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**Whatriggs Early Childhood Centre**

**June 2023 Newsletter**

**Curriculum and learning topics**

We continue to provide weekly updates on our Blog for each playroom. These show some of the learning experiences that have taken place and are usually available for you to view by Friday evening of each week.



When the sun appears, we are discussing ways to keep cool and stay safe in the sun, concentrating on personal health during these times. We encourage the children to wear their hats and sunglasses while outdoors and play in the shade when the sun gets too hot. Children have also been learning about the importance of wearing sun cream and drinking lots of water.

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**\*\*Reminder\*\*** On days when the sun makes an appearance, could you please ensure that you provide a sun hat for your child and also apply sun cream before bringing your child to the ECC. We can then apply additional sun cream using our bottles. However, if your child is allergic to certain sun creams, please supply a bottle that is suitable for your child. This should be clearly labelled with your child’s name.

**Pre-school Transitions**

Within the ECC, we have been supporting the children with their transition to school through discussions, stories and role play opportunities.

The pre-school children who are moving to Whatriggs Primary have been visiting the school and spending some time with the teachers. The teachers from Whatriggs and other schools have also visited us and spent some time with the children in the ECC both indoors and out.

The first two sessions of the Whatriggs transition programme visits have also now taken place with four more sessions planned on the following dates in June –

* Monday 12th, 1.30-2.30pm
* Thursday 15th, 1.00-2.45pm. If your child attends am or pm only sessions, you will be required to take your child along to this. We can take the 9-3 children and those who attend on a full day basis. At 2.45pm, if your child attends a 9-3 session or am session could you please collect your child from the school, as we will only be bringing back the full day children and those who attend during the afternoon session.
* Tuesday 20th (sports day at Ayrshire Athletics Arena). Please note, ECC staff will not be attending and we are unable to accompany children. Parents should take their child and collect from the venue.
* Wednesday 28th, 12.15pm (lunch taster session) parents to accompany their child.

For further information, please refer to the related transition leaflet provided by the school.

There has also been a teddy bears picnic planned for Friday 16th June. This has been organised by P6 who have created various stories that they would like to read to the children. This will take place in the P6 playground at 9.45-10.20am. We will take the children along to this during their usual session. This will only be for the children who usually attend the ECC at this time.



In addition to this, we have also set up the Whatriggs Primary and ECC transition tree in the Bellfield Estate, at the area near the school pitch. When you visit, choose a tag and leave a comment to hang on the tree. This could be a question your child has about school, something they want to tell their new teachers, or something they are worried about. The school will also be making some things for the tree, so remember to stop for a look when you are passing by.

On the tree, we have provided a QR code to the school blog, so that you can easily access any information that is shared.

**Two year room transition visits**

The children within the 2-3 room who have turned three or will be turning three before August, are spending some time in the 3-5 playrooms. During these times, they are showing increasing confidence in their new environment. As part of the induction process to the 3-5 rooms, there will also be an opportunity for the children and parents to come along to our open day on Wednesday 26th July. Details of times to attend is contained within your allocation letter for next session.

**Woodland visits**

The 3-5 visits for this term are now complete for this term. The children in the 3-5 playrooms will still have walks to the woods before the end of June, to have a look at our transition tree and see what new things have been added. There will also be some woodland visits during the summer for the children who attend during this time. We will then put in place a new calendar for the start of the new term in August. All children will have the opportunity to visit on a rotational basis.

**Pre-school outings**

The pre-school children really enjoyed their visits to Eglington Park on the minibus with Amanda our link community practitioner. They had lots of fun exploring the park in small groups of 12 and were very excited to be going on the bus, fun days were had by all who attended.

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**Staff team**

We are currently waiting for confirmation from EAC regarding our staffing allocations for next term. We will then be in a position to provide you with details of your child’s playroom (if they are changing sessions) and their key worker.

**Reports and Parent Meetings**

Thank you to the parents who spoke with their child’s key worker during their planned parent/staff meeting. We hope this provided you with valuable information regarding your child’s learning and progress within the ECC.

If you missed your meeting and haven’t re-scheduled another appointment, your child’s report can be viewed on their learning journal. If you would like to add any comments, please let your key worker know and they will include this in the report.

**Questionnaires**

Thank you to the 31 parents who completed the online annual feedback questionnaire. Results from the parent questionnaires will be compiled and available for you to view. We appreciate and value your contributions. Your views and comments will help with our self-evaluation process as we strive to continually improve the service we provide.

**Summer attendance (48-week children)**

Could you please complete the online questionnaire, or speak to Janet/Linzi in the office, regarding your child’s summer attendance. We require this information to plan for the summer period and to ensure that accurate meal and snack numbers are provided for the central kitchen. Thank you if you have already completed this survey or updated us with your plans.

**Last day of term**

If you have not already done so, could you please complete the online form regarding pick up times on Friday 30th June, which is the last day of term for all term time children. As the school will be closing early on this day, we will open the gate early for parents wanting to collect their child from the ECC at the same time as school pick-ups.

**Fundraising**

Thank you so much to the families who participated in our sponsored Whatriggs Walkathon and contributed by collecting sponsor money to support our end of term activities. We raised an amazing amount of £1041 and really appreciate all your efforts and contributions, we were overwhelmed with the amount raised.

Below are some examples of how we will use the money donated.

* Summer stay and play day
* Pre-school graduation and child leaver gifts
* End of term parties including entertainer and face painter
* Pre-school outings (Cost of buses to Eglington Park)
* Gardening/planting materials to support with developing our garden

**\*\*Reminder\*\*** **Upcoming Events / Dates for your diary!**

**Summer outdoor stay and play**

We would like to invite all parents/carers to the ECC garden for a summer themed stay and play session on Wednesday 14th June. Times to attend are as follows:-

* AM session/full day children (8-6), 9.30-10.30am
* PM session, 1.15-2.15pm
* 9-3 children, 3.00-4.00pm

There will be different stations and activities for you to explore with your child.

Please note, this is a parent/carer event and your child will need to be accompanied, as we do not have the staffing capacity for staff to attend with children.

**Pre-school leavers Graduations**

MM900318197[1]It is nearly time for our pre-school children to leave the ECC and make the exciting move to P1. Our graduations are planned for Wednesday 21st June for all of the children who will be leaving to start school after the summer. You will have the opportunity to visit to see your child receiving their certificate and graduation gifts and to take a photo of your child in our Whatriggs ECC photo booth. Further information regarding your child’s group time slot will have been issued by your child’s playroom. If you are unsure of the time to attend, please ask a member of staff.

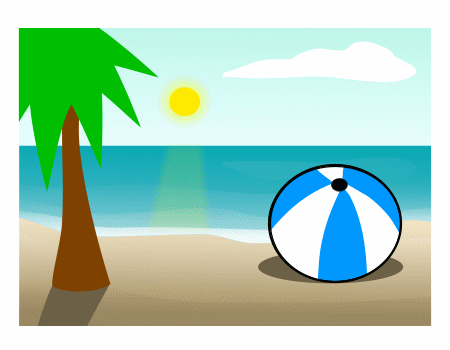
In addition, the children will sing some songs, this will be recorded alongside some photos from their time in the ECC and made into a video for you to view.

**Summer beach party**

Parties for the 3-5 playrooms will take place in the garden on Tuesday 27th June. The morning party times are 9.30-11.15am and the afternoon party begins at 1.15pm and finishes at 3.00pm. Please bring and collect your child at their usual session times. If your pre-school child does not attend on a Tuesday, they would be welcome to come along for one of the party times noted above. You would need to let us know in advance if you are planning for your child to attend so that we can plan for this and ensure we are meeting adult/child ratios. Please let us know by Friday 16th June if your child will be joining us.

We have also booked children’s entertainer from ‘Hop N Bop’ for our party day. Unfortunately, she had limited availability and was already booked on the Tuesday morning. Therefore, she will be coming to the ECC from 1.30-2.30pm. Children from the 3-5s morning session would be welcome to return to the ECC at 1.30-2.30pm if you would like your child to be involved.

For the children within the 2-3 room, we will be having an end of term fun week with various summer activities planned for each day.



Although it is still a few weeks until the end of term, staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday when it comes. Thank you for your continued support of the ECC.

**We will see all of our returning children on Monday 21st August for the start of the 2023/2024 session.**