



## Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

April/May 2021

Hello everyone I hope you have managed a good Easter break. It has been a pleasure welcoming back all the children to nursery. Compliance with COVID protocols and procedures for everyone has been great across the board. We hope everyone continues to adhere to government guidance at all times for the protection of themselves and others. We are still operating in 3 different zones ensuring the safety of all staff and children is priority. We welcome some new friends who have started with us over the Easter break. We hope you enjoy your learning here with us at Gartconner.

### What we are learning about/focusing on?

#### **Butterfly Room - zone 3**

The boys and girls have been interested in mark making, using different fruit and vegetables in the kitchen area and enjoying small group experiences. The staff have been supporting the children with their experiences to further their learning. The staff have been focusing on the children listening skills and following basic instructions to help with becoming aware of nursery routines. The children have been accessing the outdoor area most of their sessions to develop gross motor skills and challenge their learning by discovering what the natural environment can offer them. We have been encouraging the children to have their snacks and lunches outdoors to make most of the beautiful weather. The staff have organised a small picnic for the children to help with social and communication skills. This has come from the children's interested play. Can all parents ensure they can access their child's learning journal where you can see your child's learning journey here with us at Gartconner ELCC.



#### **Blossom Room - zones 1 and 2**

The boys and girls have been exploring the spring season. We have been looking at the plant cycle and exploring bug cycles. We have been watching our caterpillars develop into colourful butterflies. The staff have been encouraging the children to participate in more challenging experiences outdoors. The vast majority of the time the children have been exploring the natural environment and having the opportunity to be outdoors when they wish. The staff are planning continually around the children's interests and voices. The children have been making use of the nice weather and having their snacks and lunches outdoors. Can all parents ensure they are regularly checking their child's learning journals.



## General updates

We welcome Laura Ness who has joined our nursery team working alongside the Depute head of centre Jan Robinson. Laura has taken on the role of nursery clerical responding to family queries and sharing important information in relation to your child/children.

We now have our very own nursery direct number. Please feel free to contact us on 0141 955 2324

### Dates for your diary



3<sup>rd</sup> of May- May day - Nursery closed

6<sup>th</sup> of May in service day – Nursery closed

17<sup>th</sup> of May- Walk to school week

28<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of May – Nursery Closed

### Eco and the growing project update

The children have started participating in the food growing project. The foods we have started on growing are strawberries, lettuce and potatoes. Children from each zone will get the chance to take part in this project. This will develop the children's understanding and awareness of the importance of growing our own food and the benefits around this.

The staff from the Eco committee have begun the green flag journey in line with the school. The three main focused topics are biodiversity, litter and food. The boys and girls will be involved in many fun interactive challenging experiences supporting their learning and development. This will be an ongoing project therefore; we will continue to have regular updates.

Gartconner primary and nursery are currently updating their travel plans of how pupils travel to nursery/school. This should encourage future travel changes in terms of how families travel to nursery/school. Once the update is complete the parents and all children will be made aware of this.

Here at Gartconner we welcome all family suggestions. Please feel free to email in any of your thoughts.

**Eco-Schools** 

### 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 Clerical** – Laura Ness

**Nursery Teachers** – Elizabeth Wilson/Linda Huismen

**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.

**Early Years Support Worker** – Katey Bodle

**Apprentice** – Jenna MacHattie, Josephine Kerr

### 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 Gartconner 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.**

Can all parents ensure their child/children comes into nursery with the following: **Spare changes of clothing, wet suits, wellies, sun cream (kept in their bags), sun hats.**

