



# BROXBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Early Learning Centre Newsletter

### October 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last month we have been spotting the signs of Autumn; leaves changing, different Autumn colours and scents such as cinnamon and ginger. We have noticed the changing weather, discussing why it feels colder outside and how we can keep ourselves warm by wearing our jackets outside. This has led to us working on our independence and self-help skills whilst getting ready for outdoor play.

We have been very engaged in creative opportunities and have enjoyed using boxes to create our masterpieces.

During September we had a focus on sensory activities and messy play such as; moon sand, gluck, water beads, coloured rice and water play.

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](#).

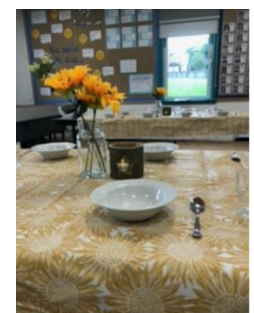
If you have any queries about your child's learning or progress, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff so we can work together to ensure your child is developing well at a pace that is appropriate to them.

#### [Our Nurture Base](#)

Our nurture base which offers a quiet and secure, safe place for any of our children who require it throughout their session in the ELC is proving to be a success. We will continue to use our sensory room which offers a therapeutic space and is designed to support and regulate emotions.

#### [Hot Lunches](#)

This has been a huge success so far and the children have loved the social aspect of this experience. This gentle and nurturing approach develops strong attachments with key adults. It is a great opportunity for children to try new foods, encouraged by their peers and key workers.



## 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 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.



- Aimee has been babysitting her friend's Chihuahuas.
- Rowan has been riding her bike on her own for the first time.
- Caitlyn has been practicing writing letters and words at home.
- Nairn has been busy exploring different places such as Stirling Castle, Truckfest and Blackpool.
- Lewis has been very brave having his first haircut.
- Cameron has been a great big brother, helping mummy with his baby sister.

## School terms holidays

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

To help us work out staffing required for over the October break, please can you complete the following form, indicating which days your child will be attending during this time. Your child's normal attendance days apply.

[Click here to add which days your child will attend our ELC.](#)

## 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:

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

For **pre-school** parent consultations, this session we are offering a 10 minute phone/video consultation. We will be holding these over two Friday mornings, 29th October and the 5th November.

You will be given the opportunity to book an appointment time using our Electronic Booking System. The school office will send out information about the dates available for each key group the week beginning the 18th October. Please book up your appointment as soon as you have the information and please contact the school on 01506 852018 if you require any help to do this.

If you feel that your discussion would require longer than the 10 minutes allocated, please arrange a further appointment out with the Learning Consultations times.



## 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.

## Halloween

The week commencing 25th October, the ELC children can dress up on any day that week. The dressing up outfit can be any theme, following the child's choice. Due to current restrictions, we ask that no props or masks are brought to our setting.

We would like to assure parents that there will be alternative activities to the Halloween themed tasks to suit a range of interests. The remainder of the early years curriculum will remain as normal.

## Realising the Ambition, Being Me - Learning Through Play

*"...play at this time is not trivial, it is highly serious and of deep significance"*  
(Froebel, 1826)



We made a den over the climbing frame, using a tarpaulin.



We did some gardening in the poly tunnel and planted seeds in our vegetable plots.





Bug hunting!



Reading outdoors.



Rolling tyres down the muddy hill.



Having fun outdoors.



Autumn has arrived!



Welcome to our Pizzeria - what is your favourite pizza?





How high?



Gluck!



Discussing our emotions.



Exploring the sensory room.



A visit from Teetu, Mrs Wilkes' (supply teacher) tortoise.

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](#)

## On our last newsletter you provided feedback:

### You Said...

Views on our newsletter:

- Very informative. Especially like knowing what snack is in advance to encourage my child to try things. Great to have the opportunity to feedback and suggest ideas for funding etc. Lovely positive achievement page for kids and staff!
- I enjoy reading staff achievements and seeing further training taken place to help benefit my child's experiences. Love seeing different photos on the letter too.

What do you think we are doing well at Broxburn ELC?

- Enthusiastic, caring and friendly staff, my child loves coming to the ELC.
- I am delighted with the observations I receive for my daughter on her learning journals and feel these are updated regularly. I am a strong contributor to my child's journals and our key worker is always responsive to home learning. My daughter loves nursery and always asks to go which gives me a peace of mind she is happy and safe. My child joining the ELC in a pandemic has not been easy however I feel my child has not been affected.
- Hard working and caring staff. Variety of excellent activities set up and ample opportunities for outdoor learning. Lots of super transition activities set up for the pre-school year. Visits to the school and lunch in the dinner hall has been great for the kids. The transition bear has been talked about at home also.

Are there any ways in which we could improve?

- Individual feedback at pick up times would be beneficial.
- The transition events such as sport's day/teddy bear's buddy picnic/school dinner etc. always fall on a Thursday. It might be better to spread these events over different days to keep it fair, it's not always possible to bring my child on other days she isn't at nursery due to other commitments she has.
- A suggestion..... The outdoor whiteboard used to tell us this week's learning so we could carry on at home.

Any other comments:

- I appreciate you are all under extra stress through this pandemic keep up the good work and thank you for making our daughter a happy confident child in your ELC. I am a parent who is keen to help out in any way if I can. Well done team.
- Thank you as always to the hard working staff at Broxburn's ELC! My child is very happy and has grown in confidence, especially this year! Thank you.

### We did...

- Make ELC staff available for feedback, especially regarding lunches.
- Begin to use the whiteboard again to update on the week's learning.
- Taken on board advice regarding timing of events taking place in the ELC.

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 Spiers - 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:

Linsey Duff - Supply Early Years Practitioner  
Hannah Sutton - Supply Early Years Practitioner  
Ewan Ferguson - Supply Early Years Practitioner  
Ian Pennykidd - Supply Early Years Practitioner  
Amy Docherty - Supply Pupil Support Worker

