Kilmaurs Early Childhood Centre

December 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome to the new children and their families who have joined us in November and to those who will be joining us in December. We look forward to getting to know you all better in the coming months.

A new staff member, Donna Haggerty, has also joined us. Donna has joined the children and staff in cohort 1 and we welcome her to the staff team.

As the number of children attending the centre continues to grow, we thank you for your on-going support in lining up outside the centre in cohorts at the allocated times.

Children in cohort 1 should continue to line up to the left of the door, (towards the car park), and cohort 2 to the right of the door (towards the health centre). Children in cohort 3 should line up in the middle area. Children who attend 9-3pm should continue to arrive/leave at their designated times – cohort 1 arrive 8.45-9am, pick up 2.45-3pm and cohort 2, arrive 9-9.15am, pick up 3-3.15pm.

In order to avoid larger gatherings outside, and help reduce any possible spread of COVID 19, could we please ask that children arrive within their allocated time slot. We thank you for your co-operation in this.

As the weather is turning colder could we please ask that children have warm clothing and wellies as we play outside on a daily basis. . Children are having fun exploring and learning about the weather outdoors. Our supplies of spare clothes are running very low (especially socks!). If children could have a couple of changes in their bag this will enable us to ensure they can be changed into warm dry clothing after outdoor play. Could we also please ask you to ensure that all of your child’s clothing has their name on it? This helps us to prevent the mix up of hats, shoes etc. Any donations of clothes which children have outgrown would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Progress Meetings

We will soon be organising progress meetings, which will take place between parents and keyworkers from week beginning 10 January 2022. This is an opportunity for keyworkers to update you on your child’s learning within the centre, discuss children’s interests and future learning.

In line with on-going current guidance, progress meetings will take place by telephone again this year. We will send you an e-mail over the next couple of weeks with a suggested date and time. If this is not suitable, please contact us and we will do our very best to try to accommodate a more suitable time. E-mails will come from Jennifer, our Clerical Assistant, and show as ‘Mrs Shaw’. Please check your junk email in case the e-mail is received there.

E-Learning Journals

We shall move to recording children’s learning in E-Journals in the New Year. Each child will have their own individual journal and their learning will be recorded in observations and photographs, which you will be able to access securely online. More details of this to follow.

It is hard to believe it is December already and Christmas will soon be upon us!

Children’s Christmas Lunch

The children will have a Christmas lunch on **Thursday 16th December.**  The choice that day will be turkey in gravy with chipolatas, steak pie or sweet potato and chickpea loaf. These will be served with potato croquettes, Brussel sprouts and baby carrots. Children can choose chocolate cake or Christmas ice cream for dessert. An e-mail will be sent to you with these choices. Please reply by Friday 3rd December to let us know which meal your child would like.

Christmas ‘Jumper’ Day

We invite children, who wish to, to wear something festive on **Friday 10 December.** This does not need to be jumper; it could be a hair band, badge, t-shirt – something that the children will enjoy wearing and showing their friends.

The McDougalls Virtual Christmas Party.

We look forward to lots of fun when we will watch a streaming of the McDougalls Virtual Christmas Party. Theatre favourites Max, Auntie Aggie and Morag will be spreading Christmas cheer with games, dance, singalong songs and lots of festive fun in a sensational stage show. Children will enjoy this throughout the week of 13 December.

Festive Walks

Throughout December, children will go on ‘festive walks’ in the local surrounding area. They will visit the local fairy garden, and look for and discuss Christmas decorations in their local environment.

Christmas Party

It will soon be Christmas party time with party games, Christmas themed snacks and a visit from Santa.

All children in **cohort 1** will have their party on **Friday 17th December.**

**Cohort 2** will have 2 party days, **Friday 17th December, and Tuesday 14th December for children who do not attend the centre on a Friday.**

**Cohort 3’s** party will be on the morning of **Friday 17th December**. Keyworkers will contact parents to discuss/arrange this.

Santa will visit the outdoor area of the centre on the party days. Children will go out in their groups to see Santa and receive a present.

As you will be aware from previous communications from our chief Education Officer, we are unable to invite parents to join us for such events, due to on-going mitigations to help prevent the spread of COVID 19. We appreciate that this is disappointing and shall upload photographs to our GLOW blog to share children’s fun with you.

Christmas ‘Concert’

The children are beginning to take part in and enjoy Christmas songs and rhymes. They are learning the words and Makaton signs to allow them to sign some of the songs and perform with their friends. As we are unable to invite you to join us in the centre to share in this, we will film the children in their cohorts, singing and signing a selection of songs and upload these to our GLOW blog. We hope to film these throughout the week beginning 13th December. Children may like to wear something festive throughout this week.

Christmas Holidays

Children who attend the centre term time will stop on Wednesday 22nd December for the Christmas holidays (usual session times apply on this day) and return on Thursday 6th January 2022.

The centre will close on Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December. This will be the last day for children who attend on 48 weeks patterns. We re-open on Wednesday 5th January and look forward to welcoming back children who attend over 48 weeks on this day.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support throughout what has been another difficult year for all. We hope that children will enjoy fun and laughter in the run up to Christmas. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish all our children and families a safe, healthy and very happy Christmas and extend our very best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Kind regards

The ECC Team

Dates for your diary:

**Friday 10 December** – Christmas ‘Jumper’ day, wear something festive

**Thursday 16December** – Christmas lunch

**Tuesday 14 December** – cohort 2 Christmas Party for children who do not attend the centre on Fridays.

**Friday 17 December** – cohort 1 & 2 Christmas Parties

**Wednesday 22 December –** last day of term for **term time children**

**Friday 24 December –** last day of term for **children attending over 48 weeks.** Centre closes for Christmas holiday.