



Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

March 2021

Welcome to our newsletter of March 2021!

Hello everyone and welcome to our March 2021 newsletter. I cannot believe it's already March! We have been excited to welcome all our new and existing children starting back with us at Gartconner ELC. Although things are improving in Scotland around Covid 19 there are still a number of differences in relation to how we operate at Gartconner ELC. Our drop off and pick will resume at the same zone your child has been attending since we implemented this approach. All new starts have been given allocated zones for drop off/picking up. If you are still unsure of this, please let us now and we can help.

What we are learning about/ focusing on?

Butterfly Room

The children in the butterfly room have settled in really well. The staff are doing great supporting all the new starts settle and becoming familiar with the new nursery environment. The staff are focusing on responsive play and exportation around the playroom. Set responsive experiences are there for the children to explore and play freely supporting their transition. The responsive planning has been around the children's interests on outdoor play. We have been looking at the "Bear Hunt" story and the creation of different props to help support and develop their learning. The children have created binoculars and different props to support their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination. We have now started to look into the season of spring and looking at different flowers and colours around the spring time.

Blossom Room

We have had a number of new starts within our blossom room. We are continually supporting children with their home to nursery transitions. Our main focus will be aimed at the children's health and well-being. we ensure we are embedding social skills within our establishments for all our young children. As a team we plan responsively ensuring children's interests are our main priority. The children have been taking part in spring experiences creating props and noticing signs of spring. We have been busy with the eco school planting and growing project. We have just started looking into soil, flowers and how things grow. Please keep checking your child's learning journal for updates on your child's individual learning and development.



General updates

We welcome Kim Pepler to the team. Kim will be working alongside Elizabeth supporting planning and focused observations of the nursery children in both zones. We now have recruited Josephine who is the support worker in zone 2. Josephine will work alongside the staff team supporting our children with settling in and transitions.

Olivia has also started with us as a catering member of staff. Olivia will be based in our nursery kitchen helping with snack and lunches during the day.

Dates for your diary

14th of March 2021 Mother's day – The children will be making cards for someone special in their life (Not necessarily focused on Mother's day)

15th to the 21st of March down syndrome week – Wear brightly coloured odd socks

17th of March 2021 St Patrick's Day – Special food, music and dancing celebrated

19th of March 2021 Red nose day- Please come into nursery wearing red (No props)

29th of March 2021 Holl Festival of colour – Hindu Spring Festival (We will be celebrating this event at Nursery with the children)

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

Autism awareness week from the 29th of March to the 4th April – Please wear anything blue to support this campaign

Your views matter

Great news our school and nursery has been awarded funding from the CCAF. This organisation is aimed at promoting climate change and reducing carbon footprint. Therefore, we will be implementing a food growing project working collaboratively with the school. The children have already chosen what fruit and vegetables they want to grow expressing own choices. With this funding we have purchased new resources to support this. Going forward we will be looking at ways to involve our families safely in line with Covid guidance. We kindly ask if you can share your views and ideas on gardening tips and ways to attract the wildlife. This will help support our other ventures which is working towards the Green flag award through eco-School Scotland.

The staff have been busy gathering evidence on the six principles of nurture and have now compiled information on one of the principles which is "Transition". Please complete the attached statement at the bottom of this as we value your feedback.



Meet the Team

Deputy Head of Centre – Rachel Travers (Maternity leave)

Deputy Head of Centre – Jan Robinson (Available Monday-Friday)

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

Nursery Teacher – Elizabeth Wilson

Teacher Support: Kim Pepler

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. Josephine Kerr

Modern Apprentice – Jenna MacHattie,

Butterfly Room (2-3)

Alison Berrie, Ross Harrison, Angela Curtis

Catering staff

Olivia Carberry

Finally.

I would like to say a huge thank you for your continuous help and support during these difficult circumstances. Here at Garlconner We ensure we are placing all the children, staff health and safety at the heart of the centre.

Please ensure you are following Government guidance at all times when dropping off and picking up. Can you be mindful of the following;

- **Physical distancing when dropping off/picking up**
- **Wearing a face covering when dropping off/picking up**
- **Washing and sterilising of hands**
- **Catching coughs and sneezes safely.**