



Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Parent and Carer Newsletter

May 2026



Welcome to our May newsletter. What a marvellous May it has been, with plenty of sunshine and outdoor play to keep us busy. Unfortunately, it looks like the weather is about to change again but hopefully it won't be long before the sunshine returns.

What happened in May?

We had not one but two trips to Heads of Ayr Farm Park as a special end of term treat for our children in the Jungle Playrooms. The Waterfall Playroom went on the 6th of May, and the Safari Playroom went on the 20th May. We all had a brilliant time and Heads of Ayr have offered all children who attended the trip a voucher to return. These can be collected from the main office. A special thank you to all staff who attended the trips – some were lucky enough to get to go twice! We hope the children had lots of fun and we thank you for your support with fundraising as we wouldn't have been able to go on this trip without your kind donations.

We raised **£560.50** from our Easter bonnet parade, with sponsor sheet number 8 being pulled from the lucky draw to win a special prize. The winner has received their prize.

We started our trips to the woods with some of the children in both the Safari and Waterfall Playrooms. Martin recently became accredited to deliver Forest Kindergarten sessions, and we are hoping to offer these sessions more regularly as part of our Centre Improvement Plan. We would love to involve parents/carers from August onwards.

We held our first ever Family Sports Day on Wednesday 27th May. We were very lucky to have lovely weather and a great turnout of parents/carers. Thank you for coming along and joining in with what we hope was a fun afternoon and one we will continue to offer in the future. A special thank you to the children from Hillhead Primary School who came over to help with the stations, to Mr Spooner and the team for allowing us to use the playing fields and some of their equipment, and lastly to Martin, who took the lead and organised the event for us.

Everyone who took part received a medal however we know some people did leave before we managed to give these out so if your child didn't receive a medal, please let us know.

What's coming up in June?

Child safety week begins on 2nd June. We are learning more about SIMOA with the help our SIMOA elephant. SIMOA is the Care Inspectorate guidance on how we ensure we keep children safe whilst in the ECC however the principles can be applied out with the ECC too. You will see our SIMOA posters displayed around the Centre. Mandy, our TAP teacher, has been doing some work with the children to help them have a better understanding of being safe in the ECC. SIMOA stands for: Safety, Inspect, Monitor, Observe and Act.

We will be learning more about healthy eating during Healthy Eating Week, which takes place in week beginning 10th June. Our Health and Wellbeing Leaders have organised smoothie making sessions, where the children will be able to create their own smoothies from a variety of fruits.

We also have a member of staff from our “top” Tesco coming to the Centre to offer a tasting session with the children. Thank you, Tesco, for the very kind donation of lovely fruits to support this.

Transition visits from our Farm Room into Ocean Room, and Ocean Room into Jungle Playrooms will begin this month. We have our enrolment visit on 11th June to the Jungle Playrooms for any children joining the playroom in August. This will take place at 3:15pm. We will be arranging a visit for our children joining the Ocean Room shortly.

Our last day of term will be Friday 26th June where we will run our service as normal – we do not close at 1:30pm in line with the primary schools. However, if you do wish to collect your child at 1:30pm, you are welcome to do so. It would be helpful to let us know in advance if you will be collecting early, otherwise our doors will open at 2:40pm and we ask for all children to be collected before 3pm.

Graduation

Our Preschool Graduation will take place on Wednesday 10th June in our Farm Room. Due to the size of the room, we would ask to limit attendance to no more than 2 people per family. The celebration will last no more than 30 minutes.

The group times are as follows:

Meerkats, Tigers, Giraffes: 9:15am

Zebras, Lions: 10:00am

Rhinos, Monkeys: 10:45am

Hippos, Crocodiles: 1:30pm

Pandas, Leopards: 2:15pm

Children will receive their Graduation certificate and gift on the day.

We look forward to welcoming you in to celebrate your child’s Graduation from Cairns ECC. This is only for any children heading to primary school in August. Tissues at the ready, it’s going to be an emotional one.

Garden update

In our November newsletter, we shared we would be looking at purchasing a new outdoor climbing frame for the big garden. Unfortunately, there were delays in processing this order and since it was placed, the company is no longer able to fulfil the order under our purchasing requirements as a local authority. Whilst this was happening, our Central team have been completing a review of all ECC outdoor spaces and there are discussions underway on potential works to be completed. We are unsure at this time what this will look like for our space therefore we are holding off purchasing any big pieces of equipment that potentially may need to be moved or could be offered as part of the works being completed. We will keep you updated on this as we receive more info.

We did consult with the children on new toys and games they wanted to buy for the playrooms and for the gardens instead; we purchased new animals, cars, role-play accessories, outdoor games, hula hoops and sensory toys instead, which the children have loved playing with.

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.

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

21st – Father’s Day

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.

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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