Galston Early Childhood Centre

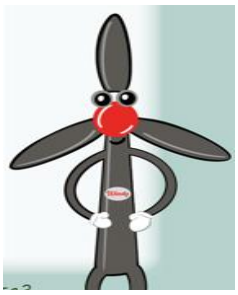
October 2026!

During September, we have welcomed our new starting children and families into the Centre. The children are beginning to become more confident in the routines throughout their day. Throughout September, staff have been observing the children and identified relevant next step targets for each child. We welcome you to comment on your child's learning journal to confirm you have seen your child's target and are happy with the targets.

Eco Schools

The eco-team will start to review progress in preparation to renew our eco-schools award. If you are interested in joining the eco-team's group, please speak to a member of staff.

Unfortunately, the RAG bag collection was delayed so we are hoping that the items will all be collected over the next week. We will update you on the amount raised once it's been collected.



Meet Mr. Windy!

Over the next 8 months the children will be completing monthly challenges to gain different parts of the wind turbine to learn about energy use and renewable resources. Once we have achieved all 8 challenges the Centre will be awarded the Windy Trophy!

Look out for events and home-link challenges and information to support a greener world!

Mr.Windy Challenge 1

Reducing food Waste – Halloween

Remember you can eat your pumpkins as well as carving them. Pumpkins are part of the Squash family and there are many delicious ways to eat the inside of your Halloween pumpkin once it has been carved. Why not click on the link to find 6 ways to eat your Halloween pumpkin! www.lovefoodhatewaste.com





Pre-Loved Halloween Costumes

We realise just how much our children have grown, when we go to try on last year's Halloween costumes, and they no longer fit! We recognise how expensive Halloween costumes can be, particularly if you have several children in your family!

If you have any Halloween costumes from previous years which your child no longer fits into, we will gratefully accept them from the beginning of October. A spooky rail of pre-loved Halloween costumes will be set up in the cloakroom of the Sunshine room, which parents/carers can help themselves to at drop off or collection time.

Lending Library



Our Rainbow Room lending library has started, and we hope that children are enjoying the books!

Our lending library in the sunshine room will continue after the October break, however this year it will run slightly differently.

Each group of children will have the opportunity to enjoy a story with their keyworker and select a book to take home. Once a child has enjoyed 5 stories at home from the library they will receive a Book Worm Certificate. Children can work to achieve a bronze, silver and gold book worm certificate throughout the year!

Sunshine Room Library Days

The list below outlines when we plan to hold a story and library experience for children. Children can select a book to bring home and return it to exchange it for another book to take home. Please return your child's book ahead of their next library day by putting it into the return boxes in the cloakroom

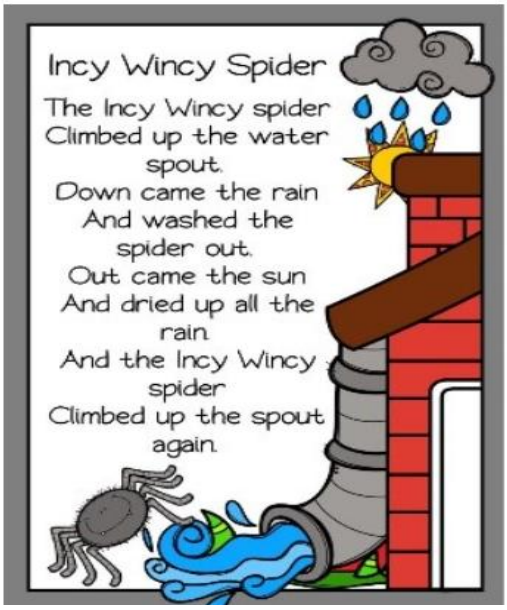
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pineapples Children attending long mornings & 2 ½ day children (Raspberry, Cherry, Apples)	Blueberries Kiwis Children attending long mornings & 2 ½ day children (Raspberry, Cherry, Apples)	Plums Strawberries	Grapes Children attending long afternoons & 2 ½ days	Oranges



The photographer will be in the Centre on **Wednesday 4th November** from 9am. Sibling photographs will be managed by the school on the Monday and Tuesday however if you would like to have a younger sibling in the photograph, please come to the Centre by 9am.

October Rhyme of the Month

October's Rhyme of the Month is Incy Wincy spider



Using Makaton to support communication

We can support communication with all children through using Makaton. Makaton improves communication by combining speech with simple, natural signs and visual symbols to provide multiple clues to help others to understand and be understood. You can click on the link below to listen to the rhyme and try to learn the Makaton signs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZD2sHJ_0hI&list=PLDZkNdIBNNeKmW7FWBQ2I8a15wmwP_bha&index=1

October Top Tip





If you have concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, you can contact the speech and language helpline on Mondays between 9:30am – 11:30am or Thursday afternoons between 2pm – 4pm.

Messy Munchers – fun with food!



Thank you to everyone who completed our survey around children's experiences with food. We have 8 spaces this term for a 6-week programme working with East Ayrshire dietetic team to support children to develop confidence around different foods. Each session lasts one hour from 1:50pm to 2:50pm on a Thursday afternoon starting on the Thursday 29th October.

Fun with Food dates:

29th October, 5th November, 12th November and 19th November from 1:50pm

Cooking group dates are the 26th November and 3rd December

Children can take part in the programme with their parent/carer to have fun around food. Children will have the opportunities to touch, smell, taste and explore different foods within the Centre.

If you are interested in joining the programme, please either email elaine.bowden@eastayrshire.org.uk or speak to either Irene Craig or Elaine Bowden to reserve a space. It will be allocated on first come first served, with a list created for additional spaces and sessions if it proves to be popular.

Halloween

Halloween is Saturday 31st October and there will be lots of spooky fun to be had in the Centre during Friday the 30th October, against a backdrop of the usual routines and play experiences. Children are welcome to come in dressed up but we kindly request that props for the costumes remain at home.



Parent Committee Fundraiser



Our parent committee will be holding a raffle for a Halloween Hamper. Tickets will be on sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the two weeks leading up to Halloween (after the October break) at the usual collection times of 12:45pm, 2:50pm and afternoon drop off at 1:15pm. The draw will take place on Friday 30th October. All money raised will be put towards a trip for the children in the summer term.

Wreath Making Class



Hazel and Rebecca, our Outdoor leads, will be holding a wreath making class on Wednesday 25th November between 3.15pm and 6pm. Tickets cost £20 each and includes your personal handmade wreath and delicious refreshments. This is an adult only event, and tickets are limited to 20. If you would like to attend the class, please speak to Rebecca or Hazel to reserve your place.

Community Practitioner Service - PEEP Sessions during the October break

'we had a great time at the park, my child loved the activities' (Peep Parent).

'I've discovered how much my child learns through play.' (Toddler Peep Parent).

Here at East Ayrshire Council we have Peep at the Park groups that run throughout the year during school/ECC breaks.

The Peep at the Park session is outdoors therefore subject to weather conditions/changes.

Please ensure you and your child have adequate clothing for the weather.

Peep at the Park will take place across various venues. Choose which one best suits you.

Jamieson Park: Newmilns, Tuesday 13th Oct at 11am

Howard Park: Kilmarnock, Tuesday 13th Oct at 11am

Shortlees: in the grounds of Shortlees Primary and ECC Wednesday 14th Oct at 10:30am

Dean Park: Kilmarnock, Wednesday 14th Oct at 11am

Cockelbie Park: Stewarton, Friday 16th Oct at 11am.

We really look forward to seeing you and having some fun together!

people
The Peeple Centre
PO Box 1404
Oxford OX4 6XW

Peeple is a charity that trains practitioners and works with families - enhancing children's development by making the most of play and learning opportunities in everyday life

Stay in touch

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www.peeple.org.uk

Learning Together Programme

peep

supporting parents and children to learn together



Welcome to

Peep at the Park

East Ayrshire Council



Peep supports all parents and carers with children from pregnancy to school, in encouraging their child's learning and development.

You can make a real difference just by talking, playing, singing and sharing books or activities together.

Come along with your baby and/or child. Have fun and share ideas with singing, stories and activities.

My Peep group is run by:

East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Peep Practitioners





Peep at the Park meeting points: October 2026

Jamieson Park: Newmilns, the park next to the school and ECC, Just look out for the blue tarpaulin, Tues 13th Oct, 11am.

Howard Park: Kilmarnock, Just look out for the blue tarpaulin, Tues 13th Oct, 11am.

Dean Park: Kilmarnock, at the grass area at the car park, Wed 14th, 11am.

Shortlees: Grounds of Shortlees Primary and ECC, Wed 14th, 10:30am.

Cockelbie Park: car park, Dunlop Rd, Stewarton, Fri 16th, 11am.

Dates for the diary:

October	
Monday 12th – Friday 16th (inclusive)	Term time holiday ECC open to children attending full year provision
Monday 19th	ECC closed – In-Service Day
Tuesday 20th	ECC open for usual sessions
Thursday 29th	Fun With Food sessions start 1:50pm for 6 weeks with cooking fun!
November	
Week Beginning 2nd	Parents Meetings (schedule to follow)
Wednesday 4th	Photographer
Week Beginning 9th	Parents Meetings (Schedule to follow)
December	
Friday 18th	Last day of term





Nappies and Wipes

We kindly ask all parents/carers whose children are wearing nappies to ensure that several nappies and a packet of wipes are put into your child's bag. For children who are wearing pants, we kindly request that plenty of spare pants and trousers are put into your child's bag to get changed into in the event of a toileting accident or messy play.

Labelling Clothes



At the end of each day, parents/carers and staff spend time hunting for jumpers. We try hard to return items of clothing to the correct child, however many of the items do not have the child's name written into it. We ask that all clothing is labelled with your child's name on the label and we will ensure it is returned to you.

Learning Journals

All parents/carers should have access to their child's learning journal. Information on the journal will document your child's learning within the Centre through observations which support next step targets. General information, in the form of stories will also be included on the journals to share events, reminders and the newsletter. If you require any support in accessing your child's learning journal please let your child's keyworker know. All observations will be published weekly on Friday at 6pm.

Contact us!



Phone: You can contact the Office on: 01563 820360
Email: Head of Centre: dawn.waide@eastayrshire.org.uk
Depute Manager:elaine.bowden@eastayrshire.org.uk
Senior Early Learning and Childcare Practitioners:
carrie.kenney@eastayrshire.org.uk or
rebecca.robertson @eastayrshire.org.uk

You can also contact your child's keyworker directly through the Learning Journals.