



August 2024 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

Welcome

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you all have had a lovely summer. A very warm welcome to our children and families, whether you are new to Alloway EYC, or have returned after the holiday, we are delighted to have you as part of our EYC family. It has been a busy couple of weeks, with staff supporting children to adjust to the routines within the centre. As always, we promote an open-door policy and would encourage you to speak to your child's keyworker or a member of senior management if you have any concerns.

Below you will find some key information and updates for the EYC. If you are unsure of anything, please just ask.

I look forward to working with you all.

Kind regards,

Lauren

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Our Vision and Values

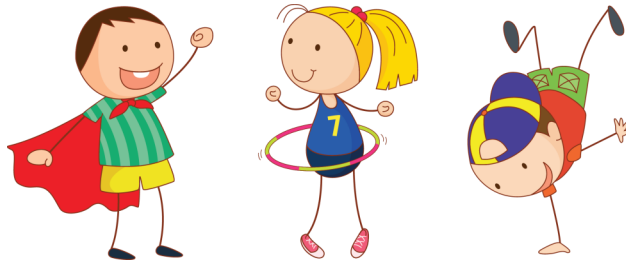


Here are our new Vision and Values for 2024-2025, following consultation with staff, pupils and parents last session.

Care Plans

It is important to us to have good relationships with families to ensure that we meet children's needs. Over the next few weeks, keyworkers will work alongside the children in their group to get to know them, and will begin to write Care Plans. They will then meet with parents/carers and work together to develop targets for each child. Our Care Plan meetings have been scheduled to start week beginning Monday 16th September. We will send out information on how to book an appointment with your child's keyworker.

We want to ensure a partnership approach to supporting children, considering 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.



Snack and Lunch routines



Staff have worked very hard 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.

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 on the EYC board.

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.

PLEASE NOTE, WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL AND EYC

Outdoor Play



Please remember that our children play outside everyday, therefore, it is important to bring weather appropriate clothes. **A change of clothes, pair of wellies and puddle suit, all of which can be kept in the EYC, is also beneficial** - the children do like to get messy! **Please ensure all items are labelled with child's name.**

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.

Routines for Changing Children

We understand that some of our children are still learning to use the toilet, and accidents can happen. **Please ensure your child has a change of clothes within the EYC.** Should your child require pull-ups or nappies, we ask that your child has a supply of these in their bag. Please discuss any concerns with your child's keyworker, and they will be happy to support.

Medication



If your child requires medication on a short or long term basis, or has any allergies, **you must speak to your child's keyworker to book an appointment with Kirsty McCallum (Senior EYP)**. This will allow us to complete the required paperwork, and to ensure we meet the needs of your child.

Parental Engagement - PEEP group

We look forward to welcoming Nicola Lawrence to the EYC to deliver PEEP sessions this year. Nicola plans to pop in to the EYC next Monday at drop-off time, to meet our families. More information about planned PEEP sessions will follow.

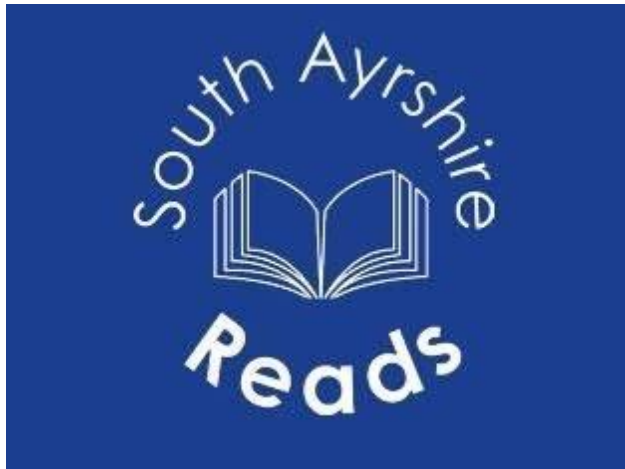


Forest Kindergarten

We look forward to our Forest Kindergarten sessions starting again this year. Haley Hughes (EYP) has a real passion for this, and will be leading these sessions. More information will follow.



South Ayrshire Reads



We are so excited to be working alongside the South Ayrshire Reads team this session to continue to develop literacy learning in our setting. As well as providing staff training, the team will work alongside staff and children to ensure a consistent approach to literacy learning, and to upskill our EYPs and staff to effectively develop reading skills in our youngest learners.

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.

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 term. 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 September - 9:15-9:45 - EYC Bookbug Session (more information to follow)

Monday 16th September - EYC Care Plan Appointments begin

Wednesday 18th September - 10:00am - Church Stay and Play session (more information to follow)

Friday 20th September - EYC closed

Monday 23rd September - EYC closed

Tuesday 24th September - EYC reopens

Wednesday 25th September - South Ayrshire Reads Team in EYC (Collaborative Working)

Tuesday 8th October - Childsmile in EYC (see letter)

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. Several diverse children are depicted jumping over 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 are social media icons and contact information.

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](#)

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

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

Our helpline is open every **TUESDAY** from 2-4pm
To speak with an experienced Speech and Language Therapist, phone us on: 07833 095374

We also offer a virtual drop in service every **THURSDAY** 1-4pm
Please text 07833 095374 if you would like to book a slot

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

The flyer features a blue sky background with a tree logo in the top right corner. It includes two QR codes for app download, a phone icon, and social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

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.

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.