



## Head Teacher's Message

Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely festive break and enjoyed precious time with your families. It's been wonderful to welcome the children back to nursery and to hear their happy chatter as they settle into the new term.

As we look ahead, I'd like to share some updates and exciting opportunities for the term ahead. Firstly, we have made a small change to how we manage our registers. From now on, we kindly ask that all parents and carers sign their child in and out of the building using the Whiteboard Registers outside the Playrooms. This will help us ensure accuracy and safety in our daily routines, and we appreciate your support as we make this adjustment.

We are also delighted to announce that tennis sessions will be starting for the children later this month. Led by a qualified coach, these sessions will be a fun and active way for the children to build their coordination, teamwork, and confidence. We know they'll have a great time learning new skills while staying active. In addition to this, our much-loved Bookbug sessions will continue this term. These sessions provide families with the chance to enjoy songs, rhymes, and stories together in a relaxed and joyful setting. They're a fantastic way to support your child's early literacy development while spending some quality time together. Have a look at this term's dates, times and topics.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm as we work together to create the best possible experiences for the children. It's a privilege to see them grow and thrive, and your involvement makes **such** a difference.

Warm regards,



# Registers and Attendance Changes

Justin sits on East Renfrewshire Council's Culture and Climate Workstream and is working with colleagues across the authority looking at Attendance and Safeguarding. As part of our efforts to further enhance our current safeguarding practices, as well as streamline our daily routines, we are introducing a new procedure for managing registers. From this term onward, we kindly ask **all** parents and carers to **sign their child in and out of the building**.

This change will ensure that we have an even more accurate record of attendance at all times and allow us to respond more efficiently in case of emergencies. We greatly appreciate your support in adapting to this new system, and our team will be available to assist anyone who needs guidance as we transition to this process.

Should you know that your child will not be attending the Family Centre, we kindly ask that you phone or email to let us know **by 9:30am at the latest**.

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe and well-organised environment for the children!



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# Lunches at Hazeldene

We are introducing a new approach to lunch this term, with meals now being served across three sittings. This change has been made to create a calmer and more enjoyable dining experience for the children, allowing smaller groups to sit together during each mealtime.

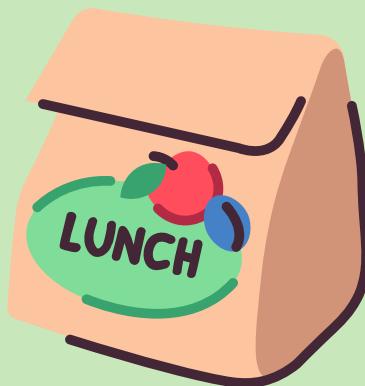
Our aim is to provide a warm, home-like atmosphere at the dining table, where children can develop their social and communication skills, build independence, and enjoy their meals in a relaxed setting. With fewer children at each sitting, our team can focus more on supporting the children with tasks like pouring drinks, using cutlery, and engaging in meaningful conversations—just like at home.

We believe this change will help foster positive relationships and good table manners, while also giving every child the time and space they need to enjoy their meal without feeling rushed. Thank you for your support as we implement this new system, and we look forward to seeing the children thrive in this new lunchtime routine!

First Sitting - 11:45 - 12:30am

Second Sitting - 12:30 - 1:15pm

Third Sitting - 1:15 - 2:00pm



# Primary One Registration

A gentle reminder that you can apply for a P1 school catchment place for your child if you currently live within East Renfrewshire Council or will be living within the authority by the start of the new session in August 2025. All relevant information about the application process can be found here:

<https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/1334/Apply-for-primary-1>

## Deferring Entry

If a child is **not** yet 5 years old on 1 August in the year which they are supposed to commence their primary education, parents/carers have an automatic right to defer their child's entry to primary 1 until the following academic year. In such cases, children will be entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare.

Parents of children who reach the age of five before 1 August have no automatic right to defer their child's entry to school. It's expected that all children aged 5 before 1 August would start Primary 1 in that year. Where a child has turned 5 prior to 1 August and the parent wishes to defer entry to primary school, an exceptional application should be made. All exceptional applications are considered by a panel to decide if a further year of a nursery funding is appropriate.

**In either case you must still complete a Primary 1 catchment application where you can note your intention to defer/apply to defer.**





## Bookbug Sessions 2025

After our incredibly successful Christmas Stay and Play Bookbug Sessions we are really keen to continue these into the New Year!

Please see below the dates, times and themes for our upcoming Bookbug Sessions:

**Wednesday 22nd January @ 9:30am** - National Storytelling Week

**Wednesday 5th March @ 9:30am** - World Book Day

**Wednesday 26th March @ 9:30am** - Eid al Fitr

**Wednesday 23rd April @ 9:30am** - Easter

# Active Schools @ Hazeldene

We are really excited to continue our relationship with East Renfrewshire Active Schools Team. They have organised input from Whitecraigs Tennis Club to develop our hand-eye coordination; ball skills; throwing and catching and gross-motor skills development. Coaches will work with the children on the following dates in the Oak Garden Playground Area.

## 3 year old Tennis Sessions

- Tuesday 14th January - 10:40 - 11:40
- Tuesday 21st January - 10:40 - 11:40
- Tuesday 28th January - 10:40 - 11:40
- Tuesday 4th February - 10:40 - 11:40

## 4/5 year old Tennis Sessions

- Tuesday 11th February - 10:40 - 11:40
- Tuesday 25th February - 10:40 - 11:40
- Tuesday 4th March - 10:40 - 11:40
- Tuesday 11th March - 10:40 - 11:40





## Toy Fund

A wee reminder that Shona Mathie, our Parent Representative, put out a short questionnaire to gather views of the parent body around Toy Fund spending.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V26RGHG>

Should any parent wish to be involved in the Toy Fund Committee you are more than welcome to attend our next meeting - currently scheduled for **12:15pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025.**

## Dates for your Diary

Event	Date
Re-open	Monday 6 January
Last day of school	Friday 14 February
mid term	Monday 17 February
Mid term	Tuesday 18 February
In-service	Wednesday 19 February
Re-open	Thursday 20 February
Last day of school	Friday 4 April