



Early Years Class Newsletter

September/October 2020

The weather has certainly become very autumnal over the past few weeks and we need to ensure we are all dressed appropriately for the colder temperatures. Hats, gloves, extra layers for everyone—children and staff!

EYC Health and Safety Procedures

Thank you for continued support and help to follow Health and safety procedures in EY to ensure we are keeping the children, you and the staff as safe as possible. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in physically distancing, use of the outdoor area for drop off, pick up and communication purposes and use of alternative methods in our daily practice. The children continue to do extremely well in Early Years and are enjoying a variety of play experiences both indoors and outdoors. Since returning to Early Years, it is clear to see that many children have benefitted from your input at home – well done and thank you!

Learning Discussions

Thank you for your engagement and support in helping us decide how to carry out our Learning Discussions this term. We have organised telephone calls and emails and Learning Discussion paperwork will be with you very soon. This is a new approach and we welcome feedback from you on this process. We want to be sure we are getting it right for every child and family.

Fundraising

As we no longer have your kind contribution for the EY Snack Fund, we have had to think creatively about how we can raise funds for the EY Class. Mrs Donaldson has been tasked with the job of coming up with some lucrative, yet simple ideas. You may have seen the bright yellow bin in our outdoor area—a leaflet will be coming out to you shortly to explain what it is and how we can raise funds using it.

If you have any suggestions for Mrs Donaldson, do not hesitate to get in touch and she will be happy to discuss your ideas.

Our Learning Journey

Every child has their own individual Learning Journal where we celebrate each of their achievements and link learning to the targets set in the child's Learning Discussions and further achievements the children make. We also like to link every child's journal to their home life and believe that this is significant now more than ever as we continue to place importance on attachments and parental engagement in our Early Years Class albeit through different methods than previous years. Shortly, your child will bring home a small pack containing paper and pencils. We ask that your child designs their learning journal front cover at home. Please feel free to quarantine this pack for 72 hours should you wish and once your child has designed their front cover please return their picture and we will quarantine items in the Early Years to keep in line with Scottish Government guidance. Please feel free to keep any additional paper and the pencils at home for you and your child to enjoy – and more than one picture can be done if your child would like to design more than one! If your child would like to add any other resources such as stickers, crayons, paint etc. that you may have at home then this is also welcome. We encourage the children to make choices about the materials they wish to use and this places added value to your child's learning journal through supporting the children to engage in this experience.

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Children's Clothes and Belongings

All children's jackets, jumpers etc. **must** be labelled with their names to ensure that all items are stored correctly on pegs, handed home etc. As you will have noticed, the weather is becoming colder and due the windows and sometimes doors being open for ventilation purposes and free flow play outdoors, you may wish to add an extra layer of clothing on for your child – although the children are so busy that they don't seem to notice the change in temperature! We also ask that all children have a change of clothes in their bags, just in case of any changes that may be required throughout their session.

HELP!!!

If anyone is able to donate any wellies in sizes 8 and 9, we would be so appreciative. As you know, we are maximising the use of outdoor spaces and we are using wellies and waterproofs on a regular basis! If anyone has any spare wellies that are not in use at home any more, we would be very grateful if these could be donated to Early Years.

Dates for the Diary

October Holiday Week—Monday 12th—Friday 16th October - **School & EYC closed**

In-Service Day—Monday 19th October—**Staff only in school**

Children return—Tuesday 20th October

Staffing

It is with sadness that we have to say goodbye to Miss Hunter. Our loss is Caledonia Primary & EY's gain. Miss Hunter will be taking up the role of EY Lead Practitioner and she will be a great asset to their EY Team. The staff and children will miss her terribly, but we wish her all the best for her future role.

Absences

Please contact the school office if your child will be absent from EY. Please do not send your child to EY if they are unwell or displaying coronavirus symptoms. If they are, contact the NHS for further advice.

Share Your Memories

We have had some lovely family photographs handed in to Early Years recently. Our aim is to promote a further sense of belonging for the children through displaying them and discussing them with the children. If you would like to hand one (or more!) photographs in, please feel free to do so and we can take a copy of your photograph and return the original to you instantly. Or you can email a photograph to

gw17carmichaelerin@glow.sch.uk and we can print this for you should this be easier.

Open Door Policy

As always, we are proud of the close links we have with parents/carers, even though we are working in a different way just now due to the current pandemic. The office can be contacted on 01505 682685 or emailed at garnock@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk, should you wish to communicate with the Campus. Our Early Years Practitioners/your child's Keyworker will aim to respond on minor issues, questions or queries, as quickly as possible. For any major other issues, Miss Hunter or Miss Carmichael will be a point of contact. We have a very hardworking staff at Garnock Community Campus EYC, who have the children as their priority, so please allow time for a response as staff are on the playroom floor enjoying providing quality experiences for the children.

Thank you for your continued support during these very different times. Your patience and understanding have made our job easier!