



BROXBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Learning Centre Newsletter

March 2022



"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,



The children have been little busy bees in our ELC and lots of exciting learning has taken place. They have had such fantastic fun too over the last month.

We have been learning all about people who help us. This was a topic the children said they would like to learn about. We discussed all the different people in school who help us like our ELC staff, dinner ladies, janitor, etc. The children have also shown a great interest in finding out about people who help us out in the community. The children have been especially interested in firefighters and their roles. We have been dressing up, and we love our small world play fire station. We have also continued our interest with travel and the travel agents within our ELC has proved popular.



As always the children love being outdoors. The muddy hill and playground have been well used. The children have really enjoyed riding bikes. As the weather improves, we will access the outdoor more often and continue to look for evidence of the changing seasons, as we welcome Spring.



Best wishes

Ruth McMaster, DHT and the Broxburn ELC Team

Health and Safety: COVID mitigations

Mitigations currently remain in place 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

The setting down and picking up of children in the staff car park is strictly prohibited. Please refer to the West Lothian Council sign at the gate. 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. Thanks you for your understanding.



ELC Holidays

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

- We will remain open over part of the school Easter holiday
- 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](#).



Many thanks for your patience at this difficult time, regarding our updates of your child's Learner Journals. Due to ongoing staff absences, you may find your child has had less observations than normal. ELC practitioners have uploaded group time as well as personal observations. With staff numbers now improving, you will see an increase in observations. Expectations are a minimum of one every two weeks. Miss Lord remains absent and Miss Pattinson is overseeing the orange group's observations.

Home Learning Activity

As we have been really interested in people who help us. We have some home activities you might want to try.

Charlie the Firefighter

Home Learning Challenges



In the story 'Charlie the Firefighter', the children visit a fire station. Draw some flames on the ground outside using chalk. Then, squirt them with water, using a hose or a squeeze bottle. Can you put the fire out and remove the chalk flames?



There are 2 fires and then 2 more fires start. Charlie the Firefighter is coming to put them out. How many fires are there altogether? You might like to draw a picture to find the answer.



Do you have a smoke alarm in your home? Talk with a grown-up about how this keeps you safe. Maybe you could ask a grown-up to test the smoke alarm so you could hear the noise that it makes.

Imagine you had to call the fire brigade. Would you know which number to call? Practise calling 999 on a pretend phone, then practise giving them the information they would need.



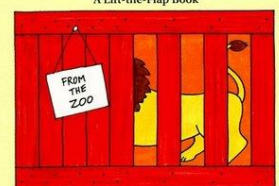
Language and Literacy

We are trying a new strategy at group times so that practitioners can really focus on our tracker statements. Children vote for a story of their choice on a Monday. Tuesday is a Literacy activity linked to the story. Wednesday is a numeracy activity related to story and Thursday is a H&W activity linked to the story. The days will be rotated to ensure all children receive the same experiences.

The first week has been a great success!

Dear Zoo

A Lift-the-Flap Book



Rod Campbell

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

A reminder to parents to sign up to the parents Portal/Ipay. Once signed up, we ask that you discuss with your child which meal they would like for their lunch each day and record it on ipay. This makes it much easier when ordering from the kitchen, as our meals are freshly prepared at Kirkhill Primary. Many thanks.

Health & Wellbeing Buddies

We have had great fun getting to know all our wellbeing buddies. Each of our Wellbeing Indicator Buddies have an important role to play at Broxburn ELC to make sure everyone is alright!

All of our Wellbeing Buddies like to feel included. They like to play together and all enjoy being part of a group. They love coming to our ELC to play with their friends and know that they have the most fun when everyone joins in together.



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.

- George helped his mummy and daddy celebrate their wedding day
- Arran helped paint his own World Book Day costume
- Nathan met and held animals at his No Limits sports club
- Lori has been helping look after the calves on her farm.





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.'

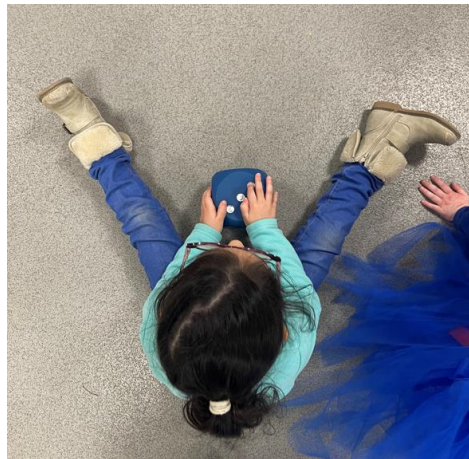


Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day!
We had lots of fun measuring, pouring, beating and mixing. We made some delicious pancakes. Yum!



World Book Day: we dressed up as our favourite book characters. We read lots of lovely books. We tried writing our own books.





Numeracy and Maths:

We love numbers and counting. We have been using the Cuisenaire rods to help us.



People who help us: We really enjoyed being fire-fighters and using our hoses to put out a fire!



Ask me why I got this Anna Apple sticker? I'm a healthy eater!

Ask me why I was given this sticker



Ask me why I was given this sticker





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



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

Sign-a-long and Super Ted:

Coming soon is the launch of Super Ted's 'words of the month' which will run alongside our ongoing sign-a-long. Keep an eye out for the launch and we encourage you to discuss and practise these with your child.



Our ELC Garden.

We would like to ask for your ideas regarding how we can improve our outdoor learning, our garden and ideas for local walks. We would love for our parents to be involved in and take forward a "Garden Group". Please indicate your interest by letting Miss Pattinson or Mrs Murray know.

Fundraiser

We are planning Superhero challenges to raise funds to upgrade our garden resources. Information to follow soon....

School applications and Transition.

At this time of year staff begin planning our transition activities to support your child moving to the next stage in their learning in August. We want to reassure you that staff are beginning to plan activities and create information to support your child. We aim to make the move seamless, so that Primary 1 will be an extension of our ELC. We look forward to sharing this as soon as possible.

A date for your diary....

Parent Consultations will take place on **Friday 25th March and 1st April**. You will receive an email from the school office next week with information on how to book.

We look forward to welcoming new learners to our ELC in April

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](#)

