



BROXBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Learning Centre Newsletter

September 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,

Welcome back to all our children and families for our new school year session. We welcome lots of new children and their families to our ELC. The children have all settled well and are enjoying all the learning activities on offer. We look forward to working closely with you over this session to support your child in our ELC.

Things are looking a bit different with the introduction of the additional early year's hours. The children have enjoyed their first summer in our ELC, where they engaged in a full programme of exciting learning experiences. The transition from ante preschool year to preschool has been seamless.

Our preschoolers from last session, have moved on to Primary 1 and they are very excited about their new adventure in school.

We still must adhere to certain restrictions due to Covid-19 and we ask that you continue to be supportive and understanding of this. We no longer have cohorts and the children can access the whole playroom and outdoors. We continue to use our super outdoor spaces on a daily basis and we hope that we will be able to access our wider community when guidance allows.

Best wishes
Broxburn ELC Team

[Your child's learning](#)

Our learning experiences are child led and reflect our children's interests. At present we are focusing on settling in and supporting our children in new situations.

The children are all showing a strong interest in baking, and this has had a ripple effect in all areas of the ELC. We extended this by making banana pancakes and will continue to develop and nourish this by introducing this activity weekly. Our very own recipe book will follow soon!

The learning journals record all learning. Please feel free to look at this to aid your discussions with children about their nursery 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.

Helping at Home

We have noticed the children's speaking, listening, and understanding skills are improving very quickly; you can help with this by having meaningful conversations with your child, answering any questions they might have, and introducing them to new words they may not have heard before. Reading books on various topics will also provide your child with a wider vocabulary. Rhyming books are great as they help children learn about word families such as let, met, pet, wet, and get. Rhyming also teaches children the sound of the language. This awareness leads to reading and writing success.

Launch of our Nurture Base

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

Hot Lunches

Eating well is essential for children in their early years and we now offer 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.

Outdoor play

To make sure the children can still access outdoor play in all weathers, please ensure appropriate clothing for your child's use in nursery if you have not done so already.

Sun cream

We encourage parents/carers to apply sun cream on warm days prior to arriving in our ELC. This will be reapplied by staff throughout the day. All parents/carers will have signed their child's support plan giving permission for it to be applied in our ELC. Please ensure you have provided the ELC with sun cream for your child which we will label, date, and keep in the ELC.

Clothing

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.

Toileting

In a bid to getting it right for every child, we thank parents with continuing to support toileting at home. In the ELC we encourage children to go straight to the toilet when needed or ask an ELC practitioner. Together we can create a consistent toileting routine.

When children begin toilet training, make it a part of the daily routine. Take the child to the toilet at regular intervals, whether or not they indicate they need to go. Help them remove clothing and sit on the toilet. Encourage them and show how to wipe. We will continue to encourage this routine in the ELC.

ELC drop off and collect times

A gentle reminder to parents/carers to drop off at the suggested times. Try not to arrive too early for your child's sessions, or just after the agreed collection time. This can cause congestion at the door and does not allow for a smooth transition with key practitioners. We value your support with this.



ELC (3 and 4 year olds) provision – Flexibility & Choice

West Lothian Council ELC provisions (for 3 and 4 year olds) operate from either a nursery school, early years centre, primary school or nursery class within another building. The type of establishment is reflected in the table below with the initials NS, EYC, PS or NC respectively. The initials RC indicate that the Primary School is denominational (Roman Catholic), however all ELC provision is non-denominational, even if housed in a denominational building.

West Lothian Council's Education Executive committee agreed to implement the increase in free, high quality ELC hours to 1140 hours **from the 19 April 2020** before the new legal requirement of August 2021. ELC provision from 19 April 2021 to 13 August 2021 is as follows : **AM** – Monday to Thursday 07:50-12:30 & Friday 07:50-11:47 : **PM** - Monday to Thursday 12:30-18:14 : **2FD** – Any 2 days allocated between Monday to Thursday from 08:00-18:00 and a short session 3h20m in length which will be allocated on a day not allocated full days in either the AM 08:00-11:20 or the PM 12:45-16:05. Alternatively, children may receive funding to attend a Private Nursery or Childminder over a minimum of 38 weeks, with any one session not exceeding 10 hours and a maximum of 30 hours being funded in any one week. All these formats provide up to 1140 hours if attended 50 weeks of the year from August to August.

ELC Super Stars

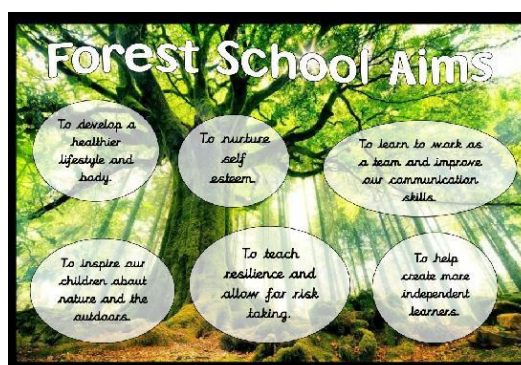
If your child has celebrated a recent achievement for example: swimming, riding a bike or they have had exciting news, please let us know and/or bring in a photograph and we will display this on our achievements wall.



Staff Achievements

Congratulations to Mrs Grant and Ms Walton on completing and passing The University of Edinburgh Froebel Course with flying colours! We have begun to embed the Froebel principles within our ELC. Friedrich Froebel, a nineteenth century German educator and creator of the kindergarten, is arguably the most significant of the pioneers of early year's education and care. His principles underpin much of the excellent provision and practice today.

We also want to congratulate Miss Pattinson who has recently passed her Forest Schools training. Forest school is an approach to learning that takes children into the great outdoors whatever the weather to explore the natural environment. For children, forest school activities develop confidence, self-esteem, imagination and physical ability as they are allowed to test their limits in the natural world. Miss Pattinson's fantastic ideas will benefit our children and their outdoor play experiences.



School terms holidays

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

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)



Reading and relaxing.



Writing skills outdoors...



Yoga moves.



Turn taking.



Our sensory room.



It is so relaxing in our ELC.



We love our tasty hot lunches.

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](#)

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

Ms Ruth McMaster -	Acting Deputy Head Teacher (ADHT)
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

Before the school summer break, we said goodbye to Mrs McLean who has worked in our ELC for many years. She is still employed as a pupil support worker in the main school. We want to say a big thank you to her for all her support with our ELC children.

