



# Cleddens EYC News

## October 2023 Newsletter

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Welcome to our Oct Newsletter.

It's been busy since the new session began in August and I am sure it will continue to be just as busy over the next few months.

We have introduced enrolment days every month so that new families joining us in the 3-5 room (and those moving from 2-3 room) have all the information they need to support the transition for their children. This also means they can spend the first visit spending time with their child rather than completing paperwork and this has been very successful so far.

Please feel free to drop in and see me or Michelle if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Isabel Bott

### Dates for your Diary

**In-Service Day**—Friday 13th Oct 23—centre closed

**Family sponsored walks**—Monday 16th to Friday 20th Oct (10am & 3pm)— we hope you can all join us. Sign up sheets beside the sign in registers.

**Woodwork Workshops 3-5 room only**- Thursday 26th Oct (10.15-10.45am, 11-11.30am, 2.15-2.45pm, 5-5.30pm) —sign up details sent by e-mail

**Outdoor Workshop (all rooms)** —Friday 3rd Nov (9-11am & 3.30-5.30pm)-detail of sign up to follow

**Curriculum Evening** (adults only) - Monday 6th Nov 6.15-8pm, further information to follow

**Stay & Play** (1/2 hr slots 1 adult per slot baby & 2-3 rooms and 3 adults per slot 3-5 room), further information to follow

Baby Room - week beginning 6th Nov

2-3 Room - week beginning 13th Nov

3-5 Room - week beginning 20th Nov

**Grandparents art & crafts**—Monday 4th Dec (8.30-4.30pm, 1hr slots)-under 3's max of 2 adults from the same family each slot, 3-5 Room 2 adults per child, maximum of 3 families per hour-sign up details to follow

**Family Christmas Sing-a-long**-Friday 15th Dec 4-6pm all welcome—more information to follow and volunteers to decorate will be required

Dates and details of Christmas parties will be sent out nearer the time

**Christmas Break**—Centre closes † 6pm on Friday 22nd Dec and reopens on Wednesday 3rd January.

### Staffing Update

#### Giraffe Group

Christina's last day will be Monday 16th Oct and we wish her every success in her new post. While we are recruiting her replacement Alison will be covering Mon, Tues & Wed and Nicole will be covering Thurs & Friday.

Lynsay's maternity leave has finished but she was successful in securing a different post and will be moving to the baby room on her return. While we are recruiting her replacement Daniel and Nicola will be covering the post

#### Tiger Group

Unfortunately Barbara is unwell and while she is absent Leigh -Ann will cover for her Tues & Wed and Katie will cover Thurs & Fri

We have a vacant 35hr post for this group and we will be interviewing for this post in the next few weeks

#### Monkey Group

Jenny will start her new post Mon, Tues and alternate Wed on 23rd Oct

#### Flamingo Group

Ellie's contract will come to end on 14th Nov as Ashley returns from her career break on 15th Nov. I am sure Ellie will be a familiar face covering on supply when needed.

#### Rhino Group

Claire H will finish in her Mon, Tues post on the 15th Dec and Caroline Dilworth will take over these 2 days

We still do not have a start date for Ellie Forester

#### Crocodile Group

Holly will be full time from 23rd Oct to cover the Wed, Thurs, Fri post that was previously covered by Jenny.

Nicola Hamill will be joining us on 23rd Oct and will the Thurs & Fri Senior while Shannan has reduced her hours

## Safety and Security

We have made a few changes at the entrance/exit door to improve safety and security for the children. The exit button for the outside door has been moved to the wall at the right of the door beside the office window. This was to stop children climbing on the ledge and being able to press the button. We have also installed child friendly "Goodbye" buttons for those who want to press a button, these do not open the door but allow the children to feel involved.

Please remember to check that there are no children unattended beside you before opening any doors as sometimes children follow adults not realising their parents are still in the centre.

Adults dropped children of should remember to sign their children in and also add the name of the person who will be collecting. When collecting please remember to sign your child out. This is really important as we use these registers in the event of fire to check we have all the children safely out of the building.

Thank for your support

## Learning Journals

Please remember to check these regularly to see what your child is learning while they are with us.

There are 2 buttons on the journals to allow you to upload news and learning from home. The staff are always keen to see what adventures the children have when they are at home with their families.

If you need any help with your child's journal please speak to a member of staff and we will do what we can to help.



## Sun Safety

Sadly we will not require sun cream over the winter months and we would ask that parents who supplied their child's own sun cream if they could collect this and take it home. There is limit to the time opened sun cream can be used and therefore it is better to supply a fresh bottle in the spring.

Thank you for supporting us in aim to keep the children safe in the summer over the last few months

## Communication

### Absence

It is important to notify the centre before 9.30am or 2pm if your child will not be attending on a day they are due to be in. If we do not receive notification we will call parents to find out the reason for an absence and he are unable to get a hold of you we will call your child's emergency contacts. This forms part of your child protection procedure and it is important to ensure this is done.

### E-mail Messages

Most communication from the centre to families will be by e-mail therefore it is essential you check this regularly and inform us as soon as possible if this changes. We will add an note to the notice board to let you know we have e-mailed information.

### Learning Journal Messages

These are mainly used for messages to individual parents or groups of parents from the same playrooms.

### Text Messages

We do send occasional text but as this is very costly for a centre the size of Cleddens we need to limit this and only used in certain circumstances

## Treat Fund

Thank you to all the families who have contributed to the treat since August. This fund is used for items such as snack, baking ingredients, treats for family events, playdough ingredients, Christmas gifts and party essentials.

Without your kind donations we would not be able to provide these items. We would greatly appreciate any donations, but as a guide 40p per day. This can be paid daily, weekly, monthly or termly or just when you are able. There are envelopes available beside the sign in registers.

Thank you in advance for your donations.

## Baby Room

The children in the baby room have been exploring the rhyme "Old MacDonald had a farm". We have been developing our senses while exploring a tuff tray of different textures on our farm. We have also been developing our language skills while learning the names and sounds of each animals.



## 2-3 Room

The boys and girls in our 2-3 room have been showing interest and curiosity in dinosaurs. We have been developing our imaginative skills during role play with the dinosaurs. We have been exploring our senses while feeding the dinosaurs in our tuff tray. The children have also been showing interest and curiosity in the story "The Gruffalo" which we have been planning provocations from around the room. The children have particularly enjoyed making Gruffalo Crumble!



## 3-5 Room



The children have been learning the importance of a healthy balanced diet. They have also been developing their independence by making their own snack. As the children make their snack they are also learning how to be safe when using knives.



In the art area we have been learning about a Dutch artist called Vincent Van Gogh. One of his famous paintings was Galaxy Cat. The children mixed paint to make the colours in the painting.



The children have been learning about risky play while climbing on the climbing frame in the garden with adult support. This has been supporting the children in developing their gross motor skills. The children have been learning about balancing and heights and also been supporting each other.



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## Suitable Clothing

When at nursery the children enjoy running, climbing and messy play indoors and outdoors.

To ensure they are able to fully engage and do everything they want, it is important that they are suitably dressed. Sandals, flip flops etc. are not easy to run or climb in so are better avoided. Clothing may get lost or damaged so it is best not to wear things that you do not want to get dirty/messy or misplaced. Please remember to label all clothing and check the lost property regularly for missing items. We do not have space to store the amount of lost property we have so after a month we will send pictures and if still not claimed we will recycle it.

For outdoor play we would ask that the children have wellies they can keep in the playroom so they are ready when they want to go outdoors. As the children access outdoors from the playroom we encourage them to wear nursery jackets/suits or if you wish to supply their own that can be kept in the playroom we are happy to store them on the rail.

Some of the nursery jackets/suits are getting to the end of their useful lives and we are planning to replace these with money raised from the family sponsored walks and other fund raisers.

Please remember to ensure you supply spare clothing in case we need to change your child, this is especially important when children choose to play outdoors in the winter

If there are any concerns, please get in touch.

## Lunches

If you selected to choose your child's lunches for the term you should no longer be receiving weekly forms to complete and this has been helpful in reducing the amount of work involved in the lunch ordering process, which is appreciated by staff. If you have opted to still choose weekly the following procedure still applies:-

1. An e-mail sent out on a Sunday evening (the e-mail tells you the date this menu is for), QR codes are also available outside the playrooms
2. A reminder e-mail is sent out on a Monday (only to those who have not completed the form)
3. A final reminder text will be sent out on Wednesday (only sent to those who have not yet completed the form).

Please only select the allergy boxes if your have an allergy and cannot have these items in any form. If your child can have them, such as in cooked foods, then this information should be recorded in the other dietary requirements section.

You can now also request a copy of your completed form so it is easier to remind your child what is for lunch each day.

If you do not place an order a sandwich will be provided .

Recently there have been a number of children bring items in packed lunches which are a risk to children and staff with allergies. Please don't include the following in your child's pack lunch:-

- Nuts of any kind
- Peanut butter, chocolate hazelnut spreads or any other spreads which are nut based
  - Whole egg products such as egg sandwich, scotch eggs etc.
- Kiwi or pineapple

In addition we would also remind families that we are a health promoting centre and packed lunches should not contain cakes, biscuits, juice. We will supply milk or water for your child to drink with their lunch. If your child's lunch contains items that require to be refrigerated it is essential that you include a cool pack to keep them safe to eat at lunch time. We are currently updating our healthy packed lunch leaflet which will be sent out soon to everyone. In the meantime if you have any questions please ask a member of staff.

## Exchange Boxes

Just a little reminder that we have boxes outside each room where staff and families can donate unwanted items such as In date foods, unopened toiletries, Toys (in good condition), books or any other items you feel someone may use that you do not need. We will occasionally have some fresh food such as milk available ask a staff member if you would like this.



# Cleddens EYC News

## Recycling to Enhance Learning Opportunities

We are always looking for ways to enhance learning opportunities through recycled resources and our Eco group is preparing a recycling station on the shelving unit opposite the kitchen door. There will be baskets and each one will be labelled with the recycled items needed. If you have any of the items below we are currently looking for please place these in a any of the baskets until we get the new system up and running.

We are currently looking for:-

- Stationary—old unused diaries, notebooks, pens, pencils, cards, writing paper, pre-paid envelopes from junk mail or any other stationary for the bureau.
- Woodworking resources—screws, nails, nuts, bolts offcuts of wood, old tools
- Storage containers—for baking ingredients, play dough ingredients etc.
- Loose parts—corks, shells, pebbles, jar lids, cotton reels, buttons, etc.
- House plants or cutting we can nurture
- Empty pump dispensers (i.e. the type used for liquid soap)
- Kitchen utensils

There are also some bigger items we would like if anyone has the following:

- An old typewriter
- Natural coloured cushions
- Battery operated fairy lights
- Unused compost
- Plants, bulbs or cuttings

Thank you in advance for your support

## Family Champion

Our family champion Gail is available to provide advice and support on a variety of issues that you may be experiencing with your child such as tantrums or toilet training.

If you would like her support please give us a call and she can arrange a meeting, telephone call or tip sheets for you.

If you would like to join a workshop with other parents for support with these issues let Gail know and she will look at arranging this.



## Word Aware Workshop Feedback

Audrey recently held a workshop for parents to explain the Word Aware initiative to parents. After the event we asked those who attended for feedback so we can improve future events.

Those who completed the feedback form rated the event 4.88/5 star

### Some things parents liked about the session

"Yes, really good learning the different ways the nursery helps children develop their knowledge and understanding of words. I especially found the four stages (I think that is what it was called) of learning a word helpful. The information sheets available at the end were a really good resource to read at home."

"Insight into words my child is learning"

"Audrey was really passionate and knowledgeable"

"What the nursery role is, how Goldilocks words are taught, the books the children are exposed to, the songs being used, the importance of repetition and familiar sequences."

"Yes - importance of having a good understanding of vocabulary enables kids to generally do better in school"

"Useful to get an idea of what they do in nursery and how we can help with this at home too."

"An introduction to the STAR Approach will allow us to have good conversations with Ava at home about her learning."

"Gave good ideas"

### Questions

Can we possibly be given a list of good book to read with our kids—we will prepare a list and send out to parents