



# October 2024 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

## Term 2

Dear parent/carers,

I can hardly believe term 1 is over, and for many of our children, they have completed their very first term with us at Alloway EYC. We aim to ensure that all families feel welcomed and valued at Alloway EYC, and we hope you have all felt this way in term 1 and will continue to do so in term 2.

Term 1 was a busy term with staff aiming to provide a range of engaging and exciting experiences for children in the EYC. We also underwent a Collaborative Improvement Visit which saw colleagues from the local authority join us to provide us with feedback on things we are doing well, and areas we should continue to develop. The feedback from this visit was positive. The inspection team commented on the welcoming, calm ethos in the early years centre and the engagement of children in a good range of sensory experiences indoors and out. The team recognised that staff provide an appropriate balance of directed and free play opportunities and experiences both indoors and outside, and highlighted that staff work with parents and partners to enhance children's experiences, for example outdoor learning and stay

and play at the church hall. Following the visit, we will continue to support children to talk about their learning and next steps and continue to review areas and resources to further promote high quality experiences and purposeful play, promoting creativity and learning. We always welcome feedback and use this to continually improve as an EYC.

You should all have had the opportunity to meet with your child's keyworker to discuss and contribute to your child's Care Plan. We will keep you informed on how children are progressing in terms of their targets, and there will be another opportunity for you to meet with the keyworker in January to discuss progress and set new targets.

This year, each member of staff is taking on a leadership opportunity from within our School Improvement Plan, and these are displayed in the EYC foyer. This includes the development of Nurture, communication friendly environment, digital technologies, reading, numeracy and sustainability.

We held our first Church Stay and Play this session and want to thank all of you who were able to come along. As a working parent myself, I know that daytime events don't always suit all parents, therefore, our next Stay and Play will take place in the EYC in the early evening (see dates within newsletter). we hope to continue to offer activities and events at different times. Our next Church Stay and Play will take place in December.

Thank you to Nicola Lawrence from the family learning team, who has provided us with PEEP sessions in term 1 and will be continuing to do so in term 2.

Thank you to all families who have made donations for our Harvest Bags. The donations have been left in the library to be collected by people within our local community. Please feel free to help yourself to these to give to anyone who might appreciate this. These will be available throughout October. Any bags which are not taken, will be donated to the local food bank.

We have lots planned in term 2, and it will be (dare I mention it) Christmas before we know it, with lots of exciting events taking place in the EYC.

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

Kind regards,

Lauren

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Look what we got up to in Term 1...





## Our Vision and Values



Here are our 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. You should have had the opportunity in Term 1 to meet with your child's keyworker to discuss Care Plans. These will be reviewed and updated in January, in consultation with you.

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 regular basis. This is a requirement of the Care Inspectorate.



## Halloween

Our EYC Halloween party will take place on Thursday 31st October at 10:00am. Children are invited to come to the nursery in their Halloween costume if they wish. After the party, they will take part in various experiences within the EYC.

## Christmas

Our EYC Christmas Concert will take place on Wednesday 11th December at 10:00am, with our families welcome to come and enjoy some festive cheer. We will have our Christmas Party on Friday 13th December at 10:00am, and children are welcome to come to nursery dressed in their party gear. We may also have a special visitor joining us, and information will be sent out to parents regarding this.



## 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 will continue to work with Nicola Lawrence who will work with families and deliver PEEP sessions this year (see dates below).

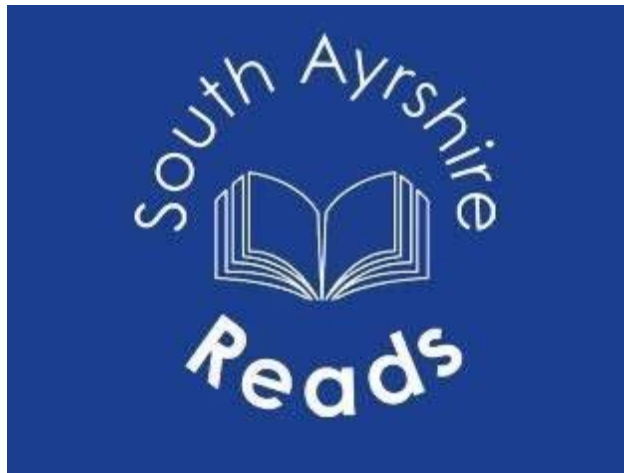


## Forest Kindergarten

Haley Hughes (EYP) has been leading Forest Kindergarten sessions. This will continue throughout the year.



## 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.**

Thursday 24th October - EYC Bookbug Session at 2:15pm

Thursday 31st October - EYC Halloween Party at 10:00am

Monday 4th November - EYC PEEP session at 9:30am

Monday 11th November - EYC PEEP session at 9:30am

Monday 18th November - EYC PEEP session at 9:30am

Thursday 21st November - EYC Stay and Play - 5:00-6:00pm

Wednesday 11th December - EYC Christmas Concert at 10:00am

Friday 13th December - EYC Christmas Party at 10:00am

Friday 13th December - Special visitor to EYC (parent welcome) - information to follow

Wednesday 18th December - EYC Festive Church Stay and Play at 10:00am

Friday 20th December - EYC closes for Christmas holidays

## Speech and Language Development



### Get wee people chatting

The helpline is available every Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm by calling 07833095374. A virtual drop-in appointment can be arranged for a Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm by calling or texting 07833095374 to arrange an appointment.

 @weepeoplechat

 South Ayrshire Childrens Speech & Language Therapy

 @ayrshireSLT



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](#)

**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

## 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)



### **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)



### **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)

### **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.