



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter



March 2026

Welcome to our March newsletter. Thank you again for the continued support and understanding shown, particularly during our period of reduced service. We have had a very busy month so let's see what we've been up to...

What happened in March?

We recognised World Book Day, and it was great to see so many of you dressed up as your favourite storybook character, or in your PJs. Our Literacy Leaders organised a book exchange; it was lovely to see many books donated and taken home to read. Our lending library outside the office is available for anyone who would like to take a book home. We also appreciate any donations of fiction and non-fiction books for families to enjoy. Our Farm staff have also created a lending basket, and again we appreciate any donations of books for our youngest children too.

Some beautiful creations have popped up across the playrooms where children have been sharing their interpretations of daffodils. Some of the children have been helping with the recycling across the full Centre. We are learning to be Eco Warriors! Thank you to our ECO / Rights Leaders who have been working hard to develop children's understanding of our right to a clean environment.

Some of the children, supported by our teacher Mandi, took part in making banana bread. They had to follow the recipe, measure their ingredients, put the banana bread in the oven, time how long it took, and they were able to bring their banana bread home when they were finished. What a great experience!

We purchased some new resources for all playrooms. In both the Waterfall and Safari Rooms, most children were keen to see some new toys for the garden, including bubbles, hula hoops and balls. Jungle animals and cars were also a popular request.

It was great to see many families joining our Easter bonnet Stay and Play sessions. These were positively received by those who attended, with lots of lovely feedback. Every bonnet created looks amazing and we can't wait for you to join us for our Easter bonnet parade on Wednesday 1st of April. We will visit Gracelands care home, who have kindly organised a special treat for all the children.

All sponsor sheets should be returned with any monies collected by WB 20th April at the latest. Thank you to those who collected a sheet to help us raise funds to put towards new resources and activities in the ECC.

Celebrating all achievements

Our Golden Ticket incentive has been in place since August for our Jungle Room, and this has been well received by most children. Golden Tickets help us recognise special achievements as well as celebrating children who demonstrate our Golden Rules and Cairns ECC Charter, with a Star of the Week certificate issued for a child in each key group on a Friday. We have a similar incentive for our Staff, where we recognise a member of staff every week as the Star of the Week. We also have a Practitioner Recognition Award, a monthly award for staff who continually demonstrate our values and ethos in all aspects of their practice. Since August, the following staff have received the Practitioner Recognition Award:

Gillian O: for continually demonstrating a caring, nurturing approach, exemplary practice and being an excellent role model to all

Catherine M: for being determined, dedicated and doing the very best she can, displaying our TEAM CAIRNS values of Caring, Approachable and Nurturing throughout her practice and as a colleague

Gillian K: for demonstrating our TEAM CAIRNS values of Inclusive and Nurturing, role-modelling and guiding practice to ensure children's voices are heard and their needs are supported in a way that is right for them

Karen M: for demonstrating a caring, nurturing approach to all and getting stuck right in – this has made a really positive impact on the Centre

Bobbi: for being a Caring, dedicated Practitioner, who takes pride in their role and demonstrates their commitment to children, families and her colleagues every day

We will continue to share the successes and achievements of our staff team; we're sure you'll agree these are some excellent examples of how amazing our staff team are.

Transitions

We will have new children joining the Centre from Monday 20th April and some of our Ocean Room children have been taking part in transitions to the Jungle Room. Some of our children will be moving from the Ocean and Farm Rooms to new ECCs – we have loved getting to know you and supporting you on the first part of your nursery journey. Good luck in your new ECCs!

Our Ocean Room continues to be oversubscribed therefore all entitled children will continue to receive 4 full days. There are no changes to your child's days, and this will be the case until the end of term. We will review this once we have our allocation for August 2026.

Heads of Ayr trip

We will be issuing consent forms after the Easter break for our children in the Jungle Room to attend their summer trip.

Please be aware, if consents are not returned in time, we will not be able to take your child on the trip.

If you do not wish your child to attend, they will be able to stay in the ECC with their peers as we will be doing 2 trips.

Have an amazing April

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.

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 (see poster in cloakrooms)

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 Thursday 2nd 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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