



Gardenrose Early Years Centre Newsletter November 2020



Dear Parents / Carers,

We got off to a great start this term with our Spooky Sponsored Halloween Walk which has been closely followed by Children in Need fun, and already we have started with the Christmas preparations.

COVID update

We regularly update our school risk assessment to take account of the latest Government guidelines. As part of the mitigating procedures to keep your children and staff members safe, all staff must now wear face coverings when moving around the school and in social spaces. When staff are working closely with a child or groups of children, they are also required to wear a face covering. Parents/carers within the playground and near to the school entrances are also required to wear a face covering in addition to maintaining 2 metres distance from each other.

We are also following the latest guidelines on ventilation, and all windows are open in and the doors are opened when the children are outdoors, to ensure fresh air is being circulated in all class bases. It has been very challenging for everyone, but the staff and children have been very flexible in adapting to the continual changes as we respond to the latest Government Health advice.

Staffing

We have had a small number of staff members who have been absent due to family members having to self-isolate. We are very pleased that so far it has not impacted on the service that we are able to deliver as we have been able to secure supply staff.

Mrs Laurie who works in the EYC and within P1-3, is moving to Southcraig School, following her success at interview a few weeks ago. We will be very sad to see her go as she is a talented and valued member of our team and will be sadly missed by staff and pupils.

Christmas holiday arrangements

Schools in South-Ayrshire will now close on Tuesday 22nd December instead of Wednesday 23rd December. Wednesday 23rd December will be an in-service day for staff and a closure for pupils. Pupils will finish at 2:30pm on 22nd December 2020 and staff will finish at 2:30pm on 23rd December 2020.

Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019:

The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 came fully into force on 7 November. The links provide some information and resources on this legislation :

- Resources on the Act for children, young people and adults:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-equal-protection-from-assault-scotland-act-2019-promotional-materials/>
- A dedicated page on the ParentClub website:
<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/guide-new-law-about-physically-punishing-child>.
- An easy read factsheet on the Act:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-equal-protection-assault-scotland-act-factsheet-easy-read/>
- News release on the Act issued by the Scottish Government:
<https://news.gov.scot/news/defence-to-assault-on-children-removed>

Scholastic Book Fayre

The Book Fayre has arrived in school and will be with us until 26th November. We have attached the pre-browse catalogue which includes payment details. Parents and pupils can browse the full range of books in advance using our new Parent Order Forms. The final page of the PDF is editable so parents/carers can add their selections and email them back to the school. Scholastic would prefer that parents use the 'pay by phone' option rather than cash but we are happy to accept cash if required.

When ordering books parents need the School Customer ID : **31500804 Gardenrose Primary School.** Parents will then be given a transaction code when they make a phone payment, which you pass onto ourselves as proof of payment.

The children will have the opportunity to come along next week to have a look at the books and while they are browsing the Book Fair, the staff will use the wish list to write down the

books that catch their eye. We will send this home to parents/carers so that you can then decide if you wish to purchase any books. There is a great range of books on offer and the school always benefits from the commission on the sales, which we then use to purchase books for our own library.

We have also attached the stationery list if you wish to order anything. You can visit the website using the link <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/chapter-one> to enjoy some videos of some favourite authors reading one chapter from their books to help you keep children engaged and excited about reading.



Outdoor Learning

The outdoor trips to Belleisle were a great success. Belleisle is beautiful at this time of year and we are so fortunate to take part in this lovely experience together. The children worked as a team with their P1 friends to make habitats for their special Autumn animals. We look forward to planning a new outdoor adventure for our Spring term. If you have any ideas/suggestions on where we could go please e-mail them to us as part of your continued feedback.



Halloween Fun

Sponsored Walk

We had a spooky fortnight, taking part in a wide range of sensory activities. We had the opportunity to feel gloop, jelly, ice, beans and noodles alongside our 'creepy crawlies'. We had great fun carving and scooping out the pumpkin flesh too! We finished our spooky fortnight with our 'Halloween walk' round Maybole golf course.

The Spooky Sponsored walk for Halloween was an amazing success. So far we have raised **£1497.21**. Ryan Douglas, our Active School coordinator and Susan Moffat were stars driving the minibus for our EYC and P1 children so that they did not have too long a walk. A group of staff very kindly helped to decorate the Golf course on the morning so that the children could spot the spooky things on the way round their route and then we had a willing group of parent helpers who helped with stewarding and clearing away the decorations. A huge thank-you to the South-Ayrshire staff at the Golf Club for allowing us to use the course.



Curriculum

The boys and girls have again been sharing their ideas to take our learning forward. We have been exploring how to safely cross the road with Mr Parks our Lolly-pop man. We are exploring a range of stories covering aspects of travelling safety. We are becoming familiar with the names of our road safety puppets. We have Sammy Seatbelt/Rhonda Red/Larry Look/ Lucy Listen and Handy Hold.



Christmas

Cards, Calendars and crafts

The children in the EYC have been busy designing their Christmas cards and we will also be making a Christmas craft which you will be able to purchase (details to follow).

We have planned a number of activities for December, whilst still being very mindful of the current restrictions. We feel that it is important that we still try to maintain some normality and have some festive fun. We will be using some of the sponsor money to pay for Christmas parties and presents.

We are planning to create and share a virtual Christmas Advent Calendar. Each day in December leading up to Christmas, we will share a Christmas activity or performance with parents/carers. This will include Christmas artwork, dance, sketch, story, poem, songs using musical instruments and sign language. This will be posted to facebook, twitter and on our BLOG.

Jumpers

We would like to invite children to start wearing their Christmas Jumpers from **Tuesday 1st December** leading up to the Christmas lunch on **Friday 4th December**. This will get us all into the festive spirit. We appreciate that some children may not have Christmas jumpers and many children who do have them will have outgrown their jumpers from last year. We would appreciate if families would like to donate any Christmas jumpers which their children have outgrown and we will make these available to children within

the school who do not have a jumper. We will arrange for a box to be placed at the front entrance to the school for parents/carers to drop off any jumpers or send them in with your child. We will ensure that the jumpers have been washed prior to issuing to any families. *Information will be issued separately for the children to make their choices for lunch.*



School and EYC BLOG

Please remember to check out our blog for updates regarding our learning and any important letters or dates. You may also like to check out what the primary children have been learning too! <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/gardenroseprimary/>

To follow us on Twitter, download the twitter APP and follow us on @GardenroseEarly for pictures of our learning journey.



See-Saw

We would love to see more parents/carers interacting with us through see-saw. It allows the staff to check that you have received important letters or news as well as enjoying photos and videos of your children's activities in the EYC. Please make sure you have downloaded the family app with the new QR code which everyone should have received. This allows the key workers to send direct messages yourself.

Family Learning

Marie will be here on **Tuesday 24th November** for a block of three weeks to work alongside our ante pre-school parents / carers and their children. She can offer support in many areas of your child's development. Eating, toileting, behaviour and the importance of routines can all be explored. She can also help you find out more information about how you can support your child's development at home.

Snack

Can we remind all parents that we would appreciate **£1.50** per week towards snack. This money allows us to provide your child with a variety of healthy fruit and vegetables throughout the week. Your child gets a snack in the morning and afternoon each day but we will struggle to continue to provide this if all parents/carers do not contribute. We are looking into ways for parents to pay monthly or termly using the council system.

Forest Schools

We are in the process of implementing a weekly forest school within the school grounds. This will be happening each Wednesday throughout in small groups of 6 and 7.



Appropriate Clothing

The weather is getting colder! Please can your child have jackets, hats and gloves everyday alongside a pair of wellies, (**Please put your child's name on it**). You can get special welly socks to make sure everyone's feet are warm outdoors!



Feedback – we appreciate your comments or suggestions

Please e-mail any feedback to : gardenrose.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Please provide feedback on any of the activities which your children have been involved in during last term.

We are also always looking for new ideas and ways to improve the learning experiences for your child so please e-mail any helpful comments or constructive criticism – Be kind 😊!

GARDENROSE EARLY YEARS CENTRE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – TERM 2



November

Friday 27th Christmas cards and calendars distributed this week

Monday 30th St. Andrew's Day activities

December

Tuesday 1st Christmas Jumpers can start to be worn in school

Friday 4th Christmas lunch

Monday 14th Christmas parties this week – details to follow

Tuesday 22nd School closes 2.30pm (Revised date)

Wednesday 23rd Inservice Day

January

Wednesday 6th *School re-opens for pupils and staff*