



December 2024 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

Merry Christmas

Dear parent/carer,

Well, this term has gone by in a flash, and what a lovely time we have had in our EYC on the run up to Christmas! The children have taken part in so many magical Christmas experiences, and it has been so special to see the look of joy on their faces.

A huge thank you to our parents and families who have attended events in Term 2. Our evening stay and play was well attended and it was lovely to give our parents and families another opportunity to play alongside their children in the EYC. We will continue to host stay and plays at different times to ensure all parents and families have the opportunity to join us. As a working parent myself, I know this is not always easy! Our PEEP sessions with Nicola Lawrence have been well attended and the feedback has been very positive. The Christmas PEEP session was just lovely, thank you to those of you who were able to make it along. The children had a great time at our festive Church Stay and Play and it was lovely to see so many parents families. Thank you all.

I wish to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to the children for their fabulous Nativity performance. I'm sure you will all agree, they were amazing! Thank you to the EYC team for pulling this together, it is no easy task! Following the Nativity, the children had a fantastic time at their Christmas party, and loved visiting their special visitor in his Grotto.

I want to wish all our children, parents and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you have a wonderful time over the festive period.

Kind regards,

Lauren

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Look what we got up to in Term 2...













Our Vision and Values



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

HMIE Inspection



You should have received communication regarding our upcoming visit from Education Scotland HM Inspectors who will be conducting an inspection during the week commencing 13th January 2025. Surveys have been sent out and I would like to encourage you to complete the survey by 20th December 2024. Please contact the school if you have any queries.

Updates

Children's Belongings

Please remember, children are not required to bring in bags with lots of items from home. A change of clothes, pair of wellies and puddle suit, all of which can be kept in the EYC, is suffice.

Water Bottles

Children are not required to bring a water bottle to the EYC. Fresh water is available in the EYC all day and children are offered milk or water at snack and lunchtime.

Packed Lunches

Some parents choose to send their child with a packed lunch. Packed lunches should consist of a sandwich and one or two other items. We will provide milk and water, so no need to bring a drink.

Staffing

Evelyn remains absent and we send her our best wishes. We continue to cover this absence and updates on staff within the centre on a daily basis can be found on the Parent Information board in the foyer. Our practitioners develop positive relationships with children across the centre in order to support all children's wellbeing and progress. We have taken the decision to allocate the children from the Foxes group to other keyworkers for the time being. I will update you as and when I have more information on Evelyn's return.

Staff Leadership



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 our creative area, communication friendly environment, digital technologies, reading, numeracy and sustainability. Please ask the key staff member should you wish any further information.

Parent Feedback



Staff continue to work hard to provide a range of engaging experiences for our children. We continue to adapt our EYC to support our children and create a welcoming and stimulating EYC environment. As always, we welcome feedback from parents and families. If you wish to provide any feedback, please feel free to use the post notes in the foyer or speak to a member of the team.

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 to meet with your child's keyworker to discuss Care Plans. These are continually reviewed by staff and consultation with parents will take place in January. More information to follow. .

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.



Parental Engagement - PEEP group

Nicola Lawrence will continue to work with families and deliver PEEP and Bookbug sessions. Please see dates for term 3 below. Please complete the following survey to indicate what you would like the PEEP sessions to focus on -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKdWYVOLjnhBlijpQk3Yf4OY9URDI0UE1CQUhXUU1CVkZGS1NGS085RUdPTC4u>

PEEP

Monday 13th January @ 1:30-2:30pm

Monday 20th January @ 1:30-2:30pm

Monday 27th January @ 1:30-2:30pm

Monday 3rd February @ 1:30-2:30pm

Bookbug

Monday 10th March @ 9:30-10:00am

Monday 17th March @ 9:30-10:00am

Monday 24th March @ 9:30-10:00am



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



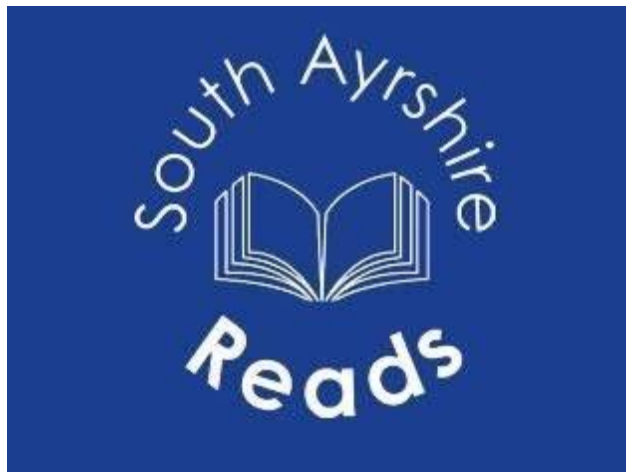
If your child requires medication on a short or long term basis, or has any allergies, **you must speak to your child's keyworker to book an appointment with Kirsty McCallum (Senior EYP).** This will allow us to complete the required paperwork, and to ensure we meet the needs of your child.

Forest Kindergarten

Haley Hughes (EYP) has been leading Forest Kindergarten sessions within the EYC. Forest Kindergarten is a weekly opportunity for a small group to access the local park for a block of learning in a wider outdoor environment. This promotes a rich opportunity to support children in leading their own learning and managing risks in natural environments. These sessions will continue across 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 children's 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 so that we can celebrate this. A survey was sent out to gather feedback on clubs / activities your child takes part in out with nursery. If you haven't already, please complete this online survey. Please continue to send photos for our WOW Wall in the foyer. Children are so proud of the things they do out with nursery and it is lovely for us to display this.

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 27th January - Care Plan Meetings

Monday 20th January - Scottish Fortnight

Tuesday 28th January - Burns Lunch

Monday 10th February - School and EYC closed

Tuesday 11th February - School closed EYC closed to children (Staff In-service)

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

Wednesday 12th March - Church Stay and Play 3

Monday 24th March - Developing the Young Workforce Fortnight

Tuesday 1st April - EYC Easter Celebration

Friday 4th April - 9:45 - Easter Service

Friday 4th April - EYC closes

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

NHS
Ayrshire & Arran

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 ²

²<https://www.nhsaaa.net/media/11019/south-ayrshire-slt-helpline-poster.png>

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.

Early Years Centre Information

Early Years Centre Policies

Please take a look at our EYC 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 page³

Alloway EYC Twitter - Follow Alloway EYC on our Twitter page.

³<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/classes/eyc/>

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. Mrs Lauren Miller (DHT) will deputise for Fiona in her absence.

Child Protection

The Child Protection Coordinator for the school and EYC is Mrs Fiona Meney (Head Teacher). She will coordinate the response to concerns for children and young people’s safety and wellbeing. Mrs Lauren Miller (Depute Head Teacher) will coordinate the response to any concerns raised, in the absence of Mrs Meney. Please follow the Child Protection Policy if reporting a concern.



Mrs Fiona Meney
- Head Teacher



Mrs Lauren Miller
- Depute Head
Teacher