



BATHGATE E.Y.C. NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2016



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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Christmas is fast approaching and the children are busy with a wide variety of seasonal learning experiences very much enjoyed by all.

Christmas Activities

The diary dates provide more information about what's happening at BEYC in the lead up to Christmas. Unfortunately due to the number of staff and children affected by Norovirus we had to change the date of our **Christmas Bring and Buy stall which now takes place on Thursday 8th December—09.45 -11.00 and 13.45—15.00.** We need baking and crafts to sell and donations for the raffle too please!

Christmas Post- We are an Eco school so if children wish to bring one card to nursery and post in our post-box this will be sorted etc. during the nursery session and displayed in the playroom.

Nativity Singalong—Our space for holding special events is limited, but following the success of previous years, we will again host two Singalongs which will allow us to accommodate more people. One for grandparents only and the other for parents/carers. **Due to Health and Safety and the high demand for tickets we can only offer two tickets per child for both Sing-alongs.** Times are noted on the diary section of the newsletter and your tickets will be attached to a paper copy of the newsletter which you can collect this week in the centre. Please remember that for reasons of Child Protection no photographs/video recordings can be taken on cameras ; phones etc. on the day.

There is no charge for this event, but again this year we will invite you to make a donation to a charity at the Sing-along. You can help us with preparations for this event by singing along with your child to the Christmas songs we will sing on the day. Miss Wilkinson has already sent song sheets home and uploaded audio files of the songs onto the Blog. As our Nativity play is centred around the story of Jesus Christmas Party, we would like all children to wear pyjamas.

Christmas Party / Activities Day

The Christmas party activities day for both groups will be held on Tuesday 20th December. Due to the extended hours the day now includes some games, dancing , party food and our usual nursery Christmas learning experiences including art and craft. We hope that a special visitor will visit with gifts for the children. Normal nursery times apply. **Please remember to pay the £3 contribution to the party to Mrs Todd by Wednesday 14th December.** This will enable us to buy Christmas gifts and party food for the children. Thank you!

We break for the holidays on 21st and as there are new floors being laid in the centre during the Christmas holidays staff and children will be tidying up and helping to get ready for the flooring work to be carried out and ready for term starting on 4th January 2017!



What are we learning about in December?

As we move towards Christmas the children are learning about Advent and preparing for Christmas. We are learning about Christmas customs and traditions from our own Scottish culture and those of other countries.

The Nativity story is the main focus for our learning and celebrations this month. All children will have the opportunity to dress up, if they wish, as one of the Nativity characters and act out the story in our stable. Our own Post Office is providing opportunities to develop understanding of numbers; their value; weighing and measuring as the children wrap and sort parcels and letters and make daily deliveries. Children are also learning Christmas songs, party games and listening to Christmas stories.

This year we are acting out the story of Christmas through the Christmas musical play "Jesus' Christmas Party", so our children are learning new songs and musical accompaniments. All the learning experiences above are related directly to Curriculum for Excellence covering all areas of learning. Building on last years, success our resident Elf will appear and join us in wraparound and nursery—watch out and listen for details of his adventures with the children in the lead up to the holidays! Miss Kelly will regularly update SWAY in the Blog with the Elf's adventures at B.E.Y.C.

The children are extending their knowledge about weather by finding about about life in cold places, particularly Polar parts of the world.

The art area is very busy with the children experimenting with new techniques and materials to extend their seasonal learning and you will see some of their work displayed alongside their



Please take note...

Severe Weather

So far we have not encountered the same severe snowy conditions as some previous years. If this should happen, please refer to our Severe Weather policy which was distributed with the November newsletter and is also on the Blog. Additional W.L.C. information can be found at:

westlothian.gov.uk/winter.

The council is also asking residents and local businesses to help:

- Park sensibly - abandoned vehicles can cause serious issues.
- Share information with friends and neighbours, and spare a moment for vulnerable neighbours.
- Stay informed. Sign up for the email alert on the council's website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/email, like the council Facebook page at www.facebook.com/westlothiancouncil or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/lovewestlothian for updates.
- If you are able, clear the path and pavement in front of your home.
- Prepare your car and home ahead of the winter.
- Keep the winter issue of Bulletin handy.
- Parents and carers should also ensure that their child's school/nursery has up to date contact information.

You will find a list of December dates/events on page 4 but please remember that all the activities planned for Christmas are dependant on any severe weather. Please check the WLC website for updates: **www.westlothian.gov.uk/newsroom/winter update**



Parental Engagement in the Life and Work of our Centre !

Stay , Play and Learn was very well attended in November and the feedback was very positive. I hope you all enjoyed finding out what really happens in nursery every day? Parent night was also very well attended and we battled on through the sickness bug which was impacting heavily that week.

There will be another opportunity for Stay, Play and Learn and Parental Consultations in March 2017. However in the meantime please remember that we have an Open Door policy so if you do have any concerns or worries please make an appointment to speak with your child's key worker or myself and we will work with you to address any concerns.

Wraparound parents drop in takes place on Monday 12th December from 15.45 until 17.20. this will be operated on a first come first served basis with ten minute appointments so please note you may have to wait for a wee while before you meet with Mrs Murray and Mrs Frame. Remember you can also check the Blog for regular updates re what's happening in Wraparound!

Children moving to P1 in August 2015

If you have not already done so, you should complete and return the P1 enrolment form to your nearest school or W.L.C. Civic Centre by 30th December.

Parents who are applying for deferred year in nursery must still apply for Primary One.

Applications for deferral must be submitted by end of January 2017. I am happy to meet with anyone who is considering deferral for their child when we return after Christmas and I can provide more information at that point.



WINTER BUGS Everyone will be now be very aware of the various winter bugs which are going around. Please remember W.L.C. And Community Health guidelines re sickness and diarrhoea —children **must not return to nursery until 48 hours after the symptoms have ceased.** Thorough hand washing and personal hygiene should be followed by all parents/carers and children at all times. If we all adopt this approach we will help to keep our families and staff sickness free. The nursery staff and the link Health Visitors will be happy to provide any further advice should it be required.

Once again there is more information about keeping healthy on the Blog!

Staffing

Miss Robertson continues to help us out with cover and will continue to do this and support Mrs Frame as we get ready to launch the Big bedtime Read in January. Thanks to Mrs Arkley for helping cataloguing and sorting all the books! Its been a mammoth task but we're nearly there ! Mrs Amos has also been in nursery providing some short term supply cover.



Diary Dates.....



DATE	TIME	EVENT
<u>MONDAY 5TH TO TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER</u>		CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO BRING CHRISTMAS CARD IN TO POST IN OUR NURSERY POSTBOX.
<u>W/B MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER</u>		TICKETS DISTRIBUTED FOR SINGALONGS ATTACHED TO NEWSLETTER— 2 FOR PARENTS & 2 FOR GRANDPARENTS.
<u>WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER</u>		PLEASE ENSURE PARTY MONEY—£3 PER CHILD IS PAID TO MRS TODD .
<u>WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER</u>		MORNING CHILDREN WILL BE FILMED BY W.L.C. AT 09.00 FOR W.L.C UTUBE CHANNEL SINGING CHRISTMAS SONGS. IF POSSIBLE ALL CHILDREN TO WEAR
THURSDAY 15 TH DECEMBER NORMAL SESSION TIMES APPLY.		NATIVITY SINGALONG FOR GRANDPARENTS MORNING DOORS OPEN AT 10.00 AND PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 10.15 ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY AFTERNOON DOORS OPEN 14.15— PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 14.30 ONLY. ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY
MONDAY 19 TH DECEMBER NORMAL SESSION TIMES APPLY.		NATIVITY SINGALONG FOR PARENTS—MORNING DOORS OPEN 10.00 PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 10.15. ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY AFTERNOON DOORS OPEN 14.15—PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 14.30. ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY
TUESDAY 20 TH DECEMBER - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATES - NORMAL SESSION TIMES APPLY.		CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE DURING CORE TIME — 08.45 — 11.08 & 12.08- 14.45 ALONG WITH CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES
WEDNESDAY 21 ST DECEMBER		NURSERY, WRAPAROUND CHILDREN AND STAFF BREAK FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.
WEDNESDAY 4 TH JANUARY 2017		NURSERY, WRAPAROUND CHILDREN AND STAFF RETURN.

If you wish to discuss anything within the newsletter please contact me at Bathgate E.Y.C.

I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday !

Thank you for your continued support.

Mvairi Lynch - Headteacher

