



BROXBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Learning Centre Newsletter

November 2021



"Where children have the freedom to explore and learn in a nurturing environment, which allows them to grow and develop to reach their full potential".

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a very busy month in the ELC with lots of work taking place regarding colours, numbers and writing skills. Our theme has been Autumn/Celebrations and Festivals. You may be familiar with our topic as lots of parents/carers joined in with our home learning treasure activity and we greatly appreciated you sharing all your findings (leaves, acorns, sticks, bark and conkers) to enhance our learning. We will continue to look at the changes in seasons and will also continue to discuss special festivals such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas.

Best wishes
Broxburn ELC Team

[Your child's learning](#)

The learning journals record all learning. Please feel free to look at this to aid your discussions with children about their ELC experiences. If you have any ideas or interests that you feel would add value to this, please speak to a member of our team. You can access the Learner Journals by clicking [HERE](#).

If you have any queries about your child's learning or progress, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff so we can work together to ensure your child is developing well at a pace that is appropriate to them.

[Clothing and Outdoor play](#)

As the weather changes and we experience lots of rain, wind and cold, we still aim to make sure the children can still access outdoor play. Please ensure appropriate clothing for your child's use in our ELC, if you have not done so already.

Please ensure children attend our ELC in older clothing, if possible, as due to the nature of the activities we offer and although they are encouraged to wear aprons, clothing can sometimes get marked with paint or get dirty. We ask that clothing is labelled and has your child's name on it.

[ELC Hot Lunches](#)

Our hot lunches are available for all children. If you still require a menu, please let a member of staff know. If your child is vegetarian/vegan, please let us know and a lunch can be provided. If your child does not want the hot meal, a sandwich snack will be offered instead. Parents/Carers can also provide their child with their own packed lunch if preferred.

End of session group times

We have introduced a group activity at end of each session from 12.20-12.30 p.m. and 5.30-5.40 p.m. to support the children to settle prior to pick up. This can be adapted or changed along the way to suit the needs of all. We can also rotate the days, so every child has an opportunity for experiences.

The sessions are as follows:

- **Mellow Monday:** Story time
- **Talking Tuesday:** Discuss topics and interests going on in the ELC. Ask the children about what they know, establish their prior knowledge of topics and interests. This can also be an opportunity to update our floor book with what our children say.
- **Wellbeing Wednesday:** Emotions/Yoga/Exercise
- **Tactile Thursday:** Pen Disco - to develop fine motor skills and pencil grip
- **Froebel Friday:** Block Play, Weaving, Gardening and Nature



Supporting our ASN children

As part of our nurture base, we have introduced 'scents' for our aroma lamp so that children may begin to associate and link days of the week with a specific smell. Research shows that some children can see sounds, smell colours, taste shapes, feel sounds on the skin and hear colours. Children may join objects such as letters, shapes, numbers or people's names with a sensory perception such as smell, colour or flavour. To support this way of learning we have introduced the following scents:

- Monday: Lavender
- Tuesday: Peppermint
- Wednesday: Lemon
- Thursday: Rose
- Friday: Orange



Christmas Toy Appeal

River Kids are once again very honoured to manage the Christmas West Lothian Toy Appeal (WLTA) on behalf of the local community. River Kids is a West Lothian based children's charity, founded in 2005, with the sole purpose of supporting disadvantaged children, and their families. At River Kids their belief is that no child should go without, and this is reflected in their new vision. River Kids runs the West Lothian Toy Appeal, which is now an all-year-round event (previously only being a Christmas event).

Last year saw an increase in referrals (+65% versus previous year), and they were delighted that they were able to distribute over 2000 bags of toys to disadvantaged children in the West Lothian region. It was a fantastic achievement, especially with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Although Christmas may still be a while away for some, River Kids have already started the behind the scenes work into this year's Christmas West Lothian Toy Appeal which will launch later this month.

If you feel your child/ren would benefit from The Christmas Toy Appeal, please email our school office (wlbrouxburn-ps@westlothian.org.uk) before 15th November with the title 'Christmas Toy Appeal'. This is a completely confidential service. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

'Play involves challenge and obstacles. It is no fun without.' Bruner, 2006: 57

ELC Super Stars

If your child has celebrated a recent achievement for example: swimming, riding a bike or they have had exciting news, please let us know and/or bring in a photograph and we will display this on our achievements wall.



- Rowan swam without her feet on the floor and floated on her back during her swimming lesson.
- Nairn enjoyed exploring at Beecraigs Country Park.
- Matthew started football lessons and is enjoying them.
- Lori has been caring for horses.

School terms holidays

A reminder to parents/carers that our ELC will be closed over the Christmas break. Please see a list of ELC holidays by clicking [HERE](#).

Sharing your Child's Progress and Reporting to Parents/Carers

The following arrangements have been put in place to ensure you are kept informed of your child's progress. So far we have had one parent consultation session. We have another on Friday 5th:

October/November:	Preschool parent consultations (via telephone/video)
November:	Ante-preschool settling in written report
March:	Preschool and ante-preschool parent consultations
June:	Preschool end of session written report

Health and Safety: Illness

Children who are experiencing mild symptoms, such as a blocked/runny nose or a mild sore throat, but not presenting with any COVID-19 symptoms, can still come to our setting if they are well enough to do so. However, they should stay at home if they are too ill to attend. This is important as other infections, with different symptoms to COVID-19, can be passed around children and staff.

If your child is absent, West Lothian's 'safe arrival at school' guidance asks that you telephone the school office each day of absence.

Health and Safety: Masks

A gentle reminder to parents/carers to wear masks in and around the ELC. We have children and staff with compromised immune systems. Many thanks.

Health and Safety: Staff Car park

A gentle reminder to parents/carers that you must not enter the staff car park with your vehicle. There are minimal spaces for staff and there are cars moving in and out of the car park throughout the day. Please make childminders, family members who drop off/pick up aware. If you have a Blue Badge, you are permitted to drop off and pick up your child. Your blue badge should be on display in this instance.

Realising the Ambition, Being Me - Learning Through Play

'Play is the highest level of child development. It is the spontaneous expression of thought and feeling - an expression which his/her inner life requires. This is the meaning of the word 'play'... (Froebel in Lilley, 1967:83-84)





Autumn Walk -
Home Learning Task



Finding leaves in our
playground



Look what we have gathered
for our Autumn table...



Literacy - learning sounds



Numeracy - counting within 10



Maths - 2D shapes



Ball skills at the Muga



Team work at the Muga

Children have the
opportunity to explore number
in a fun and active way.

(ELC Action Plan)

Our ELC practitioners plan
and develop outdoor learning
opportunities for all children
to experience.

(ELC Action Plan)



Sensory tray - rice and spiders!



Sensory tray - slimy Spaghetti worms!



Sensory tray - Baked beans!



Painting on plastic



Spider fine motor skills!



Spider's web...



Pumpkin bowling...



Printing with fruit



Printing with our hands

Children are active participants in their learning.
(ELC Action Plan)

The experiences and spaces for play we facilitate for the children should reflect the children's ideas, aspirations, curiosities and next steps in their learning.

Realising the Ambition (2020:49)



A visit to the hairdressers



Just adding the finishing touches...



Skills for life/
skills for work.

Children establish
skills in real life
contexts.

(ELC Action Plan)



Miss Pattinson brought her dog Nellie into our ELC for a visit. We found out how to look after dogs and we took her for a walk. It was great fun!

We welcome your feedback. It helps us to look at what we are doing well and how we can improve. Please use the following link to give us any feedback on our newsletter or on any other aspect of our ELC.

[Click here to give feedback](#)

Upcoming Events for your Diary:

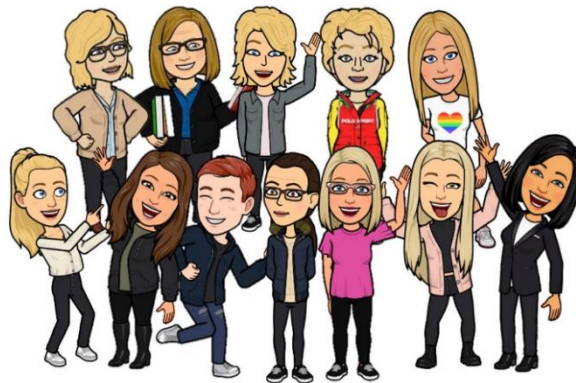
- W/C 08/11/2021 Children's Book Week (Traditional Tales) - Optional Dress up
- W/C 15/11/2021 Children In Need (PJ's and Activities all week)
- 21/11/2021 Children's Christmas Party (Details to follow)

Thank you for your continued support.
From the Broxburn ELC Team

Ms Ruth McMaster - Deputy Head Teacher (DHT)
Mrs Lisa Mushet - Early Learning & Childcare Area Support Manager (ELCASM)
Mrs Julie Grant - Early Years Officer (EYO)
Miss Karyn Pattison - Early Years Officer (EYO)
Mrs Rosaleen Murray - ELC Practitioner and Rocking Reds key group lead
Mrs Diane Walton - ELC Practitioner and Positive Purples key group lead
Miss Lauren Burns - ELC Practitioner and Brilliant Blues key group lead
Mr Matt Clark - ELC Practitioner and Yes We Can Yellows key group lead
Miss Lauren Lambert - ELC Practitioner and Groovy Greens key group lead
Miss Stephanie Lord - ELC Practitioner and Outstanding Oranges key group lead
Mrs Jill Armit - ELC Pupil Support Worker
Mrs Mags Sutherland - ELC Pupil Support Worker
Mrs Sylvia McPhillips - ELC Pupil Support Worker
Ms Janice Speirs - ELC Pupil Support Worker

Due to the extended hours, our ELC staff are not tied to term time holidays. When staff are on annual leave, your child may talk about one of our supply members of staff:

Mrs Linsey Duff - Supply Early Years Practitioner
Miss Hannah Sutton - Supply Early Years Practitioner
Mr Ewan Ferguson - Supply Early Years Practitioner
Mr Ian Pennykid - Supply Early Years Practitioner
Miss Amy Docherty - Supply Pupil Support Worker



Please remember to check our Twitter page for updates and sharing of our learning:

[@broxburn_ps](https://twitter.com/broxburn_ps)

