



Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

January/February 2022

Hello everyone and welcome to our January/February newsletter. We hope you all had a relaxing Christmas and New Year. 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. We will continue to review this.

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 have started to trial introducing our tooth brushing programme again this week within the centre & will keep you updated with any changes/information around this.

Can we please ask that the children do not come into the nursery with water/juice bottles (unless medically advised to), hand sanitiser or medication in their bags which they can easily access. Please note that we are still collecting money for our nursery snack fund. This is just a small amount per week which goes towards your child's healthy snack/treats or any special events which might be held throughout the year at the centre.

Reminder: Please label all children's belongings/clothes for coming into the nursery as this will help us identify which items belong to which children.

Last week we said goodbye to Josephine Kerr who has been with us at Gartconner since early 2021. She will be missed here at the centre & we wish her all the best for her next role!

We are always looking at ways we can improve and would love to get your input/feedback or any suggestions you may have for things you would like to see at Gartconner EYC so please look out for our short survey! Your feedback is always welcome and very much appreciated.

What we are learning about/ focusing on?

Butterfly Room

In our Butterfly room we have been comparing sizes of things & looking at different objects which are big and small. We are also working on numeracy development with a focus on the children's various PLP targets.

This week we have also had a Scottish theme to celebrate Robert Burns day which was on Tuesday 25th January. The children enjoyed a food tasting which included haggis and mash!

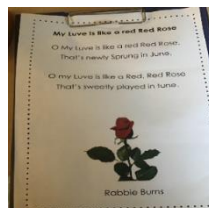
We are working hard on relationships and why it is important to share and be kind. We are continuing to work on our stories with reading and visuals throughout the week. We are also going to be introducing a 'Rhyme of the week' which we will start with the children next week.

Blossom Room

In our Blossom room the children have been working on topics surrounding animals and wildlife which they all take a keen interest in.

We also celebrated Burns day with some traditional Scottish haggis and mash tasting as well as looking at some famous Robert Burns poems and Scottish dancing! The children also enjoyed a Scottish baking session where they baked some tasty muffins and will be baking some shortbread later this week.

The children are continuing to work on their independence skills & we are encouraging them to get ready themselves by putting on their jackets, shoes and wellies.



What we have been up to!



Eco and the growing project update

We received our trees from the Woodlands Trust which have now been planted outside the Centre. Staff will work with the children each month going outside to measure the trees so we can record their growth progress.

We will continue to further develop our recycling using food bins & will be using litter pickers with our staff to pick up rubbish in and around the playground.

Our main focus will be biodiversity including looking at how to care for wildlife and what we can do to make the outdoors more attractive for our local wildlife.

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, 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

Butterfly Room (2-3)

Alison Berrie, Angela Curtis, Heather Woollon

Catering staff

Olivia Carberry

Dates for your diary



1st February – Chinese New Year

9th February – In-Service day – Nursery closed

14th February – Valentine's Day

14th April - 18th April (Inclusive)– Centre closed for Easter bank holiday weekend

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.