



# September 2022 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

## Welcome

We are delighted to welcome everyone to the start of the new session. Having taken on the role of Depute Head with Alloway Primary and Early Years Centre (EYC), it has been a pleasure getting to know the children and a number of families within the centre, and I look forward to meeting all of you very soon. We have welcomed back a number of children from last session and are delighted to have some new children joining us also. There has been a real buzz within the nursery. We have been able to move back to being one large room rather than 2 rooms following the COVID restrictions being lifted. This is allowing staff to work within a larger team, and enabling our children to play with friends from across the setting. The boys and girls are adjusting well to the routines and enjoying playing with friends, old and new. We look forward to welcoming more new friends as the year progresses.

Mrs Lauren Miller



## Staffing



We are delighted to welcome back our staff, all of whom are raring to go after enjoying the summer break. Mrs Gilmour continues to be our EYC Teacher, and works Monday – Wednesday. Mrs Miller our Depute Head Teacher will continue to have a teaching input in the nursery as well as overseeing the day to day running of the nursery. Mrs Meney, our Head Teacher is also a frequent visitor to the EYC, and a familiar face to us all. Miss Downie took on the role of Senior Early Years Practitioner last session and continues to support in overseeing the day to day running of the nursery, and coordinating a range of activities and opportunities for our children. Our Early years Practitioners (EYPs) continue to do a fabulous job in providing support, care and engaging experiences for our children. Our EYPs are –

- Miss Adgie (Mon – Wed)
- Mrs Gibson (Thurs – Fri)
- Mrs Lorimer
- Mrs Ahmed
- Mrs Easton
- Mr McGill

- Mrs Pollock
- Mrs Fraser

We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Warnock, our support assistant, who works extremely hard to ensure all our children are well supported and happy within Alloway EYC.

All our staff are enjoying getting to know the children within their groups, and within the EYC setting, and look forward to the exciting year ahead.

## Settling In



Our centre will be open from 9-3pm term time. All children who have a full placement with us are eligible to attend for the full session, 5 days a week.

Children are doing so well coming into nursery and we are so impressed by how they are adapting to new routines. Feeling anxious is completely normal for both adults and parents. Children can require more reassurance than normal and this can vary from day to day and week to week. We will work with you to provide this reassurance for children. All children are individuals and may require different patterns of attendance initially to help them settle. You know your child best and know what they need. Some children may require a shorter session initially to help them settle then build up to longer sessions. Please speak to nursery staff about this. When you drop your child off we will ask you when you are collecting your child. We want this to be a positive experience for children and will work with you to ensure that the settling in period is tailored to suit your child's needs. We will be flexible about this in order to meet children's needs.

## Care Plans



It is important that we have good relationships with families to ensure that we meet children's needs. We aim to work in partnership with our families to set termly targets for children, and in doing so, aim to develop a partnership approach to supporting our young people. Key workers will prepare a care plan for each child and will host a short meeting with parents/carers to complete the care plan together. This will be completed 3 times over a school session and you will be invited to make an appointment with your child's key worker to come into the EYC and meet. The first care plan meetings will take place week beginning Monday 12th September. You should have received communication about this already. Your child's key worker will update you about their progress in nursery, get your feedback and, together, you will set next steps for your child. These next steps will be evaluated at the next care plan meeting. It is vital that we consider all your child's needs when supporting them to achieve their full potential, therefore, please keep key workers up to date with any important information regarding your child. We are required to keep an up to date care plan for each child which is reviewed regularly. This is a requirement of the Care Inspectorate.

## Seesaw

This session, we will be moving to online profiles for each child and will use the Seesaw app for this. The profile will contain information on your child's learning. It will be updated regularly and posted for you to view on Seesaw. The children will have their own ring binder folder within which their online profile will be printed. This will provide opportunity for each child to access his/her profile and reflect on the learning.

Seesaw can also be used as a communication tool. If you have any concerns at all about your child in the Early Years Centre, please feel free to contact us via Seesaw or speak to the person on the door at drop off and pick up time and we will arrange a time for you to discuss with your child's key worker. We would ask that parents only communicate through the Seesaw app during working hours and term time.



## Snack and Lunch Routines

### **Snack**

At Alloway EYC we encourage healthy eating. We have a morning snack of a carb and fruit with milk or water, a hot lunch provided by the school kitchen with milk or water, and an afternoon fruit

snack with water. This session the government are providing milk and fruit daily for each EYC child. We will still be providing children with carbs and dairy to meet our nutritional guidance. In order to do this we would ask for a £1.50 donation weekly towards our snack costs and would ask that you enclose your child's snack money weekly in the envelope with your child's name on it. Some parents have indicated that they would like to pay for a few weeks in advance. If this applies to you, please include the money in the envelope and your contributions will be recorded. We thank you in advance.

### **School Lunches**

We will continue to provide hot school meals each lunchtime. Lunchtime is a lovely time where the children can eat together with staff and share stories. We are encouraging good manners and the children enjoy this time together. Our lunch is provided by the school kitchen and the menu has been emailed and added to Seesaw.

### **Packed Lunches**

if you feel your child would prefer a packed lunch, parents are welcome to provide this. We would ask that you provide a healthy lunch that this consists of a sandwich and one or two other items. Children do not need a large packed lunch as they are still getting their morning and afternoon snack. We will provide milk and water so no need to bring a drink. It is really important that lunches are labelled with your child's name. Unfortunately we can't accommodate lunch boxes and padded lunch bags due to space and infection control procedures.

### ***Healthy lunch suggestions:***

Sandwiches

Crackers, breadsticks,

Rice cakes

Fruit

Vegetables

Yogurts

Cheese portion

Please avoid crisps, sweets and chocolate bars.

Mrs Gilmour will continue to send home snack/lunch menus and allergen information on Seesaw.



## Drop-off and Pick-up

### **DROP OFF**

Our EYC door will open for drop off between 9-9.20am.

*If you arrive after this time, please press the buzzer at the main entrance.*

- Children will be welcomed at the door by EYC staff who will greet them. Parents should then take their child/ren into the playroom to sign in. Parents can then leave via the main entrance.

### **PICK UP**

Our EYC door will open for pick at 2.40-3pm.

*If you are picking up outside of these times, please press the buzzer.*

- At pick up times you should come to the main entrance where you will be greeted by a member of staff.
- Parents are welcome to come into the playroom and should sign their child out.



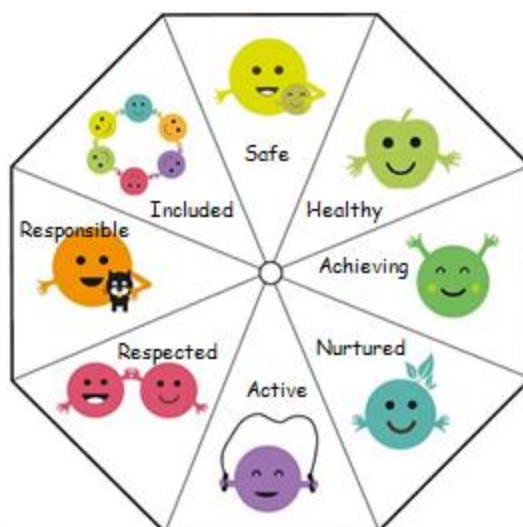
## Parking



Parking is always at a premium at the school. We have recently had some concerns from local library users about parents parking in disabled spaces. This means that those who really need the spaces cannot access the library easily. The car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school and the library. Parents should not drop their children off in the car park. Children are not allowed in the car park at any time. Please do not park in the disabled bay if you have no entitlement. Our parents are also concerned about the way some cars park and this is often on the agenda at the Parent Council. There is a drop off zone in front of the school. This is not a car parking facility. Parents should not park in the drop off zone or bus bay and should adhere to the road markings.

We thank you for your support in these matters and hope that the school and parents can work together to provide a safe environment for the children.

## Curriculum





this term You will shortly receive a 'Curriculum Flyer' detailing all the activities that the children will be experiencing. Staff are working hard to further implement 'Curriculum for Excellence'. You will receive a curriculum flyer each term and the Early Years Centre section of the school website will also be updated termly.

## Clothing



Within our Early Years Centre, your child will experience a range of fun and engaging activities to include sand/water play, art and craft activities, and outdoor play.

Children should come to the Early Years Centre appropriately dressed in play clothes allowing them to be comfortable and free to make the most of the activities on offer.

The Early Years Centre will of course provide aprons for 'messy' play. Children will be given a peg in the cloakroom area for their coat. We would ask that children keep a pair of soft soled shoes at Early Years Centre for gym sessions, and a bag with spare clothes to be left on their peg. **Please have your child's name on his/her belongings.** In the event of hot weather you should also include a sun hat to protect your child from the sun's rays and apply sunscreen before coming into the Early Years Centre.

Children play outdoors daily and should always bring an appropriate jacket. We would also ask that a pair of wellies and a puddle suit is left in the EYC at your child's peg to allow them to access outdoors in all weather.

### **Sun Cream guidelines (let's hope the nice weather continues and we need these):**

For children attending Early Years Centres full days:

- Parents should be asked to ensure that their child has adequate sun protection by applying sun cream before they come to nursery and providing suitable protective clothing (e.g. hats / long-sleeved T-shirts)
- Full day placement children should bring named suncream into nursery. This will be applied by staff at lunchtime for the afternoon session.
- Where a child may need a specific lotion this should be sent to the nursery with the child's name on it.



- Staff will keep standard factor 50 kids suncream in the EYC if children don't have their own.
- Staff will reapply suncream in the afternoon if required.
- Staff should wash hands before and after applying the lotion to individual children.

## Wider Achievements



We love to celebrate wider achievement within the EYC and are always eager to learn and find out what the children get up to or achieve out with the early years setting. We would love them to bring in certificates, badges, rewards, photographs of them riding bikes etc. which they can share with their friends. We can then keep these in your child's profile.

## Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays in the Early Years Centre. When it is your child's birthday we will celebrate this by letting them choose from the birthday box and they will get a birthday card from nursery. Children love this celebration and love to hear their friends sing 'Happy Birthday' to them. We would kindly ask if parents didn't bring in birthday cake/sweets as we strive to follow new Food Guidelines about healthy eating.



## Parental Involvement (PEEP)



We are always looking for ways to increase parental involvement in nursery. Our South Ayrshire Early Years worker is Gillian Munro. In the past Gillian has worked with individual families and has ran PEEP groups and family engagement groups within our EYC. We have met with Gillian and have planned this input for the session. More information will follow.

## If your child feels unwell...

### General Infection Control Guidelines

- If your child is ill, they should not attend nursery.
- If your child becomes unwell whilst in our care, we will phone you to come and collect them.
- Please tell us if your child has been ill while they are away from nursery.
- If your child has had symptoms of vomiting or diarrhoea (or both), it is essential that they do not attend nursery until **48 hours** after the symptoms have stopped.
- If you're not sure, please phone us before you bring your child to EYC.



## Early Years Twitter and School Website



Please follow us @AllowayEYC

We are using this feed to share pictures and experiences from the EYC. We will also link to community events and helpful Early Years information.

<https://twitter.com/AllowayEYC>

More information about the EYC and School can be found on our new website. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/>

## Parent Council

Be at the heart of your child's learning.



Alloway Primary School has a very active Parent Council. They meet monthly with Mrs Meney and Mrs Miller to discuss issues that relate to the school. They also raise funds to support the work of the school and our children have benefited greatly. The Parent Council represents the parent body

of the EYC and the school, and they would like to encourage you to join them. It is important that Early Years Centre parents feel welcome to attend, this is not just for parents of school children.

## Useful Websites

- 1 Playing, talking and reading helps little brains grow! It can give kids a better start in life and make a positive difference to their health and happiness in the future.
- 2 Playing, talking and reading brings you and your little one closer, which helps them become more sociable, so they'll make friends more easily too.
- 3 Playing, talking and reading can make your everyday life easier by turning your daily routine into activities you can share. So you don't need to make lots of extra time to fit it in.
- 4 Playing, talking and reading is all about enjoying your time together. Everyone can do it and you don't need lots of toys or expensive equipment.
- 5 Playing, talking and reading helps little ones learn to play for longer before they get bored or frustrated, which means fewer tantrums, tears and stress!



### Play Talk Read

This is a useful website for parents. It gives you lots of ideas to use with your children. You may have seen adverts for it on TV or visited the 'Play Bus' during the holidays. It is produced by the Scottish Government.

<http://www.playtalkread.org/>



### Read Write Count

This is a useful website for parents. It gives you lots of ideas to use with your children. You may have seen adverts for it on TV. It is produced by the Scottish Government.

[www.readwritecount.scot](http://www.readwritecount.scot)<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup><http://www.readwritecount.scot/>

## **Eat Better, Feel Better**

At Alloway Nursery we talk to the children about healthy eating and have healthy choices for snack. If you fancy making healthier and cheaper meals for your family, improving your cooking skills, getting some top tips for fussy eaters and loads more besides than have a look at this website.

[www.eatbetterfeelbetter.co.uk](http://www.eatbetterfeelbetter.co.uk)<sup>2</sup>



## **Education Scotland – Parent Zone**

This is a very useful website that gives parents specific information about Early Years. It is produced by the Scottish Government. The first years of your child's education – from birth to the start of primary school - are often called the 'early years'. As a parent, you are your child's first educator. You can make a positive difference to your child's learning by supporting and encouraging them, and by making learning an enjoyable experience. Your support plays a vital role at all stages of your child's education. This website contains links to information and resources about your child's learning at their early learning and childcare setting and their transition to primary school, as well as links to ideas and suggestions on how you can support their learning at home.

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/mychild/earlyyears](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/mychild/earlyyears)<sup>3</sup>

## **Early Years Centre Information**

### **Early Years Centre Policies**

Please take a look at our nursery policies. We have been updating some of our policies to ensure they are current. These will be added to a policy section on our school website.

### **Early Years Centre Website**

Please look on our school website for more information about our EYC.

[Alloway Primary Website - EYC page](#)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.eatbetterfeelbetter.co.uk>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/mychild/earlyyears>

<sup>4</sup><https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/classes/eyc/>

Alloway EYC Twitter - Follow Alloway EYC on our Twitter page.

## Allergen Information

On 13th December 2014 the EU Food Information for Consumers Regulation (EU FIC) came into force. There are 14 major allergens which need to be declared when used as ingredients in food.

We are now required to display a list of 14 allergens and indicate when these are present in the food we serve. We have put a menu with the allergens highlighted in a display in the nursery corridor. Please refer to this display. We already are aware of some allergies that children have and have procedures in place to deal with this. Please speak to your child's key worker if your child has any allergies that staff should be aware of.

More information on the new regulations can be found on this website:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/allergen-rules>



## Child Protection and Safeguarding



Early Years staff provide support to children and young people in their daily work and have a vital role to help protect them from harm. They help keep children and young people safe and well by:

- Helping them learn about their personal safety, including internet safety.
- Being a trusted adult who children and young people may turn to for help, and who will take them seriously
- Identifying when children and young people may need help
- Understanding the steps that must be taken when there are concerns for children's and young people's safety and wellbeing. The **Child Protection Co-ordinator for the EYC, and school, is Mrs Fiona Meney (Head Teacher)**. She will co-ordinate the nursery's response to concerns for children and young people's safety and wellbeing. The Authority has a designated officer for Child Protection who will ensure schools work effectively to keep



children safe and well. If you have any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person, including a 'gut feeling', talk about this to the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator or another member of staff if Mrs Meney is unavailable.

## Speech and Language Development

Are you a parent of a pre-school child?  
Do you work in Early Years and support children and families?  
Looking for ideas to help develop children's speech, language and communication?  
Then follow Speech and Language Therapy on Twitter to help improve language and communication outcomes for all children in Ayrshire.

**@weepeoplechat**

Working together to achieve the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran

Follow us on Twitter @NHSwee  
Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/weepeoplechat

All our publications are available in other formats  
Visit our website: www.nhs.uk

Development of speech and language is incredibly important in the early years. In South Ayrshire we work closely with the Speech and Language Therapy team. Please feel free to contact SLT team or Early Years Centre staff for more information or if you have a concern. Early intervention is key and NHS Speech and Language services offer a virtual drop in or phone helpline which allows parents/carers to discuss any concerns with a therapist. More information can be found by clicking on this link. Speech and Language drop in information <sup>5</sup>

**South Ayrshire Speech and Language Therapy**  
Download our App NHS Ayrshire & Arran by using the QR Codes

Our helpline is open every **WEDNESDAY** from 9-4pm  
To speak with an experienced Speech and Language Therapist, phone us on: 07533 893374

We also offer a **VIRTUAL** drop in service every **THURSDAY** 1-4pm  
Please text **STSL081574** if you would like to book a slot

@AyrshireSLT @SLTSouth @weepeoplechat South Ayrshire Speech and Language Therapy

<sup>5</sup><https://www.nhs.uk/media/11019/south-ayrshire-slt-helpline-poster.png>



## Diary Dates



**Please note these diary dates for Term 1. These may be, on occasion, subject to change. We will ensure you are informed of any changes. Please refer to this list for any forthcoming dates.**

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th Sept - Care Plan Appointments

Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th Sept - Rozelle Visits

Friday 16th Sept - Holiday

Monday 19th Sept - Holiday

Monday 26th Sept - Friday 30th Sept - Stay & Play Sessions

Monday 3rd Oct - Child Smile visiting EYC

Friday 14th Oct - Harvest Festival and EYC closes at 3pm for October holidays (children return on Tuesday 25th Oct).