



Dear Families,

Head Teacher's Message

As we move into the final weeks of the year, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the wonderful support you continue to show our Family Centre. December is always a busy and joyful month, and it brings so many opportunities to celebrate the children's achievements, their growing confidence, and the sense of community we build together.

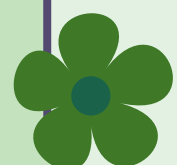
As always, our aim is to work in partnership **with** you, keeping communication clear and ensuring the best possible experiences for your children. Please do take a moment to read through the updates inside, as they help us keep everything running smoothly—especially at this busy time of year.

December is a month of excitement, kindness, and togetherness, and we are looking forward to sharing these moments with your children. Whether it's winter crafts, outdoor adventures, or simply enjoying stories and songs together, the magic of the season is already filling our playrooms.

On behalf of the whole Hazeldene team, I wish you and your families a peaceful, joyful, and cosy festive season. Thank you for being such a valued part of our community—your support truly makes all the difference.

Warmest wishes,

Justin





Care Inspectorate Report

Since our last newsletter Hazeldene Family Centre was inspected by the Care Inspectorate through an unannounced inspection of our service. We were delighted to receive the following evaluations of these Quality Indicators:

Leadership: Very Good

Children play and learn: Very Good

Children are supported to achieve: Very Good

We are delighted to share some of the wonderful feedback from our recent inspection. The inspectors recognised many strengths across our Family Centre:

- **A strong, motivated team**

Inspectors praised the leadership and the whole staff team for working together with energy and commitment. This teamwork has helped us keep improving our play and learning experiences for all children.

- **Warm, caring relationships**

Our staff were recognised for being nurturing, kind and highly responsive to children's individual needs. Inspectors noted that children are genuinely known, valued and cared for every day.

- **A positive team culture**

Inspectors highlighted how respectful and supportive our staff are with each other, with families, and with the children. This positive ethos helps create a welcoming and calm environment for everyone.

- **Happy, confident children**

One of the things we are most proud of is that inspectors saw how happy and settled our children are. They described children as confident, having fun, and enjoying warm and nurturing care from staff who understand them well.

Care Inspectorate Report

- **Strong relationships with families**

The inspection team recognised the strong connections we build with our families. Our staff's enthusiasm and genuine care were identified as key strengths of the centre.

- **Child-led learning**

Inspectors also praised our planning approaches, noting that learning is shaped by children's interests. Staff gather children's ideas through daily conversations, observations and reflective discussions, making sure their voices guide our play and learning.

If you would like to read the full report, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—our community spirit is a big part of what makes Hazeldene such a special place for children to grow and thrive.



Mini Kickers Taster Sessions

We have thoroughly enjoyed having visits from Mini Kickers at Hazeldene. The children have loved being active outdoors, developing their gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Please see below a letter to families should you decide to continue with Mini Kickers now their nursery sessions have come to a close



ER Football Development – Nursery Taster Programme

Dear Parent / Carer,

We've really enjoyed working with your child's nursery over the past few weeks to introduce the children to our Mini Kickers football activities. During our three-week visit, the children have had great fun taking part in games and challenges that help build confidence, coordination and a love of being active.

As our nursery visit programme concludes, we'd love to invite your child to come along and try one of our Mini Kicker community football sessions for free! These sessions are part of our wider Enjoy East Ren programme, which runs across East Renfrewshire.

If you'd like to book your free taster session, please fill out our short booking form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/R4C1PBJFL9>

Bookings will open on Monday 24th November from 9.00am and close on Friday 5th December 12pm. You will receive confirmation of your taster booking ahead of your child's session.

Taster sessions are available on specific dates and times which you will be able to select when completing the above form. Please note, all taster sessions will operate on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Football Development coordinator Iain McFarlane at the below email address:

Iain.McFarlane@enjoyeastren.org

Kind regards,

John Gervaise
Scottish FA Football Development Officer

Adverse Weather Arrangements

Winter Readiness

As we move into the winter months, we want to make sure all families are fully informed about how we will communicate any disruption caused by adverse weather. Your child's safety and wellbeing is always our priority, and clear communication helps us make decisions quickly and confidently.

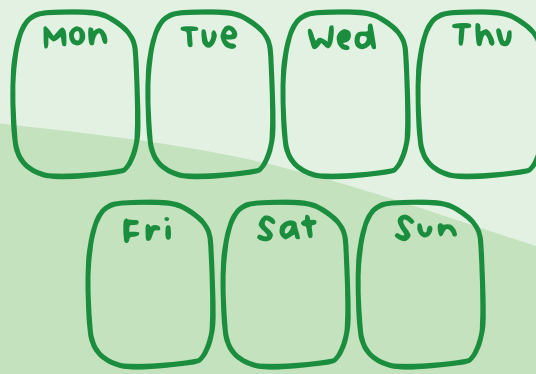
Over the last few weeks, Linda has been carrying out our annual data check, ensuring we have the most up-to-date email addresses and mobile numbers for every family. This information is essential so that we can reach you without delay should weather conditions affect the safe operation of the Family Centre.

If we ever need to close or make changes to opening arrangements due to snow, ice, or severe weather, we will inform families via GroupCall, which sends messages directly to your inbox. Please continue to let us know if your contact details change so we can update them immediately.

For closures lasting longer than a single session, we will also post updates on the Hazeldene Family Centre website, ensuring you have another reliable place to check for information.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep everyone safe during the winter season. If you have any questions about our adverse weather procedures, please do not hesitate to get in touch.





A Gentle Reminder About Attendance Patterns and Session Times

As we continue to work in partnership with families, we would like to offer a polite reminder about the different attendance patterns available at Hazeldene and the importance of following your child's agreed session times.

To ensure that our staffing levels always meet the required adult-to-child ratios, it is essential that children arrive and are collected within their allocated times. When children are dropped off early or collected late, it can affect these ratios and the safe, smooth running of the playroom.

For clarity, the attendance patterns currently offered are:

- **5 mornings (48 weeks):** 8.00am – 12.45pm
- **5 afternoons (48 weeks):** 1.00pm – 5.45pm
- **2.5 days (48 weeks):** For example, 2 full days 8.00am – 5.30pm and 1 half day 8.00am – 12.45pm/ 1.00pm - 5:45pm
- **5 days (38 weeks):** 9.00am – 3.00pm

We kindly ask all families to ensure they adhere to their child's agreed attendance pattern. This helps us maintain high-quality care, keep all children safe, and support the routines that make the day run smoothly for everyone.

If you are unsure of your child's pattern or feel your circumstances have changed, please speak to us— we're always happy to help.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and continued support.

Keeping Everyone Healthy

The Importance of Handwashing

As we move through the winter months, we naturally see a rise in seasonal bugs, colds, and flu. It's very common for young children to build their immune systems while attending nursery, and a certain amount of illness is expected at this age. However, we also have an important role to play in reducing the spread of infection and keeping everyone in our community as healthy as possible.

To support this, the Family Centre places a strong emphasis on regular, effective handwashing, and during the winter season we 'ramp up' these routines even further. Handwashing is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent germs from spreading, and it helps protect not only the children, but also families and staff.

Our handwashing routines include:

- Washing hands as soon as children arrive in the morning
- Before and after snack and lunch
- After using the toilet
- After outdoor play
- After coughing, sneezing, or wiping noses

These routines are well embedded, and the children are becoming increasingly independent and confident in managing them. We continue to support them with gentle reminders and lots of encouragement.

We ask for your help at home too. Encouraging good handwashing before nursery, after school runs, and during family routines helps reinforce the message and strengthens the protective measures we have in place.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep Hazeldene a safe, healthy place for everyone. A little extra care goes a long way—especially during the winter months.

Primary One Registration

At the start of December 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 2026. 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 (DOB from 01.08.2021 to 28.02.22) on 1 August in the year which they are supposed to commence their primary education, parents/carers have a 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.



ELC Registration for 2026/27

At the start of December you can apply for a nursery place for session 2026/27.

You **must** apply using the address that you currently live at. If you're due to move house in the foreseeable future you must supply evidence of this and your placement may be allocated on a provisional basis. You may need to supply further evidence before your child begins their placement.

The deadline for submitting an online ELC application for session 2026-27 closes on **31 January 2025**. If you apply for a place **prior** to the January deadline, allocation emails will be issued towards the end of April. If you do not receive an email, please remember to check your junk mail before contacting East Renfrewshire Early Learning and Childcare.

If you currently attend Hazeldene Family Centre and intend to stay with us for your child's preschool year and you are happy with your attendance pattern then **you do not** need to submit an application. However, should you wish to try and change your child's attendance pattern for session 2026/27 (e.g. *move from AM Only to Core 9-3*) then you **should** submit an application by the January deadline. If successful, the new attendance pattern would commence in August 2026 of the child's pre-school year.





Toy Fund

You may have noticed that Linda has been emailing information to you regarding setting up ParentPay for Toy Fund donations. This is because we do not accept cash donations for security reasons. A reminder that Toy Fund donations are **completely voluntary** and all funds raised go towards experiences for **all** the children.

The Toy Fund Committee met recently to discuss recent spending and ideas moving forwards. 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 **9:00am on Friday 23rd January 2026**.



Christmas @ Hazeldene

A reminder that if your child doesn't attend the Family Centre on the scheduled Sing A Long day, you can still attend the concert with them and take them home afterwards.

Event	Date
Christmas Sing A Long Concert - (Woodpeckers, Frogs, Butterflies, Foxes)	Thursday 18th December 1:30PM
Christmas Sing A Long Concert - (Hedgehogs, Deer, Squirrels,)	Friday 19th December 1:30PM