



Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

October/November 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to our October/November newsletter. Autumn has fast approached and we can't believe it is this time of year already! At the start of September, we began to gradually operate again without zones in our playroom/outdoor areas, in line with government guidelines. This has been working well and was a welcome change for everyone. Our system for pick up and drop off remains the same with allocated zone entrances and will be reviewed again in due course.

We have also been trialling sending out a weekly lunch survey by email. This is going well and is really helpful for our nursery/catering staff team so we will continue to send these out each week. As always, your continued support with these changes/questionnaires is very much appreciated.

What we are learning about/ focusing on?

Butterfly Room - zone 3

We have been enjoying taking part in some Autumn themed activities in our Butterfly Room including pumpkin painting which was a lot of fun! We have also been making the most of our outdoor areas enjoying lots of outside play and taking part in physical activities in all weathers. We recently welcomed new children into our Butterfly room who are settling in really well to their new nursery routine. We have been focusing on some tactile activities which incorporate touch and smell. At lunchtime we promote a self-service system which allows the children to access their food independently. We are also working on our table manners and encouraging the children to tidy up when they are finished playing with the different resources.



Blossom Room

We are working on our Talk 4 Writing and are currently focusing on the story of Mr Wiggle & Mr Waggle with the children being able to re-tell the story. In the Blossom room we are also reading a book called Dear Zoo as well as nursery rhymes which relate to different animals. The children have been enjoying drawing and describing the different animals from the story as well as including their favourite animals. We have been practising our numbers and working on counting forwards and backwards from the number ten as well as counting from various mid points.

We have also have been working hard in the Blossom room creating 10 green bottles for our indoor & outdoor areas.



General updates

Halloween – This year we are planning to have a 'spooky week' where the children can dress up to come into nursery week commencing Monday 25th October to Friday 29th. The children can choose to dress up each day they come into nursery this week if they wish to do so. Further information will be sent out by email this week. We will also be getting the children involved in different Halloween themed activities and experiences throughout our 'spooky week'!

We have created some simplified Covid-19 guidance which will be sent out to parents by email to give you an insight into how we stay safe within the nursery.

We will be arranging times to for telephone parental consultations for the month of November. Further information will be sent out in due course.

Eco and the growing project update

The children have continued to engage in a variety of learning experiences which focus on our focus topics for helping us to achieve our green flag award. These have ranged from planting opportunities, learning about different animals and their environments, as well as leaning opportunities surrounding litter and its harmful effects on the environment.

We will be focusing on supporting our learners to learn more about climate change over the next few months with the upcoming Cop26 event. We will also be focusing on further developing our learners' knowledge of Fairtrade and the benefits of using these products.

We are looking for family volunteers to become part of our Eco committee. The role will involve contributing ideas and suggestions for curricular experiences to be implemented within our centre, in addition to ideas for home learning opportunities which can be shared with our families.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our Eco committee, please advise a member of staff or express your interest via our learning journals platform. Your help and support is much appreciated!

We will continue to update all parents and carers on this ongoing project. If you have any ideas or suggestions, we would love to hear them.

Eco-Schools 

Meet the Team

DHoC Head of Centre – Rachel Travers (Available Mon-Wed)

DHoC Head of Centre – Jan Robinson (Available Thu & Fri)

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

Nursery Clerical – Laura Ness

Nursery Teachers – 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.

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

Dates for your diary



25th October – 29th October- Spooky week

Friday 19th November – Pudsy Day

24th December 2021 – Last day of Nursery before Christmas holidays

Wednesday 5th January 2022 – Nursery reopens

Finally,

As always we would like to say a massive thank you for your continued support during these difficult circumstances. The health and safety of our children and staff is always a priority so please ensure you are following Government guidance at all times when dropping off and picking up. Please 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.**

Please look out for regular emails from us regarding any important updates/ information, upcoming events and our weekly lunch surveys.