



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter

February 2026



Welcome to our February newsletter. It's the shortest month of the year and it has been super busy! Let's see what we've been up to in the ECC...

What happened in February?

Firstly, can we thank you all again for your understanding during our period of reduced service and our room changes in the Jungle Playroom.

We recognised Children's Mental Health week between Wednesday 11th and Tuesday 17th February. We have seen such a positive impact through using the Colour Monster to speak about feelings and emotions, with children having a greater understanding of what these feelings mean and showing us this by labelling those feelings when they feel that way.

Tuesday 17th was also Random Acts of Kindness Day, so we headed out into the community to spread some kindness by gifting flowers. As it was Pancake Day too, we bought in a special treat of pancakes for snack!

We learned all about Chinese New Year through different experiences. Some children were mark-making Chinese symbols, recognising that these look different to the letters and numbers we use in English. We learned that each Chinese New Year is represented by an animal. This year it is the year of the Fire Horse.

Registration for August 2026 – June 2027 session opened for all 3- & 4-year-olds. If your child currently attends the Ocean Room, you must complete an application for their 3-year-old funded hours by **today** (27th February). Applications should be completed via the East Ayrshire Council website.

If you are looking for an additional year of ELC, you must complete the additional year form by 28th February 2026. The link to this form can be requested from Laura.

What's coming up in March?

It's World Book Day on 5th March. Our Literacy Leaders Taylor, Carrie and Nicola have planned a book exchange, which will be available in the reception area of the ECC from Monday 2nd March. We are hoping you will donate a book so other children can take a book to read with their grown-ups. Please feel free to write a message in the book, as we hope these books can be passed around the community.

Children (and their grown-ups and staff) are welcome to wear pyjamas, to be cosy, or a favourite character costume on the day. We do ask that no accessories or masks come into the ECC.

We will be recognising British Science week from 6th March to 15th March. The theme this year is curiosity, and we will be providing a home-link for you to take part in, should you wish. This will be posted on your child's Learning Journal and also be available in paper form too. On Earth Day, we will be planting in the garden.

Our children who are moving through to the Jungle Playrooms will begin transition visits this month. We will be arranging parent/carer and keyworker meetings so you can meet your child's new keyworker before they join the "big room" after the Easter break.

March Stay and Plays

We are hosting Stay and Play sessions in March with a creative theme: make an Easter bonnet. For the last two years, we have made Easter bonnets and took part in a full ECC sponsored Easter bonnet parade, where we raised lots of money for the ECC. We are going to do the same again this year and would love for you to come along to a Stay and Play session to make an Easter bonnet, supplied by the ECC, with your child.

Please keep an eye out for sign-up sheets in the cloakroom. These will take place in WB 16th March and WB 23rd March.

Sponsored Easter bonnet parade

Our sponsored Easter bonnet parade will take place on Wednesday 1st April. Sponsor sheets will be available to collect from the office from WB 16th March. Each sponsor sheet will have a number allocated, and any families who collect a sponsor sheet will be entered into a raffle to win a special prize. We are hoping to raise money to put towards new resources for the playrooms and Graduation gifts for the children leaving the ECC to go to primary school this year.

We will be looking for as many parents/carers to join us on the walk as this will allow us to take all of the children out into the community! Last year, we had a fantastic visit to Gracelands Care Home, and we saw the Easter bunnies! We always receive such lovely feedback from residents and members of the community when they see the children.

Easter Donations

We are looking for donations of any of the following items, which will be used for our Stay and Play days in March:

- Easter themed crafts – stickers, sequences, pom-poms
- Plastic or foam Easter eggs for an Easter egg hunt
- Mini chicks, rabbits, carrots and flowers
- Different colours of shredded paper
- Different colours of ribbon
- Sunflower seeds
- Planting pots
- Gardening tools for children
- Any flowering seeds we can plant
- Easter baskets

Any donations to the ECC are always gratefully received, and we thank you for your continued donations of wipes, kitchen roll, tissues, socks, pants and leggings/trousers.

If anyone knows of any companies looking to donate an Easter treat for the children, please speak with Laura ☺

Staff updates

We are saying goodbye and good luck to Joanne, keyworker to the Tiger group, who finishes up today to take up a new post in another ECC. Joanne has been at Cairns for 7 years, in a permanent part-time post, and has been successful in gaining a permanent full-time post. Joanne is a very valued member of the team who has built up lovely relationships with children and families throughout her time in Cairns. Joanne will be missed by us all.

We are also saying goodbye and good luck to Margo, keyworker to the Giraffe group. Margo finishes up on Friday 13th March to take up a full-year, part-time post in another ECC. Margo is one of our longest serving members of staff at Cairns and we know many children and families will have very fond memories of Margo as a keyworker across the Ocean and Jungle playrooms. Margo will be missed by all, and I know this will be a hard goodbye for her too.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing both Joanne and Margo all the best in their new Centres. Recruitment is underway for both posts and in the meantime, we will use supply staff to cover these posts. Arrangements will be shared with parents/carers of the two groups in due course.

Have a magnificent March!

Team Cairns ☺

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.

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 16th and 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/carer coffee morning

May 2026

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

6th – Group 1 trip to Heads of Ayr (Jungle Room)

13th – Preschool Graduation photo

WB 18th – Parent/Carer progress meetings

20th – Group 2 trip to Heads of Ayr (Jungle Room)

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 have one further in-service day this academic session where the ECC is closed for children to allow for staff training to take place.

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

@CairnsECC

Ask us about accessing the Safer Schools APP

Upload to your child’s Learning Journal

We always appreciate donations of:

Baby wipes (Plastic free)

Tissues, kitchen roll

Socks, pants and trousers

Contact us:

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