

BROXBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Learning Centre Newsletter

December 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 Children in Need, Children's Book Week, light and dark activities, lots of STEM and science experiments. Our theme has been winter and weather. We have been talking about different types of weather and appropriate clothing. We are currently doing lots of Christmas themed activities as part of our learning.

Best wishes

Broxburn ELC Team

ELC Holidays

A reminder to parents/carers that our ELC will be closed over the Christmas break. Our last day in our ELC is:

- Wednesday 22nd December 2021
- All children and staff will return on Wednesday 5th January 2022

Please see a list of ELC holidays by clicking [HERE](#).

Health and Safety: COVID mitigations

In light of the government announcement, mitigations currently in place are being reinforced, such as sanitisation, mask wearing and physical distancing. A gentle reminder to parents/carers to wear masks and physically distance around our ELC. We have children and staff with compromised immune systems. Many thanks.

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: 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.

[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.

[Developing our Literacy Skills](#)

We have introduced Pen Disco into our weekly planning. It is such a fun way to encourage mark making. The children made zig zags, spirals and lines, all to the beat of music. The children and staff had so much fun. Here is a link to our twitter page: [Click Here: Pen Disco](#)

We have also been introducing Sign-a-Long skills to support all our children to access learning. Learning to communicate in different ways allows everyone to have a voice. We will be learning new signs every fortnight. Please click here to see Miss Burns teaching some signs:

[Click here: Basic Signs](#)

[Click here: Christmas signs](#)

[Click here: One of our children signing](#)

[Clothing and Outdoor play](#)

As the weather changes and we experience lots of rain, wind and cold, and now snow, we still aim to make sure the children can still access outdoor play. Please ensure appropriate clothing, including wellies, 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.

[Home Learning Activity](#)

The children in our ELC have been practicing putting on winter clothing by themselves. We would like for this to continue at home as an activity. A wee tip when hanging up clothing in our cloakroom is to tuck hats, scarves and gloves into the jacket sleeve.

[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.

[Time Keeping](#)

We have noticed some late pick-ups recently, and we politely ask that all children are picked up on time. This allows staff to sanitise our ELC between sessions, and organize the playroom for the following day/session. Thank you.

'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.



Hannah - moved up a gymnastics class.

Caitlyn - practicing her self-help skills whilst getting herself dressed

Nairn - walked up Cockleroy Hill

Isla - has been practicing her sign language at home.

Dylan - has been practicing his Christmas singing at home.

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)



Cutting skills



Children In Need activities



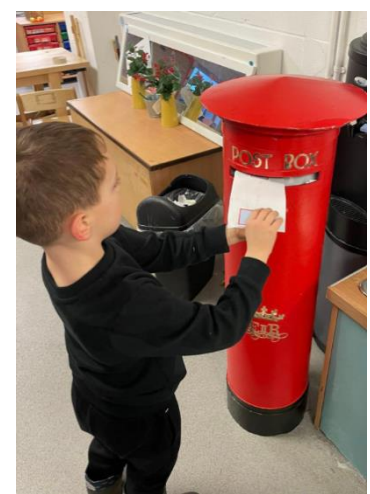
Happy snack and lunch times!



Busy in our ELC



St. Andrew's Day in our ELC



Writing letters to Santa and posting them



Christmas has arrived in our ELC!

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.

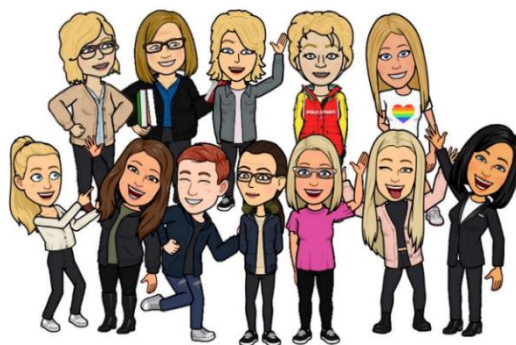
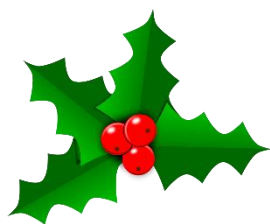
[Click here to give feedback](#)

Upcoming Events for your Diary:

- **15th December: Christmas Lunch**
- **20th December: ELC Christmas Sing-a-long** - Families will be sent a link to a pre-recorded ELC performance of Christmas songs.
- **Week beginning 20th December:** Children will watch an online performance of the pantomime, Peter Pan, with a treat during the performance.
- **21st December: Christmas Party** - All children are invited. AM party will take place during AM session. PM party will take place during PM session. Full day children who don't attend on this day can come along to the PM party.
- **22nd December: Christmas Jumper Day** - Children can wear a Christmas jumper and donate £1 to our Parent Council. If you can please pay the pound to the Parent Council Bank Account. All you need to do is to set up a bank payment using the details below:
Account number 00202372

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing all our children and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
From the Broxburn ELC Team



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

[@broxburn_ps](#)

