, performed by our children in the Jungle Room. This will take place on **10th December at 9:45am**. Look out for separate info on tickets and what to expect from this very festive morning. If last year is anything to go by, you will be singing along with us and be feeling full of festive cheer by the end of the show! We will be hosted by Hillhead Primary School again – thank you to the staff for allowing us the use of their fabulous gym hall.

If you don't wish your child to take part in the Christmas Carol Concert or any of the Christmas activities, please let a member of the Leadership Team know.

Christmas fund-raising

Every year we raise funds at Christmas to help us organise spring and summer activities for the children. We will be organising a Christmas tombola where you can win prizes on the spot. We will only be able to take cash for raffle tickets but will share more info on a separate poster. We are hoping to raise lots of funds to put towards new play equipment for our garden as well as summer trips for all our children out with the ECC.

We will be looking for donations of prizes – if you have contacts within local businesses who could donate a prize, this would be much appreciated. Staff will also be donating prizes to the tombola, and we will have a special hamper to raffle off at the Christmas Carol Concert too.

Community Pantry

In the reception area, you will find a donations box for any non-perishable food items and hygiene products which can be handed into the ECC. This will help us to stock our Community Pantry. This is located within our Family Room and anyone who needs help at any time can ask us, in confidence, for any food and/or hygiene products. We are all very aware of the impact the cost of living is having on many families within the community so if you can help, that's great, and if you need help, we hope we can make things a little bit easier for you. We do often have milk and fruit left over at the end of the week – please let us know if you need anything.

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.

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

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.

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

We always appreciate donations of:

Baby wipes

Tissues

Kitchen roll

Socks, pants and trousers

Contact us:

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