



# June 2023 Newsletter - Early Years Centre

Alloway

## Welcome



## Term 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe I am writing my final newsletter for this session. As we near the end of term 4, I want to thank you all for your continued support and contributions to the EYC. We have had a fantastic term, and have been loving the sunny weather. Long may it continue!

This term, children have enjoyed a range of experiences including Forest Schools, Evening Stay and Play, and our transition programme for our children entering P1 in August. You will also be aware of the visit we have from the Care Inspectorate. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the survey, and for your positive feedback about the service we provide.

We will end Term 4 with our Summer Service which takes place at Alloway Parish Church on Friday 30th June at 9:45am, and we are delighted that the children starting P1 in August will be joining us for this. The children will be performing a song they have learned for their graduation, and we are so excited that they will be performing this at the service. Parents are welcome to walk to the church with us and should arrive at the EYC at 9am. The EYC closes on Friday 30th June, and children in the EYC can be picked up anytime up to 3pm on this day. The EYC reopens on Monday 21st August at 9am.

I wish you all a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all again next session.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren

Depute Head Teacher



We have had so much fun in term 4...





## Care Inspectorate

The Care Inspectorate visited the EYC unannounced on Friday 19th May to carry out a routine inspection. This was an incredibly busy day for all staff, and I wish to thank all the staff members for their contributions on the day of the inspection. We have been given feedback from the visit, and we are delighted with the positives which were identified by the inspection team, including our nurturing approaches and knowledge of each child as an individual. As with any inspection, we have been given points to work on, and are already actioning these points. We wish to thank the parents and the numerous agencies we work closely with who completed the survey. A draft report is being written and we look forward to being able to share this with you.



## P1 Transition

Our children who are starting P1 in August have enjoyed visiting P1 to take part in a range of activities alongside their P1 peers, and the current P1 teachers. We have also had our children who are coming to Alloway from outside nurseries joining us for these visits. The children have bonded well already and we have used our observations from these visits to form our 2 primary 1 classes. This is a complex process which takes into account a range of factors, including friendships. We are bringing together children from Alloway EYC and 10 outside nurseries. Please be assured that the class teachers will work hard to form their own little community and will encourage all children to form friendships across the classes. You will receive information on your child's primary 1 class by the end of this week. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

A reminder that bump up days will take place on Tuesday 13th June from 9:30-12:00 (to include lunch at 11:20am with parents), and Wednesday 14th June from 9:30-11:30.



## EYC Transition

It has been so lovely to meet some of our parents who have children starting the EYC next session. We held our parent induction session on Monday 5th June, and we would like to thank the parents who were able to attend. We look forward to welcoming some of the children on Tuesday 13th and Monday 26th June for a visit.



## Summer Celebration Picnic

We have a whole school celebration picnic taking place on Friday 9th June. Parents are welcome to send their child with a packed lunch or, alternatively, the school kitchen will provide these. Please ensure you have informed a member of staff if your child requires a packed lunch from the school kitchen. This will be a lovely day, and we have some amazing activities planned for the children to enjoy.



## Pre-school Graduation

Our Graduation for our children entering P1 in August will take place on **Wednesday 21st June from 10am-11am**. Parents of children who are starting P1 are invited to attend. This is sure to be a lovely send off for our children, and I would advise that you bring tissues. I know that we will need ours.



## Sports Day 2023

Our sports day will take place on Monday 19th June at 10:00am. We would like to invite all our parents to join us for this event which will take place on the school playing field. The children have been busy practicing for the different events and we hope that the sun will continue to shine!



## Forest Schools

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk-taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands on experiences in a natural setting.

Miss Downie has undertaken Forest Schools training and delivers this on a weekly basis with all children. Children have the opportunities to explore the natural environment and engage in learning experiences that arise from this. They are supported by staff to extend their learning and are encouraged to participate in risky play, to develop problem solving and cognitive thinking. The focus of this is to learn through play. Children love these experiences, and Miss Downie is hoping to increase the frequency of these visits next session.









## Pre-school Developmental Milestones

In session 2023-2024, children who are in their pre-school year will begin to work on their developmental milestones, although some children may have begun to hit some of these already. Staff will continue to set up engaging experiences in the EYC to help children develop in their pre-school developmental milestones. For parents of pre-school children, your child's developmental milestones profile will be shared with you. Staff are working to create a Thinglink which will be sent home next session.



## Care Plans

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 this block and staff will begin to review these when children return next session. New Care Plan meetings will take place at which point, keyworkers will arrange to meet with you to discuss your child's progress and next steps, and gather your feedback. We want to ensure a partnership approach to supporting children and to consider your child'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.



## Snack and Lunch Routines



Our snack and lunch routines will remain the same next session. Staff have worked very hard in term 4 to create a homely environment for children to enjoy whilst eating their lunch. Staff sit with the children at lunchtime, and children are encouraged to develop independence during 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. The local authority is in the fortunate position to be able to provide Early Years Centres with a range of non-perishable foods to be used for snack provision. We will be able to make use of these items, and use our funds to continue to purchase fresh food items for the children. Therefore, we will no longer be asking for snack donations. Many thanks to our parents and carers for the donations throughout the year.

## **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 will continue to be shared in advance.

## **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



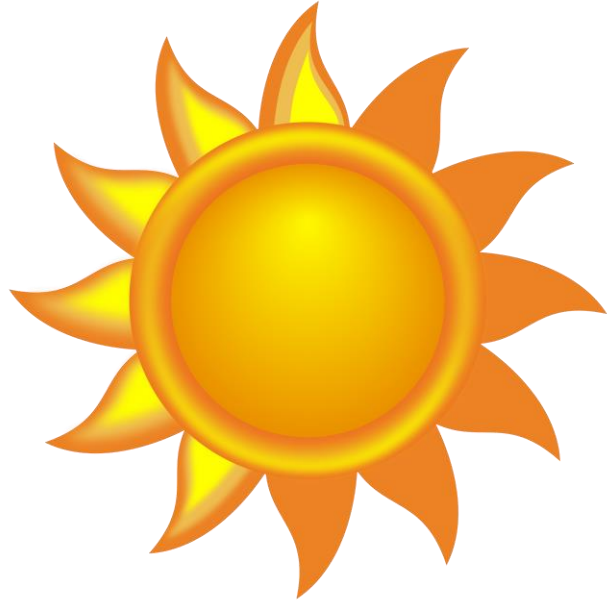
Parking is always at a premium at the school. We have recently had some concerns from local library users about parents parking in disabled spaces. This means that those who really need the spaces cannot access the library easily. The car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school and the 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 appropriate clothes. We hope that the sunshine continues into next session, so it will be important that your child has suncream in the EYC. We would ask that you put cream on your child before coming to the EYC and, with your permission, this will be topped up as required. Children will be issued with a sticker each morning when entering the EYC to say that they have already had suncream applied.

Staff will continue to work with the children to talk about the risks benefits in play and children will be involved in assessing the risks before they play.





## Diary Dates (provisional)



**Please note these diary dates. 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.**

Friday 9th June - Summer Celebration Picnic (whole school and EYC)

Tuesday 13th June - P1 Bump Up - 9:30-12:00 (to include lunch with parents at 11:20)

Tuesday 13th June - EYC new starts visiting from 10:00-11:00am

Wednesday 14th June - P1 Bump Up - 9:30-11:30

Monday 19th June - EYC Sports Day @ 10:00am. All parents invited to attend

Wednesday 21st June - EYC Graduation Ceremony for children starting P1 in August. Parents of children starting P1 in August are invited to attend.

Monday 26th June - EYC new starts visiting from 3:15-3:45pm

Friday 30th June - Summer Service @ 9:45am in Alloway Parish Church. Children starting P1 in August to attend.

Friday 30th June - EYC closes

Thursday 17th August - staff inservice day

Friday 18th August - staff inservice day

Monday 21st August - EYC reopens at 9am

## 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

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 @NHSaas  
Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nhsaas  
All our publications are available in other formats  
Visit our website www.nhs.uk

The poster features a blue background with a rainbow arching across the middle. Four diverse children are sliding down the rainbow. A white cloud contains the Twitter logo and the handle @weepeoplechat. The NHS Ayrshire & Arran logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, there is a slogan, social media information, and a QR code.

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. South Ayrshire Speech and Language Therapy Helpline is open every Tuesday from 2pm to 4pm. Please telephone 07833095374 to speak with an experienced Speech and Language Therapist. There is also a virtual drop in every Thursday afternoon. Please telephone or text 07833095374 to book a slot.

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>1</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>2</sup>



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

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

<sup>2</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>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>

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

<sup>4</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.