



BROXBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Learning Centre Newsletter

February 2022



HELLO FEBRUARY



"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,

On behalf of all the staff team, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our returning families as well as our new ones. We are so happy to be in the ELC and look forward to all the exciting learning and interests ahead. We have gotten off to a great start and everyone is getting back to their routines and we can see friendships really starting to form.

Our interests have continued to be Winter. There has been lots of discussion about ice, snow and frost as well as what we wear to keep us warm. Last week this developed into talking about animals and how they adapt to living in the cold.



The children continue to talk about dinosaurs and their time on Earth. We are learning about the names of dinosaurs, and we became paleontologists for the day. We even created our own volcano.

We have been playing outside and participating in our daily mile. Our children are demonstrating more focused learning when outside and asking lots of questions, taking risks and loving "adventures", so please remember appropriate clothing daily.

We have enjoyed literacy and numeracy games indoors and outdoors. Robert Burns day celebrations were fun and we enjoyed Scottish songs, dancing and food (although haggis was NOT popular!).



We participated in making hearty vegetable soup and had this for our snack. There has been lots of chat about cars, car washing, parking spaces, roads and road safety in outdoor play. We continued with 'pen disco' sessions, developing our mark making skills.

We are currently engaging in the Big Garden Birdwatch and themed activities as part of our learning. Role play and going on holiday has been a popular topic of conversation, so we will be setting up a travel agents in our ELC.

Best wishes

Ruth McMaster, DHT and the Broxburn ELC Team



Health and Safety: COVID mitigations

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.



If your child presents with Covid symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if your child has symptoms:

- Carry out regular Lateral Flow tests (LFD). If negative and your child's symptoms improve, then they can return to our ELC.
- If your child is showing negative on LFD tests and is still showing symptoms, please organise a PCR test.

Click [HERE](#) for NHS info on symptoms in children.

What to do if your child shows positive on a LFD or PCR test:

Children must isolate for 10 days. However, if the child tests negative on day 6 and day 7 LFD tests (taken at least 24 hours apart, with the first test no earlier than day 6) they may leave isolation if they have no fever after their day 7 test.

Please inform our school office and ELC staff if your child is positive. 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

We have noticed an increased number of parents dropping off and picking up their children in the school car park at all times of the day. 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. There is a car park on Bridge Street which parents/carers are permitted to park in.



ELC Holidays

A gentle reminder that our ELC holidays are slightly different to school holidays.

- We will remain open over the school February break: 14th and 15th February
- We will remain open from Monday 4th April until breaking up for Easter on Thursday 14th April, returning on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

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

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.

Home Learning Activity

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch: [Click Here](#) to access the website.

The Big Garden Birdwatch helps the RSPB monitor how garden birds are managing. Shockingly, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 50 years, so it really is vital we do all we can to look after our birdlife. As a conservation charity the RSPB depend on your support to save nature and to look after places where wildlife can thrive. You can also help by telling us what you saw during your Birdwatch. Log onto the website above to log the types of birds you have seen in and around your home and ELC.



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.

Starting Broxburn ELC: Tips for settling in:

- **Communication is key:** ask questions. We are always here to listen and work in partnership with you.
- **Be reasonable with expectations:** Please remember that sometimes starting ELC can have a shaky beginning, however, good communication and a positive relationship with your child's keyworker will make the transition as smooth as possible.
- **Be strong and be prepared for tears:** your child may get upset and this doesn't mean anything is wrong. It's just them communicating that they don't want you to leave.
- **Keep smiling:** children pick up on your emotions. If you're happy and calm they will be too.
- **Keep goodbyes brief:** make the drop off loving but quick. A kiss and a hug goodbye, then leave.

It usually takes around three to four weeks of using the same strategies consistently, to help settle your child in. We are all here to support you and your child.



ELC Lunches

There have been lots of conversations at lunch time about healthy foods and what we like to eat. Children are really loving trying out the hot lunch menu. 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.



Health & Wellbeing Indicators

Miss Burns has been exploring the Health and Wellbeing curriculum as part of her distributive leadership role. You will find a booklet available to pick up at the entrance to our ELC. Each of our Wellbeing Indicator Buddies have an important role to play at Broxburn ELC to make sure everyone is alright!

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.



- Elijah is a proud new Big Brother to Zoey
- Jaxon - became a big brother to Ayda.
- Caitlyn - has been exploring learning about time



Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul.

Friedrich Froebel,
Father of Kindergarten

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)

'In play the child ascertains what he can do, discovers his possibilities of will and thought by exerting his power spontaneously.'



We made vegetable soup. We chopped the vegetables, cooked them and then we ate the delicious soup for our snack.

'Development happens within a culture where children receive the right kind of support and experiences to lead secure and flourishing future lives' (RtA, 2020:15).

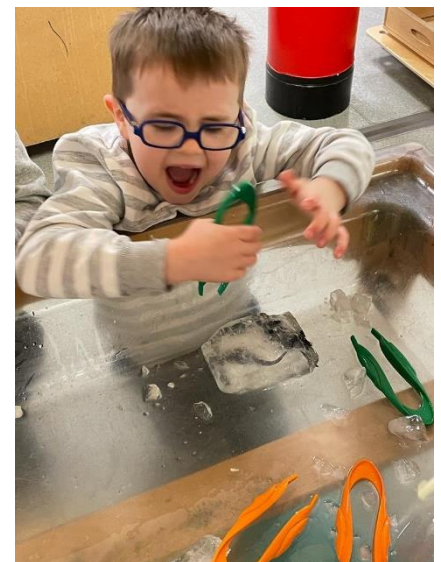


We celebrated Burns Day in the ELC with Haggis, Neeps & Tatties for snack, The Three Crows puppet show and lots of other Scottish activities.

The haggis received mixed reviews!



Being me



Investigating and exploring ice. What does it feel like? What happens when we hold it in our hands? "It's freezing", "very cold", "it sticks to my hands", "it's melting". We then extended our ice exploration and made coloured ice. We found that the ice was still cold and we liked the colours we made. "It's slippy", "it's so cold", "Our warm hands melt the ice".

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



Following on from our interests in dinosaurs, we had a hands on STEM experience of volcanoes. We talked about how different ingredients create reactions! "It's very hot", "The bubbles are whooshy".

"Observe, support and expand the learning", Bruce (2011: p216)



Pen disco! Improving our mark-making skills.



Literacy - letter formation.



Winter craft.



Learning outdoors.
Literacy
Numeracy
STEM

"Experiencing fresh-air and being outdoors in different weathers and natural environments develops my understanding of life and benefits my wellbeing", RtA.

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



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

[@broxburn_ps](#)



Also check our school website

[CLICK HERE](#)