

Elderbank Early Years Newsletter November 2021



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter which will provide you with information of current developments within the Early Years and details of upcoming events this term.



We have been delighted to restart our 'Muddy Monday' sessions within the woodland area surrounding the school. There are a range of benefits from enabling children to access a natural learning environment which provides them with opportunities to develop curiosity, problem solving skills, team work capabilities, an awareness of risk assessment/benefits and understanding of nature to name a few!



The season of autumn provides an amazing context for us to explore with all of the colourful leaves. The Early Years team have been linking learning experiences within the outdoors to a range of developmental milestones and utilising nature's treasure to support this.

💡 Home Learning Idea! 💡

Muddy Mark Making



A great way to develop early writing skills and increase fine motor control is to use those little fingers to make patterns and images in the mud using sticks as a writing tool! It's a great way to get messy and develop a range of skills whilst in the great outdoors!



Literacy Milestone – Use small tools effectively and with control.

Parent Feedback

Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to complete the Lunch Bunch survey, please find below a summary of the responses. We are delighted you find the lunch provision a valuable addition to the sessions. Please find answers to a few questions/comments that were shared.

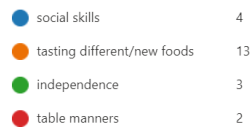
3. Does your child enjoy the lunch experience?

[More Details](#)



4. Which options describe the benefits the Early Years lunch provision will have for your child and family?

[More Details](#)



"Nice variety of foods for children to explore new tastes. Additional benefit of seeing their peers try new/different food can encourage reluctant eaters to try them too."

"My child enjoys lunch very much and seems to be eating things he normally wouldn't in the house he always mentions what he has for lunch and who he sits with to eat it appears to be a good experience for him."

"Fantastic extra."

My only thing would be to provide more fruit, as sometimes my child doesn't like the meals.

It would be great to know what they have eaten as sometimes it's hard to gauge if 'second lunch' is needed at home as a routine was established from last year home for lunch after nursery, it is still wanted. They could have a tick card they bring out with what they tried/had?



- The menus are created by North Ayrshire Council catering team and consist of two courses which will either be souo/main meal or soup/dessert which is either fruit or cake. The current menu is offered across all Early Years settings in North Ayrshire and will be in place until March 2022.
- Each session the children have the option to have a snack as well as their lunch, this is a selection of fresh fruit and a drink of milk or water.
- If you are unsure if your child is eating lunch and would like to know what they have eaten please speak to your keyworker and we can discuss the best way in which to share this information with you.

Many thanks for your support in our improvement journey, we welcome any feedback which supports us to provide the best service possible for your child and family. Watch this space for our next parent/carers voice survey which will look at developmental milestones with a key focus on literacy skills.



Prior to the first lockdown a big part of the life of the Early Years was delivering information sessions, workshops and regular parent/carers groups. In this current climate we are unable to have these face to face however we will provide these sessions virtually. We are excited to be able to offer a Developmental Milestone workshop for parent/carers on **Wednesday 8th December at 10.30am and 1.30pm** which will provide information on how to support your child to make progress in their learning and ideas to support this at home. A Vscene link will be shared with you on Seesaw and you will be able to join whichever session suits you best.



Parents/carers will have the opportunity to participate in a telephone appointment with their child's Keyworker to discuss their progress at Early Years, more information will follow with dates and times to be scheduled.



Christmas is fast approaching and the excitement is building in the Early Years for the upcoming celebrations! As we are still working with the COVID-19 restrictions some of our events may be a little different this year from our usual traditions however we are determined to make it as fun and magical as always. Please find below information about the events that are planned.



The children have been busy learning a Christmas song to share with you and we are looking forward to showcasing your little star during the performance. The video will be sent to you via the secure network of Seesaw, please complete the consent form which you will receive and return to the Early Years



Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 14th December

We will be enjoying a delicious festive lunch menu provide by our wonderful catering team, the children will be able to choose which option they would prefer from the menu. The children are also invited to wear something festive on this day if they would like. Please see the menu options below...



The McDougalls Show - Wednesday 15th December

We are going to experience our own private screening of the fantastic, interactive 'The McDougalls InToyland' show. We will dim the lights and watch on the big screen, making sure we join in with the adventures and enjoy some tasty treats whilst doing so!



Christmas Party - Tuesday 21st December

The Early Years will be celebrating in style with lots of dancing and party games. Each child will receive a present from a special visitor!

Final session - Wednesday 22nd December

The Early Years will close for the Christmas holiday on Wednesday 22nd December with the usual session times in place.

The Early Years will reopen on **Thursday 6th January** at the usual session times.



Thank you very much for your ongoing support. Please remember you can speak to a member of the Early Years team at any time. You can make contact at the Early Years, via telephone or Seesaw.

Kind regards,
Mrs Carruthers,
Senior Early Years Practitioner