



Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

January/February 2021

Welcome to our newsletter of January 2021!

We welcome all our families virtually as we return for the new year of 2021. As you are all aware with the government guidance we will be offering home learning for all our children registered at Gartconner nursery. Please login in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to see what experiences our staff will be offering during the Covid period. If you are having difficulty accessing your child's learning journal, please let us know so we can help resolve the problem.

What we are learning about/ focusing on?

Butterfly Room

The staff in the butterfly room will be working directly with our key worker/vulnerable children to accommodate their holistic needs. However, this does not mean our children who are at home will be missing out. We will reflect all the playroom learning onto the learning journals for all our children at home. We have been exploring Robert Burns using different patterns and shapes to enhance our learning and familiarise ourselves with different patterns. The children attending the nursery will also be accessing their zone areas freely to explore and play enhancing their imaginative and inquisitive skills. The staff will also be uploading different experiences on the learning Journals to ensure the children are continually engaged with different experiences at home with the support of their families. The staff will also be contacting all parents via emails and telephone for their 3 weekly check in. This will give the parents the opportunity to ask their child's key worker any questions in relation to their child's home learning and development.

Blossom Room

In the blossom room we continually gathering evidence to better our practice for the children currently attending the nursery and the ones at home. We ensure we engage with all families through the learning journals, telephone conversations and emails. We strive through this difficult time to ensure all the children are receiving the best possible outcomes to learn and engage in the comfort of their own homes while staying safe. We will be uploading fun/interactive experiences each week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday focusing on literacy, numeracy and health/wellbeing. Please continue to check your child's learning journal for regular updates.



We have introduced a different way of doing snack at Gartconner nursery. One dedicated member of staff will record children's choice of snack and place an order for the week ahead. Both playrooms will be involved in this experience by giving children the choice of different foods. We will evident this on a floor book by recording children's choice/voice of nursery snack choices and ideas.



General updates

We welcome back Simone from maternity leave. Simone will work alongside the nursery staff to help and support your children's learning and development.

Please note we are working on a reduced staffing level. This will mean staff working at the centre will work one week on and one week off (working from home). This will help with any future Covid outbreaks and track and trace purposes. There will be some staff that you will have not met due working in different zones. This will mean staff will ask for a password when picking up ensuring your child's safety.

If your child is currently attending the nursery and requires a lunch during their session of attendance, please call the nursery before 9.30am to let us know your child's lunch option. (If your child will be coming in a little later that day)

Dates for your diary

Please ensure you have registered your child for school starting August 2021. The deadline for submitting the school application is the 22nd of January 2021.

2021/2022 applications for nursery placements are open from 11th of January-28th February for all 2,3 and 4 year olds including the continuation forms for children already attending the centre.

Nursery February closure – 10th of February for in-service training of staff

Easter closure - The nursery will be closed on Friday the 2nd of April and will re-open on the 6th of April.



Your views matter

The nursery and the school are both working together on their journey towards the green flag award. Part of this process in achieving the flag is for the children to participate in line with the eco committee plan. We believe this will be a fun and motivating experience for the children to be included in making Britain beautiful.

We have also been awarded funding from the committee climate asset fund. This fund will be used to fund a food growing project for our nursery/school. This food growing project will eventually tie in with the eco school project.

Our focus will continue to be around the creation of the 6 principles of nurture policy. Staff are focusing on one principle at a time to explore and work on how we can implement this in our everyday practice. If you have any suggestions on the above, we would love to hear from you!



Meet the Team

Deputy Head of Centre – Rachel Travers (Maternity leave)

Deputy Head of Centre – Jan Robinson (Available Thursday & Friday)

Acting Deputy Head of Centre – Erin McMaster (Available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Senior EYW – Hoda Al-Hilli (Available Monday-Friday)

Nursery Teachers – Elizabeth Wilson, Lynsey Docherty

Blossom Room (3-5)

Key Workers – Suzy Wright, Heather Woollon, Megan Hutchison, Lorraine Daily, Beverley Gray, Monica McKernan, Linda McColl, Claire Holmes, Sarah McBride, Shauna Turner, Leanne Ritchie, Caroline Cowan, Rachel Rodger, Lynsey Murray, Devlin Ryan, Leonie French.

Early Years Support Worker – Katey Bodle. Modern Apprentice – Jenna MacHattie.

Butterfly Room (2-3)

Alison Berrie, Ross Harrison, Angela Curtis

Finally,

Please do not bring your child into the nursery if they;

- Have a fever or high temperature, have a new persistent cough, experience a loss of taste or smell and have had contact with anyone displaying the above.
- Please continue to promote hygiene at home to reduce the risk of Covid outbreak.