



## Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare

March 2020

### Parents committee/ helpers

We really value your support and input. We rely on parent/carer helpers and volunteers to support the life of the service. If anyone is interested in joining the parent's committee, please let us know.

### Staff Update

We have appointed Hoda Al-Hili as the Senior EYW of Gartconner Nursery. Hoda will be available on a fulltime basis. We welcome Hoda to the team.

We also welcome Rachel Rodger and Lynsey Murray to our team. Rachel will be working in the afternoon and Lynsey is a full time member off staff. Rachel will be supporting Leanne's group the "Daisies" and Lynsey will be working with the Sunflower group.

Our staff team has been expanding due to the 1140 learning and childcare provision.

### Registration

Can all parents ensure they are signing in the children using the red clip boards, they will be displayed on the white pillar based in the middle of the playroom. We have also introduced children's own sign in please speak to a member of staff in the playroom.

### Staff Buddies

We have introduced the staff buddy system to ensure effective communication with parents. When children are dropped off and picked you can speak to the following staff:

Heather & Monica – Claire & Sarah – Rachel & Leanne – Megan & Lorraine - Linda & Lynsey – Beverley & Suzy – Caroline & Shauna.

**\*Please note all staff are responsible for all children. In the event that either of your child's key workers are available please speak with any member of staff/ Senior Management Team\*.**

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

#### Butterfly Room

The boys and girls have been focusing on their physical health and wellbeing. The staff have been setting up the school gym hall with different apparatus to develop their gross motor skill and hand-eye coordination. The obstacle course designed is to promote turn taking and confidence skills. The staff have been responsive to the children's choice of physical play. Outdoors is part of our everyday play.

#### Blossom Room

We have started looking at the new season "spring". We are focusing on learning about new life, planting, growing, Easter and 'Jack and the beanstalk'. We will also be exploring money and how we use it e.g. playing for items, bank cards and piggy banks.

Other learning experiences that the Blossom Room will be having on offer will be science. The boys and girls are showing interests astronauts, planet Earth and Jupiter. We will be looking at forces, movement and space.

If your child has any particular interests/ likes at home, please let your child's key worker know and we can add this to our planning.

### Dates for your diary

World down syndrome day - Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2020-wear odd socks

Stay and play focus Easter experiences – week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> of March until Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 (There is a stay and play sheet displayed when entering the nursery – please sign up)

World Autism awareness week – from the 30<sup>th</sup> of March- 3<sup>rd</sup> of April – please wear blue

Big chef/little chef – 1<sup>st</sup> of April

Please remember to use the sign in book to ensure your safety while being in the building.

### Nursery closed

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - holiday provision may be purchased – please speak to DHoC

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Weekend



### Your views matter

We will be reviewing one policy per month. We will be displaying our new Breast feeding policy soon. Please look out for this in the nursery entrance area and add any comments.

A comments box will be placed next to the policy. We value your feedback on the support of new policies. Please also look out for our online surveys.



### General updates

Please ensure your child's belongings are clearly labelled to avoid any confusion.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

### Forest Kindergarten

We have started up and running the Forest Kindergarten.

The block started on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and will end 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

We will ensure that we update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> block. Children who are participating in this block will receive a letter.

### We need your help!

We have been encouraging the children with their hand washing hygiene in the nursery. The children have been going into the toilets to wash their hands every day when entering the nursery. We are also prompting the children to do this throughout play and at the end of the day. We would like for you to work with us to ensure the same is happening at home. This will help to reduce the risk of infections and the spread of viruses. Please ensure to close the nursery door when entering and leaving the nursery.

This is for all the service users safety.

### Meet The Team

**Depute Head of Centre** –Rachel Travers

**Depute Head of Centre** – Jan Robinson

**Senior EYW** – Hoda Al-Hili

**Nursery Teachers** – Elizabeth Wilson, Lynsey Docherty

#### Blossom Room (3-5)

**Key Workers** –Suzy Wright, Heather Woollon, Megan Hutchison, Beverley Gray, Monica McKernan, Linda McColl, Claire Holmes, Sarah McBride, Shauna Turner, Leanne Ritchie, Alyson Ramsay, Caroline Cowan, Rachel Rodger, Lynsey Murray

Early Years Support Worker – Katey Bodle. Modern Apprentice – Jenna MacHattie, HNC Student – Siobhan Hale

#### Butterfly Room (2-3)

Alison Berrie, Ross Harrison, Angela Curtis