



March 2024 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

Welcome



Term 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we are coming to the end of Term 3 already and, as our final terms draws nearer, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, and involvement within the life of the EYC. We so value the relationships we have with our parents and families, and love having you join us for various events. Term 3 has been another busy one in the life of the EYC. From our PEEP

sessions to Forest Kindergarten, children have enjoyed a range of experiences, and have absolutely earned their Easter holidays! A well done to all the boys and girls for their hard work this term!

We will end Term 3 with our Easter Service which takes place at Alloway Parish Church on Thursday 28th March at 9:45am, and we are delighted that the children starting P1 in August will be joining us for this. Parents are welcome to walk to the church with us and should arrive at the EYC at 9am. The EYC closes on Thursday 28th March, and reopens at 9am on Monday 15th April 2024.

I wish you all a happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all again in Term 4.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Miller

Depute Head Teacher



EYC Easter Event

Our Easter Event which took place on Tuesday 26th March was a huge success. We wish to thank you for coming along to join us. There was such a buzz in the room, and it was clear that the children loved having parents and grandparents in to support them with a variety of Easter crafts. Thank you to the staff for organising the event, and a huge well done to all the children.





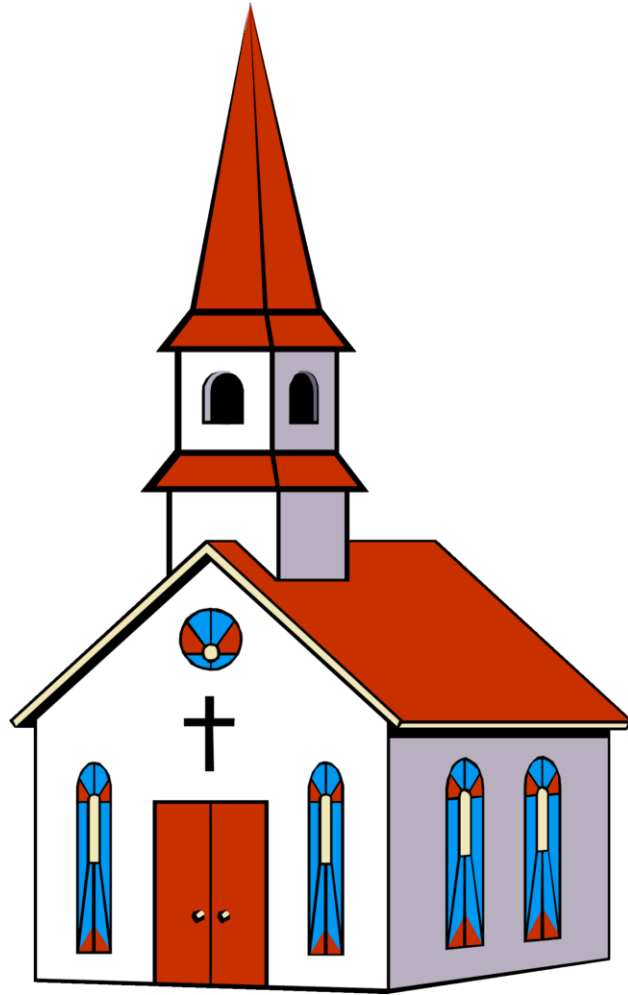






Church Stay and Play

We are so fortunate to have a fantastic relationship with Alloway Parish Church. The links we have allow us to work in partnership with individuals from the church, and to provide a variety of events within the school, including our EYC Stay and Play. We are always made to feel so welcome by the church members, and we wish to thank them for hosting a Stay and Play session each term. These are always well attended by our families, and it is always a happy occasion. Our final Church Stay and Play of this year will take place on Wednesday 26th June 2024 @ 9:45am.



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. As previously noted, at this stage, we do not have confirmation of children coming to P1 at Alloway, or staffing arrangements, so these visits were simply an opportunity for our EYC children to work alongside their P1 peers in the P1 environment, and to get a

taste of life in Primary 1. Further information will be sent out in Term 4, detailing more transition opportunities, and we look forward to assigning our new P1 children with buddies from P6 once we have confirmation of our P1 pupils for next year. At this stage, however, please note that our P1 Induction Night will take place on Tuesday 21st May at 6pm, and our bump up days will take place on Tuesday 11th June from 9:30-12:00 (to include lunch with parents), and Wednesday 12th June from 9:30-11:30. More information will follow.

EYC Transition



EYC Registration has now closed, and we are awaiting confirmation from the local authority about children who will be joining us in the EYC next session. Mrs Miller and Miss McCallum have a programme of transition activities, details of which will be sent out soon. At this stage, however, please note that our EYC Parent Induction morning will take place on Monday 3rd June from 9:30-10:30am.

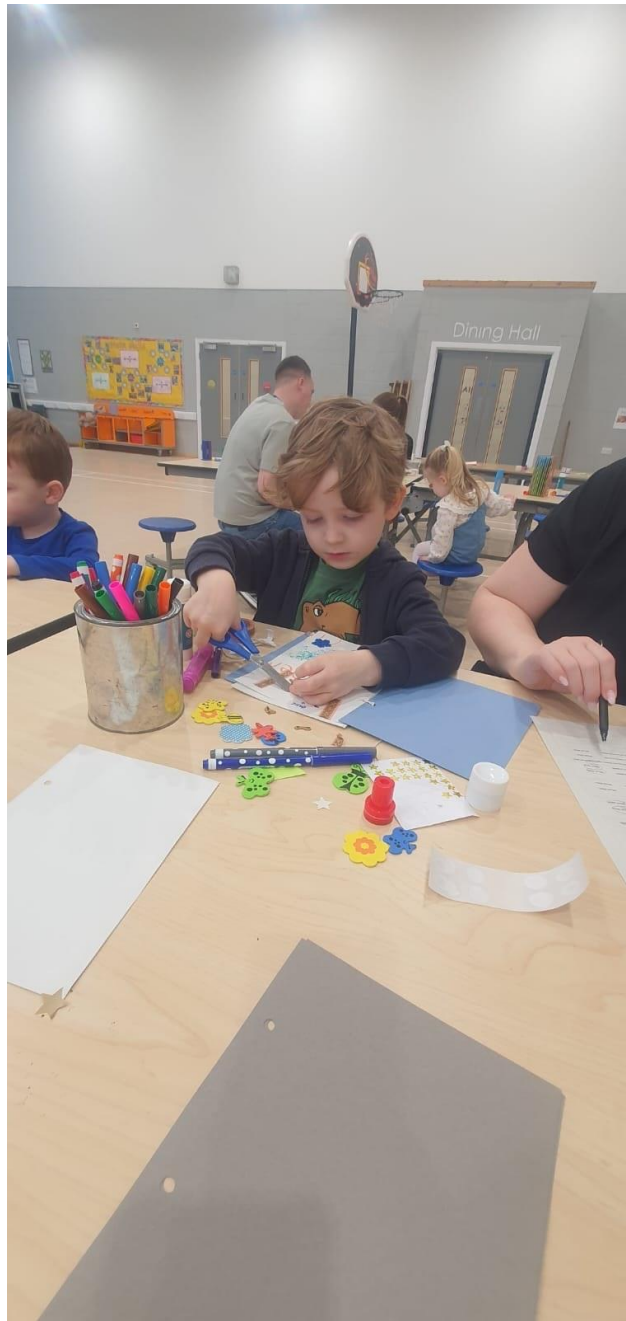
Parental Engagement - PEEP group

Our PEEP sessions with Nicola Lawrence have been well received this term and we wish to thank all the parents and families who were able to join us. We look forward to further sessions which will be running in Term 4, some of which will be aimed towards children who are starting at Alloway EYC next session.









Forest Kindergarten

Miss McCallum has been continuing to lead successful Forest Kindergarten sessions for the children in the EYC. The children have loved taking part in these experiences, and we are so fortunate to have these areas to make use of on our doorstep.









School and EYC Vision and Values



Thank you to those of you who contributed to our consultation on the school and EYC vision and values. We will be able to share these with you in term 4.

Continuous Improvement in the EYC

Staff have been working extremely hard this session to continue to make improvements within the EYC, and all staff have undertaken a leadership role within the development of the EYC. The process of continuous improvement has involved, staff visiting other EYCs to observe and share good practice, and visiting specialists providing additional training, such as, the local authority Nurture Team and an

outdoor specialist who focused on woodwork within the EYC. In addition to this, as part of their leadership roles, key staff members have taken on additional training in promoting numeracy outdoors, and the development of block play. These visits and training opportunity have had a positive impact in the EYC, and have given staff increased confidence and capacity to take forward different approaches. In term 4, we will be focusing on the development of our outdoor area, with a link to sustainability, and we will be looking for parent volunteers to support this.

As always, we value your feedback. If there is anything you wish to share with us, please speak to a member of the EYC team.



Lots of fun in the EYC in term 3...















Pre-school Developmental Milestones

Staff are continuing to set up 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.



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 are in the process of evaluating these. New Care Plan meetings will take place after the Easter holidays 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



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.

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 in our lunch area 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



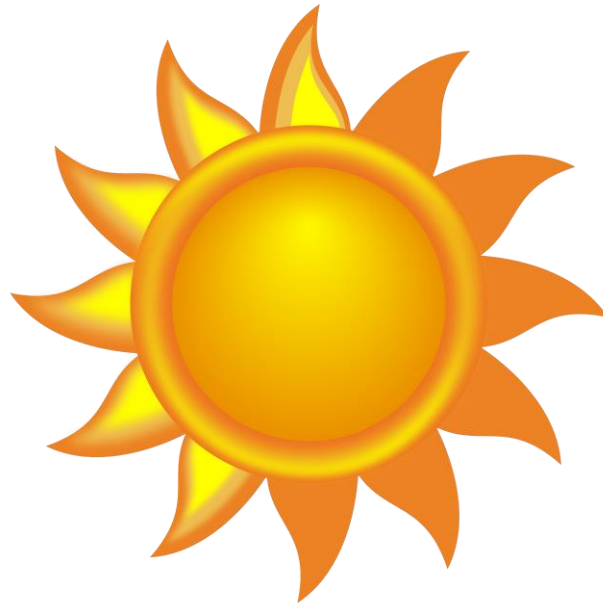
Parking is always at a premium at the school. We have recently had some concerns from local library users about parents parking in disabled spaces. This means that those who really need the spaces cannot access the library easily. The car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school and the 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 appropriate clothes. We hope to see some sunshine in term 4, so it will be important that your child has suncream in the EYC. More information will be sent out in due course.

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.**

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 15th April - EYC reopens @ 9am

Thursday 18th April - 10:30-11:00 - P1 Transition Visit 5

Monday 22nd April - Golf sessions begin (aimed at children starting P1 in August)

Friday 26th April - 10:30-11:00 - P1 Transition Visit 6

Tuesday 30th April - 10:30-11:00 - P1 Transition Visit 7

Thursday 2nd May - EYC closed (staff in-service day)

Monday 6th May - HOLIDAY

Thursday 9th May - 10:30-11:00 - P1 Transition Visit 8

Tuesday 21st May - 6:00-7:00pm - P1 Parent Induction Night

Tuesday 28th May - 2:00-2:45pm - P1 Transition

Thursday 30th May - 6:00-7:00pm - EYC Evening Stay and Play

Monday 3rd June - 9:30-10:30 - EYC Parent Induction Morning

Thursday 6th June - 2:00-2:45pm - P1 Transition

Friday 7th June - Summer Celebration Picnic (whole school and EYC)

Tuesday 11th June - 9:30-12:00 - P1 Bump Up morning (to include parent lunch)

Wednesday 12th June - 9:30-11:30 - P1 Bump Up morning

Monday 17th June - EYC Sports Day

Tuesday 18th June - EYC Graduation Ceremony

Wednesday 26th June - 9:45-11:00am - EYC Church Stay and Play

Friday 28th June - 9:45am - Summer Service @ Alloway Parish Church

Friday 28th June - SCHOOL CLOSES

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 @NHSAA
Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nhsaa
All our publications 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. 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/>

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



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



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

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](#)

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.

PLEASE NOTE - ALLOWAY PRIMARY AND EYC ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL.

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 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.