



Head Teacher's Message

Hello Families,

As the golden colours of autumn arrive, our Centre is full of energy, curiosity, and new beginnings. This month's newsletter is packed with updates that I hope you'll find both useful and exciting - we start by informing you of a few staffing updates.

We are delighted to tell you about our partnership with 'Think Equal' - a global initiative designed to tackle discrimination and prejudice through the power of storytelling.

We are delighted to officially relaunch our Forest Kindergarten Sessions! Over the next pages, you can read more about our journey at The Woods, what these longer outdoor sessions will look like, and answers to common questions.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and trust. It is such a privilege to share these early years with your children - learning, playing, and growing together.

Warm Regards,

Justin

Staff News



We are delighted to introduce Richa who will be our new, permanent Business Support Assistant in the Office helping the Lovely Linda! We are delighted to welcome Richa to Team Hazeldene!



Alice will be leaving us in the coming months as she is going to become a Mummy!

We wish Alice and her family all the best and for the safe arrival of their precious Little One! We can't wait to meet them!

We are currently advertising for a replacement CDO for the Hedgehogs group and will be in touch with those families once the recruitment process is complete.



After many years of working full-time, Janette will be reducing to part-time hours . From Jan 2027, the Frogs group will be shared between Janette and Charlotte.



Parents of children in the Frogs have already been notified but for your information, Charlotte will work Mondays, Tuesdays and Janette will work Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday will be their handover day.



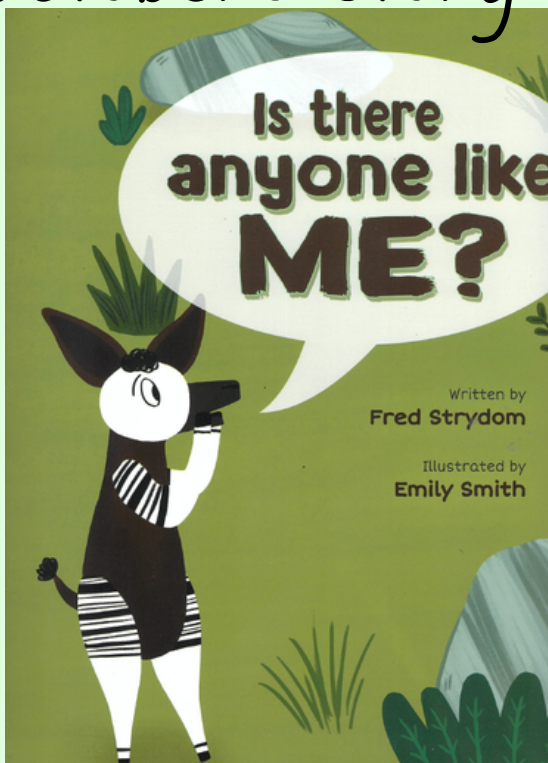
Hazeldene Family Centre is delighted to be partnering with the Think Equal programme this session.

Think Equal is a global initiative which calls for a system change in education, to end the discriminatory mindset and the cycle of violence across our world and ensure positive life outcomes for our children.

You may have noticed a display in the Rowan Room and at the Parent Sign-In Sheets regarding our "Story of the Month". Each month, we will cover an assigned story from the Think Equal programme and engage the children in a range of experiences using the context from the story.

In addition, we will share a range of optional Home Learning experiences on Seesaw that you can do at home to reinforce the key vocabulary and messages contained within the story. We'd love to see what you get up to at home!

October's Story is...



Key Vocabulary

Same	Special
Unique	Different



Toy Fund



Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Toy Fund. In the past, your support has helped fund termly input from Active Schools; French lessons for our preschool children; and resources for our Forest Kindergarten sessions.

Contributions are entirely optional. If you would like to contribute, please speak to Linda or Richa, who can set this up for you on ParentPay.

All parents are welcome to attend our termly Toy Fund Committee meetings to hear how the fund is used and help shape future spending. Our next meeting is in January, and we would love to see you there.

This term we had MultiSports with ERC Active Schools Coaches!



Forest Kindergarten Sessions



Thank you to those of you who were able to come along to our Forest Kindergarten Parent Information Session at the start of September. Four years into our Woods journey, we are really excited to be able to officially relaunch our Forest Kindergarten Sessions at Hazeldene.

The following pages outline what was discussed on the evening of the Information Session so consistent communication has been sent across our Family Centre Community.

Our Journey at The Woods

Over the past three years, the children have been on a wonderful journey of learning and adventure in The Woods.

In their first year, the children explored important life skills such as learning about road safety through the '**Crossing the Road**' song. They took turns with the leader stick, discovered how to manage risky play safely, and learned about the Golden Rule of '**If You Can't See Us, We Can't See You**'.

As the children moved into their second year, their experiences grew. They helped to **establish camps**, enjoyed **sharing snacks together** in the woods, and stayed for **longer visits**. Many children began attending the woods every day, giving them even more chances to explore, play, and learn in nature. These longer sessions have supported deeper, high-quality outdoor learning.

Year Three was the biggest and best as we **launched our day-long** Forest Kindergarten Sessions last October. Who knows where Year Four will take us?

Forest Kindergarten Sessions

Frequently Asked Questions

When are you going to The Woods?

- We are proposing to take your child to The Woods on their **allocated Woods Day from 9:30am to 2:45pm**. Woods Days are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We will not go to The Woods on Wednesdays as that's when our Weekly Staff Meeting is.

Are you really going to go in every weather?

- Yes, that's the plan. In some circumstances – like high wind speeds or national weather warnings – Justin, the Head Teacher, will make the decision as to whether it is safe for children to attend The Woods.

Does my child have to go?

- No, absolutely not. If, as a family, you decide that you would rather your child not take part in the Forest Kindergarten experience then please notify Robert Aitken, Senior Child Development Officer.

Will my child go hungry/thirsty?

- No. As part of your 1140 hour entitlement, we are duty bound to provide a lunch with a hot and cold element. East Renfrewshire Council have committed to providing a hot lunch on your child's Woods Day. We will also provide a morning and afternoon snack as per their indoors experience. The snack will consist of fruit, water and a simple carbohydrate (e.g. crackers, rice cakes). A water station will be available throughout the session. However, if you feel more comfortable providing your own packed lunch on your child's Woods Day then this is also possible, as long as it complies with the national 'Setting The Table' guidance.

What do we need to bring?

- **Warm Clothes!** On your child's Woods Day we would appreciate it they arrived at the Family Centre on this day **suitably dressed**. We will continue to provide waterproof trousers and jackets but **wellingtons, thermal layers, hats & gloves** and a **change of clothes** (*for little accidents*) will be essential to ensure children are warm enough whatever the weather.

Forest Kindergarten Sessions

Frequently Asked Questions

My child only attends in the morning or afternoon - what about them?

- They can still take part and we have factored this into our allocation of Woods Days. To ensure that we maximise the duration of time at The Woods we would kindly ask that **Morning Children** are **collected from** Base Camp at 12:45 in the Woods and that **Afternoon Children** are **dropped off** at Base Camp at 1:00. We have emailed out a link to a video to signpost families to the location of Base Camp.

Can my child have more than one Woods Day a week?

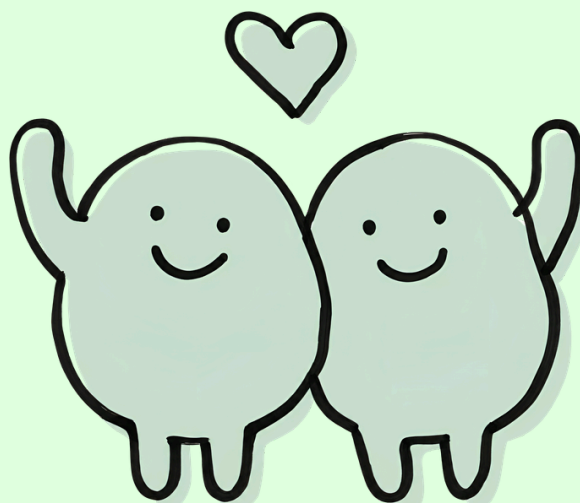
- As we embark on this journey together we would politely ask that children only attend The Woods on their allocated Woods Day. As we grow and learn together there may be scope for additional days but this will ultimately come down to children's attendance; staffing and maintaining adult:child ratios set by the Care Inspectorate.

What if my child needs the toilet while at The Woods?

- This is not a problem - we have dedicated toilet tents available. These provide children with privacy and dignity while they use the toilet. We also follow strict infection control and hygiene measures to make sure the facilities are safe, clean, and comfortable for every child.

Vacancies

Over the coming months we will be advertising for a range of posts at Hazeldene Family Centre. This is due to staff reducing hours, moving into new posts and additional staffing budget ahead of our new two-year-old provision. To be involved in the recruitment process, please give us your feedback at our Drop-Off and Pick-Up Flipchart Station.





Building Work at Hazeldene during October Week



Building work will take place at Hazeldene Family Centre during the October Week term-time holiday as we prepare to introduce provision for two-year-old children alongside our existing provision for three to five year olds.

The work will include adaptations to our playrooms and improvements to toileting and changing facilities to meet the needs of younger children.

Scheduling the work during the holiday week will minimise disruption to children and families but we remain cognisant that some families will still be accessing the Family Centre at this time.

There may be some temporary changes to building access or playroom arrangements e.g. not utilising the cloakroom pegs in the Oak Room. Staff will endeavour to notify you of these changes at their earliest opportunity; however, we would be deeply grateful for your patience and flexibility as we work to keep everyone safe. Staff will also help the children become familiar with any changes to their play spaces.

Thank you in advance for your patience and support. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (*Justin, Louisa, Karen, Pauline, Robert & Deborah*)



Our Family Tree

If you haven't done so already, please hand in a 6x4 family photo so we can add you to our Family Tree Display in the Rowan Room. This is particularly helpful for children who are still settling as we can show them your happy, smiling faces and remind them that "Mums and Dads Always Come Back!"



Family Centre Closures

A wee reminder for those families who do not follow School Holidays and attend on a 48 week model. Please see below a 'Cheat Sheet' for your fridge to show our closure dates for session 2026/27.

Hazeldene Family Centre Holiday Dates 2026-27 (48 Week Model)

In-Service	Monday 10 th August 2026
In-Service	Tuesday 11 th August 2026
September Weekend	Friday 25 th September 2026
September Weekend	Monday 28 th September 2026
In-Service	Friday 9 th October 2026
Last Day of Nursery - Christmas	Thursday 24 th December 2026 (Early closure)
Children Return	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
In-Service	Wednesday 17 th February 2027
Good Friday	Friday 26 th March 2027
Easter Monday	Monday 29 th March 2027
May Day	Monday 3 rd May 2027
In-Service	Thursday 6 th May 2027
May Weekend	Friday 28 th May 2027
May Weekend	Monday 31 st May 2027
Glasgow Fair	Monday 19 th July 2027