 **Newsletter**

**Message from Christine our Head of Centre**

**Welcome back to being part of our Glen family again. Our new term is well under way, we are delighted at how well all of our returning children have resettled, and our new children have settled into our centre. Although we are all adapting and living in different times at the moment you can be reassured that the one thing that will always stay the same is our commitment in ensuring that we will nurture and support your child’s social, emotional and mental wellbeing by engaging meaningfully with yourselves at all times.**

**Please check our twitter and nursery blog for regular updates on both child initiated learning experiences and opportunities that staff have provided to give that spark of interest in learning. I am sure you will enjoy seeing these photos but also be amazed at how much your child is learning through their play.**

**Christine**



In the **Squirrels** we have had great fun in the woods and in the garden. We have been picking blackberries and brambles. We have tasted them made a pie with them and used them for painting and mark making. In the garden we have grown beetroot which we have used for colouring playdough, painting with and we have tried some cooked beetroot at snack time.

We have collected various natural resources when out and about and have make a den which you can see at the far corner of the garden. We have been using magnifying glasses to hunt for mini beasts in the garden.

We have been using the powder paint to mix and create colours in our creative areas and outdoors we are painting with mud which has been great fun.

In the **Acorns** we are all settled in to the routine welcoming our returners and some new friends. We spend most of the time in our garden and local woods where the children have been exploring the river, mud and the local community. We have been collecting sticks, acorns and leaves and will be using them for our math week next week. We have been using our creavity outdoor and using mud to make pictures and makes on the fence. The children are working on developing their confidence when outdoor through walking, climbing and balancing.

We have been working on problem solving and building towers using blocks, lego and wooden shapes. We have explored the water inside using the sensory light water fountains allowing the children to experience changing coloured lights water fountains. We have been making music using our music rhythm bags, listening the guitar and having a wee strum as well as making our own music using our hands and natural material.

The children have been enjoying snack and lunch times in our new room and are all working on feeding themselves with a little support when needed. All the children are happily eating there delicious packed lunches and making healthy choices at snack time.

**Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan**

Every school and early learning and childcare centre has a plan to help them on their improvement journey. In Glen, we identify priorities relevant to our children and centre by identifying these through monitoring, self-evaluation and in consultation with our staff, parents/carers and children. Please see the attachments for both of these documents. A paper copy is available on request.

**Coronavirus – keeping safe**

Thank you for continuing to support us as we continue to adhere to the Scottish Government guidelines. You will have received our parent friendly risk assessment when your child started with us as and we will continue to monitor and update our practice if required and ensure that we keep you informed by email and text.

If your child, or anyone else in the household has symptoms, please follow government advice on self-isolation and testing and inform us of the outcome. In particular, please be aware of the updated guidance for East Renfrewshire residents. Any child displaying Covid-19 in nursery will be isolated and parents contacted to collect them. Staff will be sent home immediately and advised to seek testing. We will follow advice from Public Health Services on any action that must be taken in

the event of a confirmed case. Please ensure you adhere to Government quarantine advice if you travel abroad.

**Contingency planning**

As part of our recovery planning in June we made plans to support families in the event of a partial return to nursery. This blended learning approach was not required due to the full reopening of schools and nurseries; however, in the event of a need of a partial closure due to further lockdown, these plans may have to be put in place. These take into account the attendance pattern that siblings would attend their relevant nurseries and schools. We all hope that this does not need to happen however, the plans are already if required to ensure you and your child can access blended approach to continue to support learning experiences at home and nursery.

**Transitions from home to nursery – settling in**

We hope that you and your child have benefitted from the Social story, twitter and blog feeds, risk assessment and virtual nursery tour to help support the transition from home to nursery.

**Check in phone conversations**

Keyworkers have allocated check in phone call slots, which many of you have already booked into. These will be offered monthly and are to provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child’s wellbeing. We are planning a Parent’s Consultation evening in November, where your child’s keyworker will discuss their progress in learning with further details to follow. These will be by phone calls and/or emails due to Corona virus restrictions. However, please do not hesitate to call out with these appointment times if you have a matter of urgency to discuss.

Thank you to everyone who recently completed our Return to Nursery questionnaire, your feedback has been extremely positive and we hope that by offering the wellbeing calls this will help alleviate any anxieties that you may have.

**Maths Week Scotland**

28th September – 4th October

In Glen we will be having a particular focus on numeracy activities across all areas of the nursery indoors and outdoors. Staff will be tweeting maths challenges for you to join in with us from home. We always enjoy seeing your twitter posts .Learning is meaningful when children can connected from home to nursery.

**Snack**



We provide a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon snack to all children along with milk and water to drink. The children help plan the menu each week and this is shared with you on Twitter. We hope that by sharing the menu, you will be able to talk to your child about the choices they have and perhaps encourage them to try something new. Our snack menu will be displayed at each playroom door for you to see and added to our twitter feeds.

**Nursery Fund**

At Glen Family Centre we ask parents to contribute £2.50 per week to our nursery fund. The money raised from these contributions is used to buy snacks, food for parties and special celebrations, resources to support child responsive planning and activities like baking, cooking and gardening.

We accept payments online using a secure website called Parent Pay. Payment can be made using your credit or debit card. **Parent Pay is our preferred method of making payments**. Parent Pay is easy-to-use and offers the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7. Payments can be made by credit/debit card and full payment history and statements are available. Please speak to Moira for details of how to sign up for this.

New parents will be issued with details when your child begins.

If you want to find out more about Parent Pay go to: [www.parentpay.com/Parents](http://www.parentpay.com/Parents)

**Holiday Dates for your diary**

Our centre now provides year round provision for all children with the exception of public holidays and in-service days (meaning we are open during most school holidays)

Please note the following dates this term when we are not open.

**September bank holiday weekend (centre closed) - Friday 25th and Monday 28th**

**September**

**In-service day (centre closed to all children) - Monday 19th October.**

**As all children now attend throughout the year, please ensure you also advise us if your child is on holiday or is not going to attend during any school holiday periods.**

**Nursery absences**

In Glen, we value regular attendance and encourage you to bring your child

each day unless they are unwell. If your child is going to be absent from nursery, please e-mail schoolmail@glen.e-renfrew.sch.uk to inform us prior to their session starting.

Alternatively, please telephone (0141 570 7510) before 9.30am (morning children) or 1.30pm (afternoon children).