

Kilmaurs Early Childhood Centre

September 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome to all the new children and their families who have joined us this session. The children are all settling well, exploring the centre both indoors and out and are beginning to build relationships with other children and staff. Returning children have re-settled back into the centre routines and have been excited to see their friends and staff again following the summer break.

Clothing

Just a little reminder to please put children's names on all clothing, shoes, bags etc. This greatly helps to avoid children going home with the wrong clothes. Thank you.

Drop Off/Collection Times

We have flexible drop off and collection times to try to meet parents' differing needs and work patterns.

Children may arrive between **8.40 and 9am** and be collected from **2.40pm until 3pm**. This will also allow parents to drop and pick up children from the centre before going to the primary school. In order to maximise our learning and preparation times, we kindly ask that all children are dropped off by 9am and collected by 3pm as this also helps to ensure the safety of all children being dropped off at the centre.

We will also be starting a small welcome time shortly after 9am in the morning for all children.

Children's Learning

Children in the 3 to 5 year old playroom are expressing their interest in play and staff are using these to plan a range of stimulating learning experiences.

Indoors children have been exploring water (filling and pouring) and having fun with bubbles. They have been using pens and pencils to mark make, making books and stories with a variety of coloured paper. Children have been busy bees using lots of arts and crafts materials making sticky pictures with sequins, glass beads, ribbons, pom poms etc.

Outdoors children have been having fun exploring pipes during water play. Lots of bridges and dens have been built with our wooden blocks. Children have been having fun in the mud kitchen exploring and finding out about a range of leaves and flowers. Children have used their imagination to make mud into a variety of foods.

Personal Plan Meetings

We are currently in the process of organising Personal Plan meetings we will be in contact with you all individually to arrange a time to carry out the meeting. Meetings will be held here in the centre. All children have a Personal Plan created shortly after starting at the Centre. This is a great opportunity for their keyworker to give you an update on how they are settling, their play and learning. It also allows you to share information about your child, which will be used to inform their learning.

Learning Journals

We shall be sharing your child's learning with you throughout the year on their own individual learning journal. Learning journals are an on-line journal where you will be able to see photographs and observations of your child in play and learning in the Centre. Parents are able to comment on the journals and can upload any information/photographs of children's learning at home. This is a great way for children to share their own experiences from home with staff and friends. This is simple to do, just click on the 'add parent contribution' tab and there is a box for a description of what your child has been doing, and an option to upload photographs. We look forward to seeing what children have been learning. **Please look out for our wish list notice which will appear in your child's learning journal.**

Stay and Play Sessions

We will shortly be starting some Stay and Play sessions, where parents will be invited to join children in the Centre to engage in their play. This is a great opportunity to spend time playing with your child, experience how they spend their day, experience the workings of the Centre and meet some other parents. Further details and dates to follow.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We will be hosting MacMillan Coffee Morning events to help to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support who help people with cancer to live life as fully as possible.

Dates to follow.

Parents' Committee

We are looking to restart our small parents committee and are looking for some volunteers to join this. If you would like to become more involved in the life of the Centre, share ideas and be involved in some decision making then please speak with myself and we will look at organising a date/time to hold our first meeting. There will be no commitment to come to every meeting, we realise many of you are juggling work and family life, but any time that you may be able to spare would be very much appreciated.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for children will take place here in the centre. Consent packs from the NHS have all been issued to yourselves. These are due to take place on Tuesday 12th November 2024 but this date may change.

Safer Schools App

We have a centre APP that has useful information posted from East Ayrshire Council. To download the app:

- go to your app store or Google Play and search for 'Safer School Scotland'
- set up your account
- in the school field type 'Kilmaurs ECC'
- use the parent/carer code of 4475
- to receive notifications we recommend enabling push notifications
-

Holiday Weekend

The Centre will be **closed to all children on Friday 20th and Monday 23rd September** for the local holiday. We re-open at the usual times on Tuesday 24th September.

We look forward to another year of fun, learning and partnership working with you. If you have any queries or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's keyworker or myself.

Kind Regards

Jackie

Jackie McClung
Head of Centre
Kilmaurs ECC