



Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

December 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to our December newsletter. The Christmas season is here already and we are really getting into the swing of all things festive at the EYC. We are still continuing to operate without zones in place which is going well. Our system for pick up and drop off remains the same with allocated zone entrances and will be reviewed again in due course.

Our lunch menu weekly survey will also continue being emailed out as this is going well and is really helpful for our planning. As always, your continued support with these changes/questionnaires is very much appreciated.



General updates

We would like to say a big thank you for all your donations in November for Pudsy day. We managed to raise £94.63 which was fantastic so thank you to everyone.

We are planning to have a Christmas sing along on Monday the 20th of December. Further information on this will follow. Please continue to check your inbox for further updates and information from the EYC. Can we please remind you to check for any missing belongings as we have a collection of lost property within the nursery that has no names on it. If they are not claimed after a period of time they will be donated to the clothing bank. If you are missing anything, please contact the centre and we can check if it is there. Can we also please remind you to clearly label all your childrens belongings as this helps us to reunite missing items with the correct child.

We will be introducing tooth brushing experiences this week and will be starting this back up again next week.

This week we say farewell to Beverley Gray and Lorraine Daily who have been with us at the centre for many years. I am sure you will join us in wishing them all the best for the future as they move on to new projects.

Christmas jumper is on Friday 17th December this year where we will be collecting any donations you may wish to contribute to the charity Save The Children. We know that not every child attends the centre on a Friday so the children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers/clothing any day from now until Christmas eve if they wish to do so.

What we are learning about/ focusing on?

Butterfly Room

In November we were looking at some firework experiences which let us explore various colours. We are encouraging the children to get ready themselves by putting on their own shoes and jackets to help promote independence skills. This is going really well and we will be continuing to work on these skills in the butterfly room.

Our butterfly room children are now taking part in Forest Kindergarten sessions which will be running on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will be reviewed again in the New year as we want to ensure all our children get a turn to be part of our Forest programme.

The children also enjoyed baking various foods for Pudsy back in November as part of children in need day.

We experimented with leaf marking which also lets us explore touch, feel and texture.

As we are now in December the Christmas preparations have begun! The children were all involved in decorating the rooms and trees around the centre which was a lot of fun!

Blossom Room

We are delighted that our Big Chelf Little Chef programme is back up and running! The recipe of the month in November was apple crumble!

The children in the Blossom room are also working on their independence skills and we are encouraging them to get ready themselves but putting on their own jackets, shoes and wellies.

We have recently introduced snack & lunch helpers. The children are taking turns to be a snack & lunch helper and wear a badge when it is their turn to show that they are that days snack & lunch helper. The children love this and are enjoying having a responsibility within the nursery!

Our book of the month in November was the Enormous Turnip which everyone thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Eco and the growing project update

In November we were delighted to be chosen as a winner of a Fairtrade and Sustainability award. This was exciting for us as a centre as the children and staff had worked very hard on this-well done everyone!

We will continue the green flag journey with action plan of Caring for the Wildlife. The children are learning about how to care for various wildlife around us such as hedgehogs which we are all finding very interesting!

We are currently awaiting trees to be sent from the Woodlands Trust. The children will be part of the full process and will see the trees being planted. We will be looking to incorporate this into the curriculum and will tie it in with numeracy and literacy.

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.



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, Megan Hutchison, Monica McKernan, Linda McColl, Claire Holmes, Sarah McBride, Shauna Turner, Leanne Ritchie, Caroline Cowan, Ross Harrison, Rachel Rodger, Simone Donnelly, Lynsey Murray

Early Years Support Worker – Katey Bodle

Apprentice – Jenna MacHattie, Josephine Kerr

Butterfly Room (2-3)

Alison Berrie,, Angela Curtis , Heather Woollon

Catering staff

Olivia Carberry

Dates for your diary



17th Dec – Christmas Jumper day

20th December – Christmas sing along – (Further info to follow)

24th December 2021 – Last day of Nursery before closing for Festive 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.