

**Whatriggs Early Childhood Centre**

**December 2022 Newsletter**

**Parental Learning Fayre**

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our recent Learning Fayre. We hope you found this beneficial and took away some ideas to take forward. If you have not already done so, we would appreciate it if you could complete the online survey to provide us with some feedback to help us when planning similar events in the future.

**Childsmile Fluoride varnish**

Reminder that this is currently taking place during week beginning 28th November. This will be during your child’s usual session.

**Parent committees**

Thank you to those of you who completed the online survey about the gardening and fundraising committees. As only two parents had said they would be willing to join the gardening committee, we are not going to continue with this at this time. Although some of you had noted that you would be willing to help out in the garden, so thank you for your support in this area and we would welcome any help you can give. For the fundraising committee, four parents had noted an interest in joining and we will therefore be in touch with you directly in the New Year to discuss how we can proceed and to check that you are still interested in participating.

**ECC Staff**

Following recent interviews for our clerical assistant, unfortunately the initial preferred candidate had to withdraw but we are delighted that Linzi Mirfin has now accepted the post and we hope that she will be joining us in the New Year when all recruitment checks are complete, we are looking forward to her joining our team. Linzi will be working in the office from 1.00-6.00pm and Janet will continue as Senior clerical in the mornings.

We have also now held interviews for our temporary part time senior ELCP to job share with Katie when she returns from maternity leave in March. We are delighted to be able to inform you that Amy Allen was the successful candidate. As Amy is already covering for the current full time maternity post this will be a smooth transition to the new arrangement. Emily will continue to cover Amy’s practitioner post at this time.

**Students**

Our first block of students will be finishing with us on Friday 2nd December and will return for their second placement block on Monday 30th January 2023.

We have three new HNC students coming to us on Monday 5th December until Thursday 26th January. Kaitlin Carton, Carys Yair and Suzanne O’Hare will be placed within the three 3-5 playrooms for their first block of placement time. We hope they all enjoy their time at Whatriggs.

**Scarlet Fever**

Cases of scarlet fever are currently on the rise in the local area and we already have three confirmed cases in the Centre. Please look out for signs and symptoms including high temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands. A rash then appears 12 to 48 hours later, which looks like small raised bumps and starts on the tummy, then spreads. The rash makes the skin feel rough, like sandpaper. If your child has had this confirmed by a health professional, please let us know so that we can continue to monitor cases within the Centre.

**Christmas time**

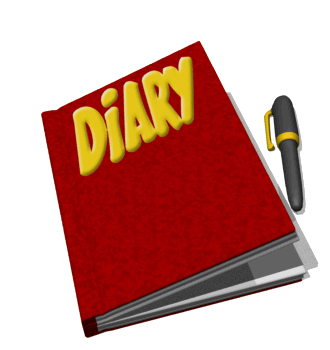
From Thursday 1st December we will began our Christmas activities in the ECC. There will be lots of emphasis on Christmas games, craft activities, stories, music and dancing.

Our Christmas kindness elves will also return to the Centre on this date to begin sharing their different acts of kindness for you to try at home. They will also

be watching what the children are getting up to, so they can report back to Santa!

**Community Christmas Tree**

j0383160[1]We are hoping for a donation of two Christmas trees for our outdoor area. If you or someone you know works somewhere that could help with this please let us know. If we manage to get a tree to put outside our main entrance, we would love for you to join us in celebrating Christmas by making a special decoration to hang on our tree. We hope we can all come together and create a beautiful tree to spread some Christmas cheer to our Whatriggs families. We can’t wait to see what beautiful things you create to display! If you prefer, you can donate a bauble for your child to hang rather than making one.

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**Dates for your diary**

December is always a very busy time within the ECC and an exciting and fun time for the children. Below are details of what will be happening during the month.

**Dobbies outings**

The first outing for the pre-school children took place on Tuesday 22nd November. The children enjoyed their bus ride with driver Amanda down to Dobbies and spending time looking at all the lovely Christmas decorations. They also had their snack while there and got a peek inside Santa’s grotto before his arrival. The next outings are planned for Monday 5th and Tuesday 13th December. You should have already been notified of your child’s date to attend and you will be required to complete the permission form (EV5), this will need to be handed back in prior to the outing date to enable your child to be included. If you are unsure what date your child will be attending, please ask a member of staff or phone in to the office. Reminder that these visits are for the pre-school children only.

**Christmas Market**

This will be taking place on Wednesday 7th December from 9.15-11.30am within the school gym hall. Please drop in during these times to browse the items on offer and we hope everyone can find something nice to take away on the day. Initially this will be restricted to two items per person to ensure there is enough goodies to go around. Any items left after 11.30am on the Wednesday will be put back out on the Thursday and these can then be taken on a first come first served basis. Any remaining items after Thursday morning will be donated to charity. Thank you so much to everyone who has kindly donated to this event.



**Christmas lunch**

The Christmas lunch/dinner will be provided on Thursday 8th December. We hope the children will enjoy this pre-Christmas celebration and the tasty food that will be provided on this day.

**Princess Court**

We are visiting the residents of Princess Court on Wednesday 21st December. At this time we will be delivering a Christmas gift and card and playing some festive music while the children sing and play some instruments for the residents.



**Christmas Jumper day**

Christmas jumper day is on Thursday 8th December. We will not be collecting money for this but children can come to the ECC dressed in festive clothing – jumper/t-shirt etc. if they wish.

**Christmas Parties**

We will be having Christmas parties in each playroom on Tuesday 20th December. The parties will take place as follows –

The morning parties will be from 10.00-11.15am and the afternoon parties will be from 1.30-2.45pm. However, your child can attend the ECC at their usual session times. We are hoping that Santa may be able to take some time out of his busy schedule for a visit during our parties.

**Mince Pie and Mingle**

Reminder that this will take place in our garden from 3.30-4.15pm. On Wednesday 14th this will be for the birch room and children attending oak and willow rooms for the am session. On Thursday 15th it will be for the chestnut room and children who attend oak and willow playrooms for the afternoon session. If your child doesn’t attend on either of these days or attends for a full day session in the oak room or a 9-3 session in the willow room, you will receive an email to let you know when to attend. All children and parents/carers can come dressed in something festive for the event but we advise that you wrap up warm as we will remain outdoors. We look forward to seeing everyone on these nights and get your best singing voice ready to join in with our songs. Please note, no videos or photos should be taken, as not all children have permission to be photographed.

**Guess the Elf name game**

We are also holding a competition to guess the name of our large Elf. The winning name will win the elf to take home! This will be charged at £1.00 a guess and will be available at the market and during our two mince pie and mingle events on 14th and 15th December. The winner will then be announced on Friday 16th. Get your guess in quick on the night you are attending by noting down your name on the sheet available so that you don’t miss out on the chance of winning and taking home our elf friend for Christmas!

**Christmas movie day**

We will be having a Christmas movie day for children during the last week of term. This will take place on various days for the different playrooms throughout the week.

**REMINDERS**

**Christmas Holiday Dates and times**

Last day of term for all children is Friday 23rd December. We re-open on Wednesday 4th January 2023 for children in our oak and willow playrooms who attend on a 48 week basis. All term time children will return from Monday 9th January.

As Whatriggs Primary is closing early on the last day of term, we will be opening the gate at 2.10pm on the Friday for any parents who wish to collect their child earlier from the ECC.

If your child attends on a 48-week basis, please ensure that you let us know about your plans for your child’s attendance on the 4th-6th January. We require to inform the central kitchen of numbers attending in advance so that they can prepare the correct amount of meals. If you have not already spoken to Janet in the office to notify her of attendance dates, can you please confirm this as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

***Although it is still a few weeks away, all the staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and also a Happy New Year and to thank you all for your continued support of the ECC.***

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