

**Whatriggs Early Childhood Centre**

**May 2023 Newsletter**

**Curriculum and learning topics**

Since returning after the two-week spring break, staff planned with the children within each playroom, this was based around the children’s interests and feedback. Please remember to check the Blog for more information and to see photos of what has been happening, updates are usually provided every Friday afternoon. Our Facebook page and Twitter also provide regular updates and we often show videos of sample activities and learning experiences that have taken place. The children’s learning journals also provide more specific information relating to your child, so remember to log on to have a look.

**Safer schools App**

If you have already completed our questionnaire relating to the new App, thank you for participating. If you still require help to get set up, please complete the online questionnaire or speak to a member of staff, so that we can action this for you. As this is new, there is currently limited information provided but this will start to be updated more frequently, so it is important for you to have access to this.

**Woodland visits**

Most children within the 3-5 playrooms have now spent time in the Bellfield Estate during their woodland sessions. Children from the oak room have been participating during the last couple of weeks and then it will be the turn of the children from the chestnut room who will take part from mid-May. These visits have been very beneficial and provided endless learning opportunities within the local outdoor environment. We have been focusing on using our different senses in our woodland, exploring the wildlife and insects and planting wildflowers to enjoy in the summer months. Amy has been leading these activities alongside the staff team and the children have provided enthusiastic feedback, showing the value of the time spent within this area.

**Cat sitter home link activity**

Thank you to those of you who have already participated in this activity. There have been lots of great photos sent in and updates in the notebooks. The children have been excited to tell us about their time with their cat friend and the other children are excited to have their turn to take them home. All children will have a turn before the end of term in June.

**Questionnaires**

![MP900438680[1]]()As mentioned in your previous newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could complete a parent questionnaire, the link to access this will be emailed to you by the 9th May. This will automatically close on Friday 19th May, so please ensure that your form is submitted before this date. We value your views and comments and your feedback will help us to make improvements. It is also beneficial to find out the children’s likes and dislikes and their thoughts and opinions are highly valued by staff. We would usually send a child questionnaire home but we don’t currently have a printer within the ECC, so we are looking at other ways for you to fill this out with your child and we will let you know when we have this ready. Thank you in advance for your input.

**Allocations process**

EAC are currently processing all of the phase one applications for the 2023/2024 intake. If your child is returning to us next term, we will provide you with a letter to confirm your child’s placement and session offer after receiving confirmation from EAC. For anyone who has not yet registered, phase two ELC applications will open online on Monday 15th May and close at midnight on Friday 26th May.

**Parent meetings**

During week beginning 5th June, you will have the opportunity to speak with your child’s keyworker to discuss your child’s progress and report. These meetings will last for a maximum of 10 minutes and can be in person, or over the phone if this suits you better. If you have any concerns you feel will take longer than this allocated time, please arrange a separate time with your child’s keyworker to discuss these. Please note, in addition to this, Willow room meetings will also take place on 31st May and 12th June.

**These calls will take place as follows –**

(Your key worker will speak with you to discuss and arrange your individual 10 minute time slot on the dates below).

**(3-5s)**

![parent-meeting[2]]()

**Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th June**

**(10.45-11.45) - Grey rabbits (Regan) / Pink pigs (Vivianne)**

**(1.15-2.15) - Red pandas (Rebecca)**

**(1.30-2.00) - Blue dolphins (Sharelle) (Tuesday only)**

**(3.00-4.00) - Orange tigers (Beth) / Red squirrels (Michelle)**

**(3.20-4.20pm) - Orange orangutans (Laura)**

**(3.20-4.20pm) - Green frogs (Margaret) Mon only/Red Ladybirds (Dayna) Tue only**

**Wednesday 7th June & Thursday 8th June**

**(10.45 -11.45) - Blue dolphins (Emily) – Wednesday only**

**(1.15-2.15) - Green turtles (Catherine)**

**(1.30-2.00) - Blue dolphins (Beth) – Thursday only**

**(3.00-4.00) - Yellow giraffes (Cheryl)**

**(3.00-4.00) - Blue peacocks (Isobel)**

**(3.20-4.20pm) - Yellow lions (Lee-Anne)**

**(3.20-4.20pm) - Red Ladybirds (Kirsty) – Thursday only**

**(3.20-4.20pm) - Green frogs-(Claire) – Thursday only**

**(2-3s)**

**These calls will take place as follows –**

**Wednesday 31st May**

**(1.15-2.15) - Sunshine group (Heather)**

**Thursday 8th June**

 **(10.45-11.45) - Rainbow group (Sarah)**

**(1.15-2.15) - Star group (Lorna)**

**Friday 9th June**

**(10.45-11.45) - Rainbow group (Sarah)**

** (1.15-2.15) - Star group (Lorna)**

**(2.30-3.30) - Moon group (Tracie)**

**Monday 12th June**

**(10.45-11.45) - Moon group (Tracie)**

**(2.30-3.30) - Sunshine group (Heather)**

If you are not available to speak with your child’s key worker on the specific days/times allocated but you still wish an appointment, please speak to your child’s key worker to try to arrange a mutually convenient time to share information with you.

**Upcoming Events**

**Transitions (ECC-School)**

We have been communicating with Whatriggs Primary where many of our children will be moving on to next term and they will keep us updated with any plans they have. Within the ECC we are also thinking of ways to support the transition process. We will also continue to reassure the children and will have more of a focus on school and what is involved. This can be done through various activities, stories, circle and group times/discussions and role-play opportunities. We also want to support you in any way we can, so please ask us any related questions or let us know if there is anything worrying you about this process. The school, or ourselves will update you with future plans during the upcoming weeks.

The children moving from the 2-3 room into the 3-5 rooms next term have also started having some visits.

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**King’s Coronation Tea Party**

We will be having a Royal tea party on Friday 5th May to celebrate the King’s Coronation. Children can come dressed for the occasion and we will be having some refreshments in our best china, as well as some treats to mark the occasion.

We would love it if you could decorate a paper plate with your child relating to this topic as part of our celebrations. Plates will be provided from the ECC and we ask that you return these to us by Wednesday 3rd May so that we can display them for our day of celebrations on the Friday.

**Pre-school outings**

on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 31st May, we have arranged for the pre-school children to visit Eglington Park during either the morning or afternoon session. Your key worker will let you know the date and time your child will be attending. Amanda, our link community practitioner, will be accompanying us and driving the mini bus. You will also require to complete an EV5 permission form and return this to the Centre to enable your child to particiapte.

**Pre-school leaver celebration**

It is nearly time for our pre-school children to leave the ECC and make the exciting move to P1. Week beginning 19th June, you will be invited into the ECC garden to see your child collecting their graduation certificate and leavers gift. You will also have the opportunity to take a photo of your child in our Whatriggs ECC photo booth. Further information regarding your child’s group time slot will be provided in June. In addition to this, children will be learning one song per room to sing, this will be videoed and put together with photos from their time at their ECC. This will then be shared with you towards the end of term.

**Summer beach party**

Parties will take place week beginning 26th June, actual date to be confirmed nearer the time. There will be fun outdoor activities available during this time to celebrate the end of term for the children.

**\*\*Reminder\*\***

**Sun cream / Sun Hats**

![MC900356453[1]]()We are now hoping for regular warmer weather and would appreciate it if you could provide a sun hat for your child which is clearly labelled, you can either leave this in the ECC, or bring a hat on the days that you feel this is required. On days when the sun makes an appearance, could you also please ensure that sun cream is applied before bringing your child to the ECC. We could be outside for long periods of time and therefore want to make sure the children are suitably protected. If your child attends full days, we can apply additional sun cream (Aldi SPF 50). However, if your child is allergic to any sun cream and you would prefer we did not apply this, please inform a member of staff and supply a bottle that is suitable for your child. Please ensure this is clearly labelled with your child’s name.

**Holidays**

Monday 1st May & Monday 8th May are bank holidays. We also have a staff in-service day on Tuesday 30th May. The Centre will be closed for all children on these dates. Friday 26th and Monday 29th May are also term time holidays. Please note, the last day of term before summer for the term time children will be Friday 30th June.

**We will provide you with further information relating to end of term activities and events at the beginning of June.**