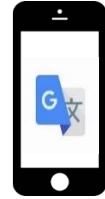




Cairns Early Childhood Centre

Family Newsletter



September 2026

Welcome to our September newsletter. It has been a busy month of getting to know all our children, both returning and new, settling-in, and becoming familiar with the routine of the ECC. It has been lovely getting to know all our families. We hope your time at Cairns ECC is an enjoyable one, where you and your child can make lots of lovely memories. If you do need to speak with us about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We love to hear your feedback and would always ask you to give us the opportunity to help if needed. You will find a parent/carer suggestion box in the cloakroom area, just outside the Waterfall playroom double doors.

We would like to welcome Courtney MacIsaac who joins us on supply whilst recruitment is underway for Jenna's post, on a temporary basis. We said goodbye and good luck to Chloe Law, who was successful in gaining a peripatetic practitioner post, and has moved to another ECC.

Congratulations to Kirsty, who will be staying with Team Cairns following interview for one of our permanent, full-time posts.

What's been happening this month?

We have been introducing the Makaton signs of the month: to eat, to play, to look, to sing and the star for our nursery rhyme of the month: Twinkle Twinkle

Next month's rhyme of the month will be Incy Wincy and keep an eye on our Facebook page for Martin and Louise sharing the Makaton signs for October.

We had our first Bookbug sessions for International Literacy Day. It was great to see parents and carers joining us in the ECC again. Bookbug will take place on the last Tuesday of every month at 2pm for both the Ocean and Jungle Playroom (the Jungle is the collective name for the Waterfall and the Safari Playrooms).

Some of the children visited B&Q to buy plants for the garden. They boarded the bus outside of the ECC and travelled all the way to Queen's Drive! Everyone had a great time, and they were ready for their lunch when they got back. We are very grateful to Barratt Homes as part of their Planting Roots Campaign, who kindly donated £500 to the ECC to allow us to enhance our garden. We are continuing to develop this space and if anyone would like to volunteer or donate any gardening equipment or seeds/plants, please speak with Martin.

We provided Home Link activities for Math week as well as offering several numeracy and math related experiences. Thank you for taking part and uploading to your child's Learning Journal. We love seeing what you get up to at home. Thank you to our STEAM Leaders who created the Home Links.

We had our first ever Friendship Week as part of our learning for term 1. The plan is to do this every new term to support and encourage the children to understand what it means to be a friend as well as learning about Article 15: Every child has the right to meet with friends, join groups, and set up clubs. Each playroom created a Friendship banner and staff captured quotes from the

children talking about their friends. We ended the week with a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Thank you and well done to our Health and Wellbeing Leaders and ECO / Rights Leaders for organising this event, and to the kitchen at Hillhead Primary School for sending over packed lunches.

We have our first Parent/Carer coffee morning taking place on Wednesday 30th September at 9:15am. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is an informal opportunity to meet with other parents/carers and speak with our Community Practitioner, Linda.

Family engagement feedback

In August we published a questionnaire to gain your feedback on Family Engagement in the ECC. We had a total of 20 responses. Here's an overview of what you told us and what we have done or will be doing:

You said...	We did...
Regular Bookbug sessions	We have organised a Bookbug session for the last Tuesday of every month at 2pm
More Stay and Plays	Our first Stay and Play will be Grandparents Day on 7 th October – sign-up sheets are in the cloakroom, and we have more Stay and Play events planned
More outdoor sessions	We are always looking for volunteers to help in our garden – please speak with Martin and keep an eye out for outdoor Stay and Plays as well as our woodland visits after the October break
Drop-in sessions with Ed Psych, Speech and Language, Community Practitioner and Health Visitors	We will certainly be looking to organise drop-in sessions with professionals – our first Parent/Carer coffee morning will be with Linda, our Community Practitioner

Further information on the feedback we received will be added to our Family Engagement floor book to read. This can be found on the table outside the Waterfall Playroom double-doors.

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with feedback.

Outdoor play and learning

We are very fortunate to have free-flow access to our gardens from our playrooms, and we do use our garden in all weathers. As the weather starts to change and we see more rain, the garden will become muddier, and children will require outdoor suits and wellies. We encourage our children's independence at all stages, and this will include them trying to put on their own suits and wellies. This does mean shoes might get mixed up and socks might get muddy and we are working on this by encouraging children to take their shoes off and put them on the shoe rack whilst only getting changed in our set areas.

We would ask, where possible, for children to have their own suit and wellies for use in the ECC. We would also ask that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly labelled with your child's

name. Our Jungle Playroom currently has almost 70 children across both rooms so clothing items and shoes can easily get mixed up when they aren't labelled and when they are the same style, design and size.

As the colder months come in, if children could have a hat and gloves for use during outdoor play and learning, where possible. Thank you!

What's happening in October?

As Autumn officially begins this month, the clocks will go back on Sunday 25th October. We are looking forward to seeing our trees turn orange and brown!

World Space Week takes place from 4th October through to 10th October. We will be taking part in World Space Week from 5th October to 9th October. We have a Home Link which will be published on Learning Journals this weekend: we would love for you to make your own rocket at home and then bring it into the ECC to show us.

On Wednesday 7th October, we would like to invite any of our Grandparents to attend a Stay and Play session. There are 2 sessions available to attend: one at 9:30am and one at 2:00pm. Both sessions will last 30 minutes. Sign-up sheets are in the cloakroom.

Throughout the week of 5th October, we will also be visiting the residents at Gracelands care home. Small groups of children will visit with staff and join the residents to read some stories and sing some songs. Thank you to Donna for organising this!

We will be hosting our second Pumpkin trail on Wednesday 28th October. This will be a sponsored pumpkin trail to help raise funds for the ECC. Last year we raised over £1000 and it would be amazing to do the same again this year. All monies raised go back to the children in the ECC. More information will follow shortly however we will be looking for as many parent/carer helpers to attend to allow us to take the full ECC out for the walk.

On Friday 30th October we will have Halloween celebrations. Children are welcome to dress up for the day if they wish. We do ask that no child brings in a face mask as part of their costume as these can frighten some children. We will be looking for any Halloween-themed donations – please look out for our donation posters and more information on the run of the day on our return from the October break.

We will have a half-term break from Monday 12th October through to Monday 19th October. Children return to the ECC on Tuesday 20th October. Have a lovely October break when it comes.

After the October break, Martin and Gemma will begin our weekly woodland visits. These will be offered to all children in the Jungle Playrooms this session with a view to extending this into our Ocean Playroom in the next academic year. This will allow us to see how the initial plans work, gather feedback from children and staff, as well as from parents and carers as we will be inviting you to join your child for one of the sessions! We are keen for the community to be involved in developing the woodland space and we are excited to see how these sessions grow and develop over the next year. Martin and Gemma will shortly prepare information and consent forms for the first groups of children.

We will also be welcoming Lauren Y, Regan and Caitlin from their maternity leave.

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.

September

30th – Parent/carers coffee morning – 9:15am – 10:30am – Community Practitioner Linda will be attending

October

4th – 10th – World Space Week

7th – Grandparent family learning session in Farm Room

10th - World Mental Health Day

27th – Bookbug at 2pm

28th – Sponsored Pumpkin trail – more info to follow shortly

31st – Halloween celebrations – more info to follow shortly

November

4th – Children's nasal flu spray – this is for children aged 2 – not yet at primary school

5th – Bonfire night

8th – Diwali

9th – 13th - World Nursery Rhyme Week

13th – World Kindness Day

13th – Children in Need

15th – 21st – Road Safety Week

WB 16th – Parent/carers progress meetings

23rd – 18th Dec – Farm into Ocean and Ocean into Jungle transitions (January in-take)

24th – Bookbug at 2pm

25th – Enrolment visits for new children joining the Jungle Room in January – 3:15pm

30th – Celebrating St Andrews Day in the ECC

December

2nd – Farm Room Stay and Play

WB 7th – Ocean and Jungle Room KW meet with parents/carers

9th – Christmas Carol Concert – The Jungle Room

10th – Christmas jumper day – wear a Christmas jumper to the ECC

15th – Bookbug at 2pm

16th – Ocean Room Stay and Play

18th – Christmas fun day for all rooms

We will share key dates for 2027 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 2026 - 2027

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.

October

Monday 12th – Friday 16th - half term

Monday 19th – In-service Day

December

We close on Friday 18th at 2:55pm and don't return until Tuesday 5th January 2027

February

Friday 12th and Monday 15th – Local holiday

Tuesday 16th – In-service Day

March

We close on Thursday 25th March at 2:55pm and we don't return to the ECC until Monday 12th April

May

Monday 3rd – May bank holiday

Monday 24th – In-service

June

We close on Tuesday 29th June at 2:55pm and we don't return until Wednesday 18th August 2027

Get involved with the ECC!

Support our little learners and families

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)
- Socks, pants and trousers
- Tissues
- Kitchen roll

Contact us:

01563 533177

eaCairns.ECC@eastayrshire.org.uk

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