



Balcurvie Nursery Newsletter

We would like to give a warm welcome to all our new children who started with us in January, they have settled in well and are forming lovely friendships with the children and staff.

Nursery Staffing



1 - We welcome Hannah Dougall, Senior Early Years Officer, back to Balcurvie Nursery 3 days per week. Hannah continues to work as a Development Officer for 2 days per week in the Glenrothes cluster.



2 - Many of you are aware that Lorraine is unfortunately off work at the moment. If Lorraine was your child's keyworker, staff will have spoken to you about your child being allocated a temporary keyworker in her absence.



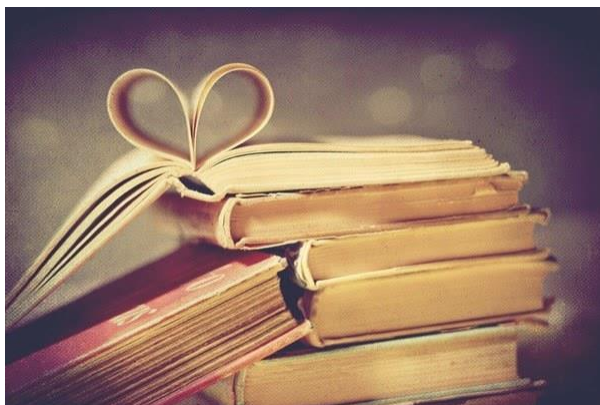
3 - A noticeboard with pictures of the staff team is situated near the toilets in the main playroom. We continue to have students working with us from Fife College.

Outdoor Learning

This term the children will have the opportunity to take part in outdoor learning, this will be through local walks and visits to Kennoway Den. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear and clothing. We will notify you when it is your child's date to go out to the Den. Unfortunately, we currently don't have access to a minibus so we are planning to use public transport.

We are also planning on a trip to the care home. We will keep you informed of when this will be.

What have we been learning?



We have been working on developing the love of reading and sharing books together. The children have been choosing stories for adults to read to them and we have read a wide range of books together, from *The Gruffalo*, to information books about the weather.

The children have been relating the experiences of the characters in the stories they have read to their own experiences. These discussions have led to the children showing their creativity through role play. They have used role play to retell their favourite part of a story and become their favourite character. The dress up area has been used to create many different characters! It has been fantastic to see the children express their creative side with their friends.

The children have also been using the iPads to revisit some stories and songs. The iPads are also being used to search for more information on things the children are interested in. An example of this is the children using the Kids Doodle app to explore mark making. This has allowed the children to explore writing their name and mark making through a variety of media. The children are showing they can use digital technology to support their learning.



4 - Our current learning wall started off as winter and it has developed into learning about celebrations. We have been learning all about Chinese New Year, this year it's the year of the snake. The children have been adding to the learning wall, it's located in our story corner. Please come in and have a look!



Our Nursery Improvement Board



Staff continue to work on our nursery improvement board, which is located in the foyer. Here you will find information about our school and nursery priorities for the year. The board will continually be added to throughout the year.

Our priorities for this year are

- Improve early literacy experiences to ensure pace and challenge
- Improving learning in Digital Technology across the nursery and school
- Updating our Relationships and Behaviour policy

Outdoor Clothing & Footwear



Please ensure your child is adequately dressed for the weather, e.g. coats, hats, gloves and scarves on colder days. We encourage the children to wear puddle suits for outdoor play, however, on dry, warmer days they can get too hot, therefore, please dress your child in clothing that you don't mind getting wet or dirty. Please remember to **name all items of clothing** and check your child's bag regularly for spares, as we do not have many spare trousers and socks! Wet or dirty clothing will be placed in **the box at the nursery door**.

PEEP



Our PEEP Talk sessions for term 3 have begun. The next few sessions are focusing on supporting children with their speech and language skills. Information on the PEEP Talk sessions have been posted on Seesaw, however, the link is below for your information. It is still not too late to sign up to sessions that will take place on 6th March and 13th March. These session will take place at the new time of 9.15am in the school dining hall and will be hosted by Karen Cairns.

[Week 1 What is Peep TALK? What is Learning Together at Home?](#)

Stay & Play

Our Stay & Play dates for term 3 are:-

- Tuesday 4th March
- Friday 7th March - World Book Day, Literacy Themed
- Tuesday 11th March - Childsmile attending to give advice/support on Toothbrushing
- Wednesday 12th March
- 20th March - PEEP Talk Focus

Come and visit during 8am until 9.30am and 11am until 12.30pm. You are welcome to stay in nursery for all of this time but don't feel that you have too, you can drop in for as long as you'd like. Stay and Play also isn't compulsory, you can turn up to as many of these sessions as you want.

Bookbug



Our Bookbug dates for term 3 are

- Friday 28th February
- Wednesday 19th March

Come and join us 08:00-08:45 in the gym hall in the main school building or 14:00-14:45 in the nursery setting. Register sheets are found in the nursery reception area where you can add yours and your child's name to enjoy some storytelling and rhyme fun. These will be run by Hannah Dougall..

Fundraiser & World Book Day



We are going to be holding a nursery fundraiser with the hope of purchasing some new digital literacy resources for our learners.

Our fundraiser this year will have a literacy theme to tie in with World Book day and our improvement focus of developing early literacy skills.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day in nursery and school on Friday 7th March where we will be launching our fundraiser. The children will be asked to read a range of books and learn rhymes over a certain time period and obtain sponsorship for doing this. Details will be given to you on the 7th March, which is also a Stay and Play day! We will be using Seesaw to share rhymes and stories so keep an eye on this

We have attached some photos of some of the resources we hope to purchase with any money raised. If you have any digital literacy resources that your child no longer uses please speak to a member of staff as we may be able to upcycle these!

For World Book Day, children can bring in their favourite book (please write your child's name inside) and come dressed in their PJ's or dress up as their favourite story character. We ask that children do not wear any superhero costumes or bring in masks. There will be opportunities for our older children in nursery to visit the school and share their books with some of the school children and also some older children from the school will be coming in to nursery and sharing books with our younger children.







Literacy Bags

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

We have recently created some literacy bags which are available to take home. These are located in the main entrance to the nursery. Please feel free to take these home and use them with your child, just sign them in & out! If you can, please upload any photos of these being used to Seesaw so we can pop these into the home learning section of the PLJ's. If you need any support with this, please speak to a member of the nursery team. We are open to all feedback on how you are finding these bags, so please speak to a member of staff and let them know how you found it!



50 Things to Do



<https://fife.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome>

Here is a link to 50 Things to Do in Fife, these are low costing or free activities that you and your child could get involved with around the Fife area. There is also a mobile app you can download. We have certificates available for every 10 activities completed!



Donations



Our children love being creative in all areas of the nursery, and we are currently looking for donations to support their learning. If you have any of the following items you no longer need or use, then we would love to be considered to give them a new home.

- Loose parts
- milk bottle tops
- small pieces of wood
- nails
- screws
- Indoor and Outdoor Plants
- corks
- shells
- pots and pans
- wooden spoons for outdoors

- paintbrushes
- old perfume bottles
- Variety of styles of hats
- old handbags
- old car registration plates
- mystical creatures

Nursery Contributions



To enable us to buy new resources and to pay for public transport for visits to the forest/beach, we kindly ask parents and carers to make a suggested **voluntary contribution** of £1.50 a week, however, any donation would be gratefully received. This can be paid termly or weekly. There is a donation box situated in the main nursery reception that this can be placed in. We thank you so much for all your support.

SIMOA - Safety, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act

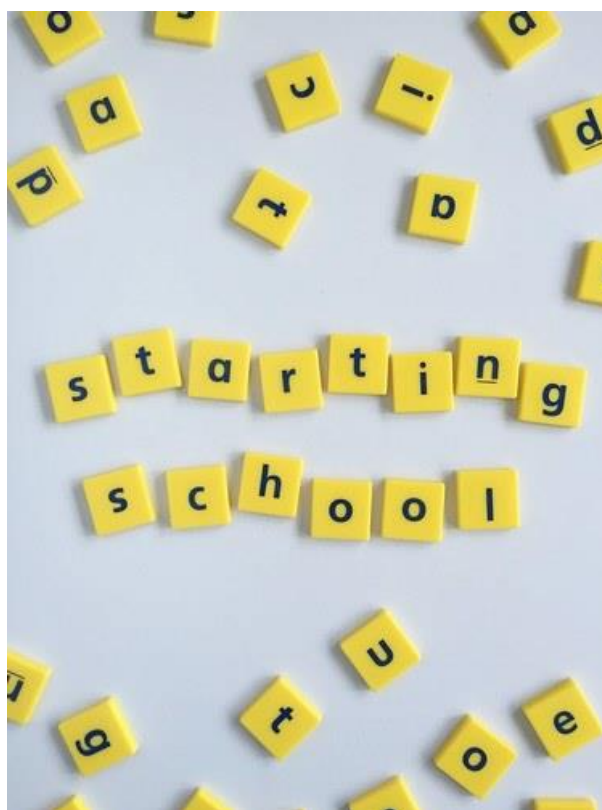


SIMOA is guidance provided by the Care Inspectorate that helps keep children safe whilst at nursery and when out and about. We carry out risk assessments in our garden before playing, going to the woods or the beach and helping us cross the road safely.

In the nursery we have a purple elephant called SIMOA. We would like to hear all about how you keep safe at home so we are starting a SIMOA's Adventures Book. All children will have the opportunity to take SIMOA on an adventure at home over the weekend where he will continue to keep promoting safety, not only at nursery, but during home life too. A 'SIMOA's Adventures' book will be added to the bag for you and your child to tell everyone about your adventures, however big or small. This can be wearing your seatbelt in the car, holding hands when out and about or waiting for the green man to cross the road or staying safe in the kitchen and keeping your door/gate closed at home. We would love it if you can share your adventures of keeping safe by adding pictures/photos and comments in the book. If you don't have a printer at home, these can be uploaded to seesaw and we can print for you or you can email them to karlene.forsyth@fife.gov.uk and we can add these to the book under your comments before SIMOA goes off on their travels again.

We will send SIMOA home on a Friday and if you can please bring this back Monday or first day back at nursery. Thank you

Transition - Nursery to Primary 1



It won't be too long now before we start to organise our transition programme for those children who will be starting Primary 1 in August. The programme consists of a parent/carer presentation and visits to the school with opportunities to take part in a range of activities. More details of the planned programme will be given to you after the school's Easter break.

Just a reminder that **Primary 1 enrolment will close at 9am on Monday 17th March**. Click on the link below if you're still needing to enrol your child and you will be taken to the Fife Council online page to do this. If you need any support with enrolling your child, please speak to a member of the nursery team.

[Enrol in primary school | Fife Council](#)

Reminders



Nursery Session Times

Please note our nursery session time is 08:00-12:40. Please ensure that your child is collected by 12.40pm. We are aware that sometimes things crop up but if you are running late for collection, please let us know by phoning the school office on [01334 659449](tel:01334659449) or the nursery direct on 03451 555555 ext 461260. Many thanks.

Please Labelled Clothing

Please ensure that all items of clothing that children bring into the Nursery are clearly labelled with their name. This includes indoor shoes, gloves, hats, bags, jackets, spare outfits etc. Items can easily be returned to the right child when labelled. Any items found that are not labelled will continue to be stored in the lost property box and shared on Seesaw.

We also ask that you send your child to Nursery in shoes that they are able to fasten themselves. This encourages your child to be more independent.

Medication

In line with our Medication Policy, we must be informed if a child has had any form of medication before attending their Nursery session. Please inform a member of the Nursery team on your arrival to the session. Thank you for your support with this. This includes Calpol, Nurofen etc. If your child is unwell please give your child time to recover and stay at home until they are feeling better.

Illness

- Just a reminder that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they cannot return to Nursery for 48 hours after the last episode. This is still the case if your child has only been sick or had diarrhoea once. These bugs travel quickly in Nursery settings.
- If your child is absent from Nursery please phone the school office and let us know why they are absent in case we need to inform our parents of any potential health outbreaks.

Rashes and skin infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Athlete's foot	None	Athlete's foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended
Chickenpox*	Until all vesicles have crusted over	See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting
German measles (rubella)*	Four days from onset of rash (as per "Green Book")	Preventable by immunisation (MMR x 2 doses). See: Female staff – pregnancy
Hand, foot and mouth	None	Contact the Duty Room if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles*	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2). See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Molluscum contagiosum	None	A self-limiting condition
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required	Treatment is required
Roseola (infantum)	None	None
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require treatment
Scarlet fever*	Child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment recommended for the affected child. If more than one child has scarlet fever contact PHA Duty Room for further advice
Slapped cheek (Fifth disease or parvovirus B19)	None once rash has developed	See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact the Duty Room. SEE: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy
Warts and verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms

Diarrhoea and vomiting illness	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
E. coli O157 VTEC*	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Further exclusion is required for young children aged five years and under and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices
Typhoid* (and paratyphoid*) (enteric fever)	Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting	Children in these categories should be excluded until there is evidence of microbiological clearance. This guidance may also apply to some contacts of cases who may require microbiological clearance
Shigella* (dysentery)		Please consult the Duty Room for further advice
Cryptosporidiosis*	Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Exclusion from swimming is advisable for two weeks after the diarrhoea has settled

Child Protection



All Fife Schools and Nurseries must have a Child Protection Coordinator and a recognised Depute. In Balcurvie they are

Mrs Tracey McDougall - Child Protection Coordinator

Mrs Sarah Hutchinson - Depute Child Protection Coordinator

All staff receive regular update training regarding Child Protection and are familiar with local and national safeguarding policies and procedures. If any parent has any specific concerns relating to child protection or the safety and wellbeing of any child within Balcurvie please bring this to the attention of Mrs McDougall or Mrs Hutchinson.