



# Cairns Early Childhood Centre

## Family Newsletter

December 2025



Welcome to our December newsletter. It's almost time for our festive break to begin so let's see what we've been up to in the last month of 2025.

### **What happened in December?**

I'm sure you will agree our Jungle Room's Christmas Carol Concert was fantastic. The children and staff worked so hard over the last few months, and it certainly showed. They were all superb! Thank you again to Hillhead Primary for allowing us the use of the dinner hall.

We have created a feedback form to gather your views on our Christmas Carol Concert. This helps us make improvements and plan for next year so please do take the time to complete the questionnaire if you attended the Carol Concert. This was shared on your child's Learning Journal on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December as well as on the Safer Schools App.

We also hosted stay and play sessions for the Farm and the Ocean Rooms. Thank you to those who were able to come along.

### **Christmas raffle**

Thank you to everyone who donated a prize for our Christmas Tombola. We managed to raise £233.00! This will be put towards our summer trips. We have already booked a special trip for the Jungle Room children. More information on this will be shared in the new year.

A special thank you to the following businesses who provided us with vouchers:

- Pawlished Pups
- Salon 8
- Chevvar Cheese
- Café Da Vinci
- Galleon Centre
- Blissful Beauty
- Morelife Barbershop
- You @ Ayrshire College

We really do appreciate your support!

### **What's coming up in January?**

School enrolments will begin from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and for our children who will be going to Hillhead Primary School, their transition visits will begin at the end of January. Information



on the transition events are displayed in the cloakroom. If your child will be attending Hillhead PS, please “like” their Facebook page if you use the social media platform. They share lots of updates on their page! For any queries on school registration, please visit the East Ayrshire Council website and search for “school registration”.

For our new children, or for any children moving from the Farm into the Ocean or Ocean into the Jungle, we will arrange Personal Plan appointment times. These will take place in the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> January.

We have some seasonal events coming up in January: Energy Saving Week, Scottish Week, RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and Burns Day. There will be a parent/carer coffee morning on 28<sup>th</sup> of January and a chance to drop-in and chat with management on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. Please keep an eye on the APP and on our Facebook page for more info.

Our key dates for January through to June can be found at the end of the newsletter.

### **Staff update**

We will be welcoming a new permanent member of staff to Cairns on 12<sup>th</sup> January, Emma Birch. She will be taking over as keyworker for the Rhino group. We will be saying goodbye and good luck to Llanesa and Joanne H, both of whom have secured themselves permanent posts in another authority. Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication to our children and families.

Thank you also to Jill and Zamara who have covered supply hours for us.

Lastly, we say “see you soon!” to the wonderful Gillian Kelly. Gillian has been an asset to Cairns, bringing a wealth of knowledge and guidance to our staff and families as well as being a strong advocate for our children. Gillian is heading to another ECC to complete a focused piece of work for the authority. We hope to see her back with us soon but in the meantime, we will miss you, thank you and good luck!

### **Final message of 2025**

*“What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.” (Dr Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas)*

However you spend the festive break, I wish you all a wonderful time. I hope you enjoy family traditions, make magical memories, or simply settle in the stillness and peace of less busy days.

To our children; as always, I am so proud of each one of you. I hope you have a very exciting time off nursery, and we can’t wait to hear what you get up too! Some of you are moving on to new ECCs in the new term; I wish you all the best of luck. Thank you all for making me smile, laugh and feel so proud of everything you have achieved so far.

To our families, on behalf of the staff team, I would like to thank you for your continued support for our ECC. Your kindness and generosity are so very much appreciated, and we hope

you all have a wonderful festive break and a very happy New Year. Take care of yourselves and each other. Enjoy this time with your children, as it goes so fast.

I'm sure you will join me in saying thank you to Leigh and all the staff who work in Cairns. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and passion. Thank you for all you do to nurture, support and inspire our children. Your care, compassion, attention and commitment to do the very best for our children makes a lasting impact on their lives. What a brilliant Team Cairns. I hope you all enjoy a very well-earned rest. Take this time to take care of yourselves and enjoy the festive period with your friends, family and pets.

A very special mention to our staff who will be celebrating their first Christmas with their babies: Maegan, Regan, Caitlin and Lauren. I hope it is truly magical for you all.

Here's to 2026 and to Team Cairns!

A reminder that the ECC will close for the festive break on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm and will not reopen until 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Please note, the main doors will be open from 2:15pm for anyone who wants to collect before schools close at 2:30pm. Please arrive promptly to allow our staff to finish at 3:15pm.

I will be taking the last of my leave entitlement on Friday, finishing at 12:15pm. I wish you all a Merry Christmas! All the best for 2026!

Laura 😊



## Key dates for 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.

### January 2026

5<sup>th</sup> – ECC reopens to returning children including those moving from Farm and Ocean rooms  
6<sup>th</sup> – New children start in Jungle and Ocean Rooms  
WB 12<sup>th</sup> – Personal Plan appointments  
WB 12<sup>th</sup> – Registration for school week  
17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Energy Saving Week  
19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Scottish Week  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – RSPB big garden bird watch  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Celebrate Robert Burns Day  
28<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Carer coffee morning  
29<sup>th</sup> – 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**  
6<sup>th</sup> – NSPCC Number Day  
9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Children's Mental Health Week  
14<sup>th</sup> – Valentines Day  
17<sup>th</sup> – Pancake Day  
17<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Chinese New Year  
17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March - Ramadan  
18<sup>th</sup> – Lent begins  
18<sup>th</sup> – Enrolment visit for any of our April starts to the Jungle Room

### March 2026

1st – St David's Day  
5<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day  
6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – British Science Week

15<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day

WB 16<sup>th</sup> – Ocean Room children will start transition visits to Jungle Room

17<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick's Day

17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – British Sign Language week

18<sup>th</sup> – Global Recycling Day

19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – Eid

21<sup>st</sup> – World Down Syndrome Day

WB 23<sup>rd</sup> – Farm Room children will start transition visits to the Ocean Room

WB 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter bonnets stay and play sessions

### **April 2026**

1<sup>st</sup> – Easter bonnet parade

WB 20<sup>th</sup> – New children begin in the Jungle and Ocean Rooms

22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day

23<sup>rd</sup> – Drop-in to chat with Laura

29<sup>th</sup> – Parent/carer coffee morning

### **May 2026**

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

4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – Deaf awareness week and screen-free week

13<sup>th</sup> – Preschool Graduation photo

WB 18<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Carer progress meetings

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Walk to school week

27<sup>th</sup> – Family sports day

### **June 2026**

WB 1<sup>st</sup> – Ocean Room will start transition visits to the Jungle Room

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – Child safety week

WB 8<sup>th</sup> – Farm Room will start transition visits to the Ocean Room

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – Healthy eating week

10<sup>th</sup> – Preschool Graduation

11<sup>th</sup> – Enrolment visits for the Jungle Room August starts

19<sup>th</sup> – End of term celebrations for the Ocean and Jungle Room

21<sup>st</sup> – Father's Day

24<sup>th</sup> – End of term celebrations for the Farm Room

26<sup>th</sup> – 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 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and don't return until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### **February**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Local holiday

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – In-service Day

#### **April**

We close on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 3pm for the children and don't return until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

#### **May**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – May bank holiday

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – In-service

#### **June**

We close on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm and children do not return until Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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:**  
**01563 533177**  
**eaCairns.ECC@eastayrshire.org.uk**