Hi everyone,

We’ve got our fingers crossed that Santa can make a surprise appearance in Cart Mill over the next week. We completely understand that Santa’s super busy in his workshop in the North Pole at this time of year but know he’ll take time out of his busy schedule to visit our very excited children.

**Holidays are Coming!**

Please remember that term-time children and staff finish for the festive period on Friday 20th December 2024.

Our 48 week children finish on Tuesday 24th December, with all staff finishing for the holidays at 2pm, when the centre closes for the holidays.

Cart Mill reopens after all the festive fun on Friday 3rd January 2025 for 48 week children and Monday 6th January 2025 for term time children.

**Holiday Tips**

If you’re wondering how you’ll survive the holidays, there are top tips for keeping active, looking after yourself and of course keeping children busy with fun festive activities that won’t break the bank here: <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/wellbeing-and-mental-health/wellbeing-for-parents> and <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/how-do-christmas-budget>

Julia Clements, Principle Educational Psychologist at Place2Be, has created a blog for parents and carers with tips, resources and advice on supporting children’s wellbeing over the holidays. Please click on the link: [Wellbeing during school holidays](https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/december/supporting-your-child-s-wellbeing-during-the-school-holidays/?utm_source=Schools&utm_campaign=73cffd6296-Non-Partner_Schools_Newsletter_December_2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c6b02a1e38-73cffd6296-221363956)

**Christmas Concert**

We ask children to wear something festive on Wednesday 18th December for our very special Christmas Concert. Mince pies and hot chocolate (for adults) will be served on arrival at 9am and 3.30pm, prior to the concert starting.

Children have been singing their songs enthusiastically in Cart Mill and you’ll know all the words from your child sharing the songs at home too. I’m sure they’ll be an opportunity for a sing-a-long at the end of the children’s performance!

Due to limited space we ask that you only come to the concert you’ve signed up for, space is very limited due to the number of adults we can accommodate.

We can assure you that this concert will be one of the highlights of the festive period, perhaps even the year! You’ll be so proud!

**East Renfrewshire A Place to Grow**

A new East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership vision – *East Renfrewshire A Place to Grow* – has been launched. The vision sets out the shared hopes and aspirations between now and 2040 so that East Renfrewshire is a place where everyone can flourish, thrive and grow. Find out more about the vision and watch a fantastic video of the area at [eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/placetogrow](https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/placetogrow)

**Reusing/Recycling**

Do you ever receive beautifully wrapped gifts and then wonder what to do with the packaging once they’re opened? Or perhaps you plan to pop open a few bottles over the festive season? We’d really love to accept any used gift boxes, gift bags, ribbon, cellophane, wrapping paper, corks or bottle tops after the holidays.

Children have amazing imaginations and can create wonderful pieces of artwork from the things you might want to throw away.

**Application for P1 is open!**

Please use the following link to read important information regarding applying for P1: [Apply for P1](https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/1334/Apply-for-primary-1)

If your child is not yet 5 years old on 1 August 2025 you may choose to defer entry until the following academic year. Such children will be entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare. Please remember to complete a Primary 1 catchment application where you can note your intention to apply to defer.

Applications for P1 school catchment places should be made by **19 January 2025.**

Applications can be made after 19 January 2025, however, it is advisable to make your application by this date as this provides you with the optimum chance of securing a place in your preferred school.

If you wish your child to attend a school that is not within your area or you will not be residing in East Renfrewshire in August 2025 you should read the following information: [Placing Requests](https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/placing-requests)

We understand that this is a lot of information and are here to answer any questions you may have or help you navigate the application process.

**Christmas Party Friday 20th December**

Thank you for letting us know if your child will be attending our Christmas Party, the lists have now been made up for the afternoon. We’re really looking forward to an afternoon of games, dancing and party snack.

Children who are normally collected by 12.45 on Fridays should be collected at this time and brought back for the party starting at 1.30pm.

Those attending for just the party afternoon should be dropped off at 1.30pm and collected by 2.45pm.

All other children can be collected at their usual Friday pick-up time.

Should you have any questions about drop off or collection times, please just let us know.

**Nursery Applications**

Online applications for nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds is now open. More information can be found here: [Apply for Nursery 2025-26](https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/apply-for-a-nursery-place-for-3-or-4-year-olds-2025-26)

As always, we’re here to help if you need anything at all, if you would just like someone to listen to you or a friendly chat!

Have a lovely weekend with your family.