



Cleddens EYC News

August 2023 Newsletter

Welcome back to all the families who took a break over the summer and all the new children starting with us over the next few weeks. We hope everyone had a fantastic summer.

This is our first newsletter of the new 2023-2024 session and we hope moving forward to send out a newsletter every 2 months. All new families should have received a copy of our handbook at the induction day. We will have an induction day every month and issue families with the handbook at these. The handbook has been e-mailed to our current families. If you have not received the email please let us know.

Most of our communication is by e-mail so please check you are receiving e-mails and let us know if you are not and we can check that we have the correct address. It is important that you let us know of any changes to your address, e-mail or telephone number as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th August—In-service days - Centre closed to ALL children

Thurs 31st Aug—Year family engagement
Calendar sent out to all (please add the dates to your diary) - details will follow near each event

Friday 22nd & Monday 25th Sept —Centre closed to All

Friday 15th Oct—In-service day - Centre closed to ALL children

Monday 25th Dec—Tues 2nd Jan (Inclusive) - Centre closed to ALL.

Staff Changes

We have had a few staff moves during the summer:-

Sarah Pollock has moved to the baby room—Mon to Wed (8-2pm) and the Thurs, Fri is currently being advertised.

Lauren McLeod has moved to the baby room (full time)

Michelle Hagan has moved to the 2-3 room Mon to Fri (8-2pm)

Amy Scott has moved to the 2-3 room (Fulltime shifts)

Laura Wallace has moved to the 3-5 Room (fulltime shifts)

Shannan (senior in 3-5 room) will be changing her work pattern from fulltime to Mon, Tues & Wed) and we will recruit an other senior to cover the Thurs & Fri

We also have some new staff and vacancies:-

Alicia McHugh 3-5 room (12-6pm)

35hr Maternity cover (fulltime shifts) - interviews held 8/8/23

17.5hr (Mon, Tues & Alternate Wed shifts)

Celebration Birthdays

Due to increasing numbers of children attending the centre with allergies it is no longer possible to provide a cake for children on their Birthday.

This doesn't mean we won't be celebrating. We plan to have a party bag for the Birthday children with some treats, a Birthday sash to wear (should be returned when leaving) and they can choose some friends to play party games with in the family room.

Our aim would be to use the treat fund to provide this if we receive regular donations.

Treat Fund

There are envelopes for treat fund outside every playroom.

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.

Thank you in advance for your donations.

If using nursery sunscreen we would ask for a yearly donation of £5 to cover the cost of this.

Envelopes will be provided for donations.

Thank you

Learning Journals

All new parents/carers who have agreed to using Learning Journals should receive their log in details prior to their child's start date.

Please remember to check these regularly to see what your child is learning



Baby Room

Over the summer we have been busy welcoming new babies and their families into the centre. The staff have been taking time to get to know them and their different routines, stages of development and building positive relationships to ensure they are supporting them well.

5 little speckled frogs is the children's favourite song at the moment and they have been making playdough frogs, counting and learning animal noises.

The children have also had lots of opportunities to explore using their senses with real foods in the home corner



2-3 Room

The children have been really busy in the 2-3 room. There has been lots of talk about holidays so we have added hats, suitcase, sunglasses and other summer related resources to the role play areas to support and extend the children's interests. One way we have done this is by using natural resources to create an underwater scape in the art area. Sea creatures have also been introduced in the sand and water areas and the children's favourite song is currently 5 jelly fish. All this helps to promote language development, curiosity and early numeracy skills.

We have some new children and to help support their transition we are planning to update the resources in the sensory room. The children enjoy stories and books but there is not a comfortable area outdoors to do this so we are working together to create one. We are also in the process of adding lots of environmental print to promote literacy development. Please help us by pointing out things like words on shops or road signs if you are out.

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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Nursery contact details:

Tel: 0141 955 2291

Email:

office@cleddens.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Suitable Clothing

When at nursery the children enjoy running, climbing and messy play 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. 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. We would also ask that children's shoulders are covered during the summer. The dry weather means our garden can be dusty and although we will make every effort to ensure your child is clean when leaving to go home, but sometimes they have had so much fun that this is not possible.

Please remember to ensure you supply spare clothing in case we need to change your child. Please label ALL children's clothing to help us get it back to you if it is left lying around (we currently have a lot of lost property if you are missing anything it might be there).

If there are any concerns, please get in touch.

Family Champion Update

Remember Gail and Katie are 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 their support please give us a call and they 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.



Sun Safety

A big thank you to Ellie for all her hard work in achieving the sun safe accreditation for the Centre.

To achieve this Ellie had to provide evidence that we work with parents to ensure children have sunscreen applied before they come to nursery and re applied regularly throughout the day on days when the UV levels are moderate or higher. The NHS guidelines state that this is very likely to be every day between Mar and Oct. Children are encouraged to wear a hat and sunglasses (if supplied by parents). They are also encouraged to seek shade when the sun is at its warmest.

We also have hydration stations within the garden and playroom, encouraging all the children to take regular water breaks.

Over the coming year we hope to hold some information events for parents on staying safe in the sun.

Lunches

Thank you to everyone who has completed the feedback form on the lunch ordering process. We are currently reviewing this and will let you know the outcome soon. Until then the current system will remain in place.

We need to give the kitchen staff our numbers on the Thursday and this is why the orders are taken a week in advance. Below is a quick guide.

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 you have an allergy and can not 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.

Thank You

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.

There is currently a number of items in the family room and you are welcome to pop in anytime and see if there is anything you can use.



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Recycling to Enhance Learning Opportunities

We are always looking for ways to enhance learning opportunities through recycled resources.

We are currently setting up a station for recycling resources, but in the meantime we are looking for:-

- Stationary—used diaries, notebooks, pens, pencils, cards, writing paper, pre-paid envelopes from junk mail
- 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

Family Events and Feedback

Thank you to everyone who joined in the family events over the summer. We had a fantastic turnout for every one of the events. Some parents took the time to complete feed back for us and we will use this to make improvements to future events. Below are some of your comments and what we plan to do to make events better in the future.

89% of families gave 4 or 5 stars to the events

85% rated the communication fine, good, great, very good or excellent

15% thought our communication could be better.

Some Things You Like Best

- * Spending time with the children
- * Getting to meet our children/families
- * All the family being able to attend
- * Choice of events
- * Different times to suit working parents
- * All the nursery being together

Some Things We Could Improve

- Group photos at events
- Longer time
- More separation during movie
- Blankets and cushions to make it more comfortable
- It was very busy

What we Plan to do Next

- * Consult with children, staff and families about what future events we have
- * Continue to send out dates for your diary in advance
- * Hold events at different times of the day so everyone has the opportunity to attend at least some.
- * Photos are a difficult one as we have children who can not be included
- * We will try to hold as many events as possible outdoors where we have more space.

Please remember when we hold family events the nursery is still operational and we have some children not participating. This means we need to ensure we have staff available for them during these events, so this limits the time on some occasions.

Staff often give up their own time to help support us during these very busy times, so I would like to extend my thanks to them all.