



# December 2022 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

## Welcome



## Christmas

The children have had a ball this year taking part in different Christmas celebration in the EYC.

The Nativity performance was fantastic, and we would like to thank the parents and families who joined us to make this such a special event. I'm sure you will all agree, the children were fantastic and they did us all proud. A huge thank you again to the EYC staff who have worked extremely hard for weeks to put the performance together.

Our Christmas party takes place on **Monday 19th December** and children should come to nursery in their party clothes as we plan on partying all day long! A reminder to all that we have a special visitor joining us in the afternoon. **Parents are welcome to come along to the nursery at 2:15pm to share this magical experience with us.**

On **Wednesday 21st December**, we invite the children to come in dressed in their cosy jammies for a Christmas movie and snack. This will be a lovely opportunity for the children and staff to snuggle up and enjoy a Christmas film together.

The EYC will close at **2:30pm on Thursday 22nd December** and reopen at **9am on Monday 9th January**. We wish all of our parents and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.



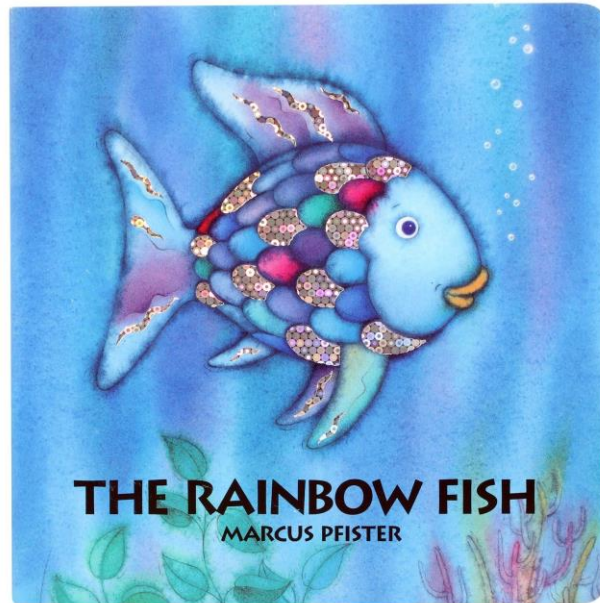
## Parental Engagement - PEEP group

Our PEEP sessions with Gillian Munro have been a great success this term. We look forward to further sessions which will be running in 2023.



## Talk for Writing

Mrs Gilmour has been continuing to develop 'Talk for Writing' within the EYC. Talk for Writing is an approach which is based on the principles of how children learn. At this early stage, the Talk for Writing approach begins to promote the children's ability to read and write independently. The focus for this block has been The Rainbow Fish. It has been amazing to hear the children retelling the story, and creating their own. It was great to see them using story maps, and being so confident in telling their stories.



## Pre-school Developmental Milestones

Staff are setting up experiences in the EYC to help children develop in their pre-school developmental milestones. Your child's developmental milestones profile has already been shared with you for our pre-school children. Here is the link to our Developmental Milestones Thinglink.

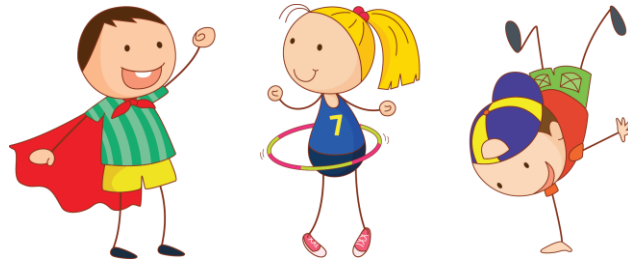
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1408076257597325313>

## Care Plans and P1 registration

It is important to us to have good relationships with families to ensure that we meet children's needs. We have shared the Care Plans for the first block, and will evaluate these in January at which point we will arrange for another Care Plan meeting. We want to ensure a partnership approach to supporting children. Your child's key worker will update you about their progress so far in the EYC, get your feedback and together set next steps for your child. These next steps will then be evaluated at the next care plan meeting. We want to consider all the children's needs when supporting them to achieve their full potential. 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 on a termly basis. This is a requirement of the Care Inspectorate.

Registration for P1 will be held in January (date to follow) and will be online. You will register for your catchment area school. At this point in time some parents may be considering deferring their child's P1 placement. Children born in Jan/Feb can automatically defer through parental choice. Children born August - December may wish to defer. This is an application process which needs to be completed by the EYC and school and if the place is granted then the child will get a deferred year. Please speak to your child's key worker, Mrs Gilmour or Mrs Miller if you wish to discuss deferring your child's primary 1.

More information on P1 registration will follow soon. EYC registration for next session should be some time in February.



## Play on Pedals

Mrs Easton has been on a Play on Pedals training course and has started this bike riding and safety programme with the children in the EYC. Play on Pedals works on developing children's balance skills before moving onto pedaling. All children will progress at different rates through this programme to ride a bike.

## Homelink

### **HOMELINK - RHYMES**

Keep an eye out for our nursery rhyme of the week which is sent out on the flyer via Seesaw. Thank you to everyone who has sent in a nursery rhyme video on Seesaw. We love watching them and sharing these with our nursery friends. We will continue this project across the year.



## Snack and Lunch routines



### **Snack**

At Alloway EYC we encourage healthy eating. We have a morning snack of a carb and fruit with milk and water, lunch provided by the school kitchen with water and afternoon fruit snack with water and milk. 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 donation weekly towards our snack costs. We will hold this under review as South Ayrshire EYC team are looking into snack provisions across the authority and have suggested that snack donations are no more than £1 per week as the fruit is now being provided. In order for us to keep track of our snack money we will continue to send home small money envelopes. We would ask that you enclose your child's £1 snack money weekly in the envelope with your child's name on it and put in the snack box outside the EYC doors. Office staff will keep a record of snack money. Some parents have indicated that they would like to pay for a few weeks in advance. This is absolutely fine if this is how you want to pay, 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 lunch time. 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. The menu has already been emailed and added to Seesaw.

### **Packed Lunches**

Parents can choose to provide a healthy packed lunch for their child if you feel your child would prefer this to a school meal. This should consist of a sandwich and one or two other items. We will provide milk and water so no need to bring a drink. We would ask parents to provide a healthy lunch. Children do not need a large packed lunch as they are still getting their morning and afternoon snack. It is really important that lunches are labelled with your child's name as these are stored in our fridge as per government guidance. 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.

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.

## Outdoor Play



Please remember that our children play outside everyday therefore it is important to bring a weather appropriate clothes .

Staff are working with the children this year to talk about the risks benefits in play and children will be involved in assessing the risks before they play.

## Special Achievements and Birthdays



We love to celebrate wider achievements! We are always eager to learn and find out what the children get up to or achieve out with the early years setting. We would like them to bring in certificates, badges, rewards, photographs of them riding bikes etc. We will display these on your child's busy box on the wall. We really enjoy seeing these fill up with our children's achievements. We will add this to their profile to show their achievements at home.



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 that parents don't bring in birthday cake/sweets as we strive to follow Food Guidelines about healthy eating. We also have children in the EYC who have allergies.**

## Speech and Language Development

The poster features a blue background with white clouds. At the top right is the NHS Ayrshire & Arran logo. The text on the poster reads: '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.' Below the text is an illustration of four diverse children sliding down a rainbow. A white cloud contains the Twitter logo and the handle '@weepeoplechat'. At the bottom, it says 'Working together to achieve the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran' and provides social media links for Twitter (@NHSaaa), Facebook (www.facebook.com/nhsaaa), and the website (www.nhsaaa.net). A QR code is also present.

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>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.nhsaaa.net/media/11019/south-ayrshire-slt-helpline-poster.png>



Please see our SLT thinglink for up to date SLT information -  
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1488629171742572546>



## 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 have our children have benefited greatly. The Parent Council represents the parent body of the nursery 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>2</sup>



### **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>3</sup>



### **Education Scotland – Parent Zone**

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.readwritecount.scot/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.eatbetterfeelbetter.co.uk>

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>4</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>5</sup>

[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>

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/mychild/earlyyears>

<sup>5</sup><https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/classes/eyc/>



## 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 well being. The **EYC has a Child Protection Co-Ordinator, the Head Teacher, Mrs Fiona Meney**. 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.

## Diary Dates (provisional)



**Please note these diary dates for the forthcoming session. These may be, on occasion, subject to change. Please refer to this list for any forthcoming dates. This will be updated on every newsletter and new dates added.**

Monday 9th January - EYC reopens @ 9am

Monday 16th January @ 1:30pm - Parental Engagement (PEEP Group) - information to follow

Week beginning Monday 16th January - Care Plan Appointments Week - information to follow

Friday 10th February - Holiday

Monday 13th February - Holiday

Tuesday 14th February - In-service day (EYC closed to children)

Wednesday 15th February - EYC reopens

Week beginning Monday 20th February - Stay and Play Week - information to follow

Tuesday 28th February @ 1:30pm - Parental Engagement (PEEP Group) - information to follow

Wednesday 29th March - Easter Event

Friday 31st March - school closes @ 2:30pm for Easter holidays