



# Melrose Primary School

## Early Learning and Childcare

*Newsletter: Term 3*

*February - March 2021*

**Our priority is ensuring that the children are safe and happy. Covid-19 continues to be a risk – thank you to everyone in the school community supporting us to stay as safe as possible.**

### Welcome back and thank you

It is lovely to see all the ELC children back in the ELC setting; their enthusiasm, excitement and resilience has been wonderful to observe. We would like to thank all parents/carers for their support and understanding during the last few weeks and for supporting the staggered drop off and collection times.



### Early Learning and Childcare Staff

Mrs Patterson is now an Early Years Practitioner and we would like to thank her for leading the ELC over a number of years as the Early Years Officer.

Until we appoint a new Early Years Officer, Mrs Dawn Fernie (DHT) will take responsibility for leading the ELC.

- Mrs Aird, Mrs Aitchison, Mr Alexander, Mrs Brown, Mrs Hall, Mrs Patterson and Mrs Scott - Early Years Practitioners.
- Miss Cowan - Modern Apprentice.
- Mrs McVie covers staff lunches Monday – Thursday.
- Mrs Marnoch – Pupil Support Assistant

### Curriculum for Excellence in Early Learning Childcare

The ELC team will be planning the learning environment around the children's interests, enquiries and observations of their play. This enables practitioners to be responsive to individual learning.

The ELC team would like to emphasise the importance placed on the information shared with us from parents/carers. This enables us to



work together in partnership to plan responsively for the children, through sharing experiences, achievements and enquiries from home.

Learning this term

This term children will be developing the following skills:-

- Learning to help others while sharing and exploring
- Talking to others about what they have learnt or found out while playing, exploring and asking questions
- Listening in small groups, sharing our thoughts and ideas.
- Recognising the features and simple properties of 2D shapes, using them in play and making
- Experimenting and investigating with everyday items as units of measure, comparing sizes and amounts
- Retelling the main points of a story in the right order.
- Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors
- Learning to problem solve and risk assess
- Being creative using a variety of resources
- Developing gross and fine-motor skills
- Developing an effective pincer grip
- Learning about where living things come from and about how they grow, develop and are nurtured
- Learning about Spring – linked to planting and growing

## Virtual Nature School



Virtual Nature School promotes the flourishing of children's learning from, with, through and in nature. They provide both practitioners and families with the learning resources they need to confidently explore nature with children.

Melrose ELC applied for and were successful in gaining a place on Virtual Nature School's Winter Programme where practitioners

receive training funded by the Scottish Government. This training will expand their knowledge and expertise for working with children outdoors. Further information for parents/carers can be found using the following link <https://www.virtualnatureschool.org/pages/support-at-home>

## Snack

The children have snack every day through which healthy eating is promoted. Snack is priced at £0.50 per day. Snack payments will be added to Parentpay by the end of the week i.e. 5 March 2021 and assigned for the period 22 February to 1 April 2021. Payments can be made weekly, monthly or termly.



## Personal Learning Plan (PLP)

Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) were sent home week beginning 1 March 2021. Please take the opportunity to read through the PLP and discuss your child's learning and experiences. There is a Parent/carers comment slip in the PLP for you to complete before returning to ELC.

## Personal Plan Review (Getting It Right for Every Child Information Form)

The children's individual personal plans need to be reviewed each term, however due to school closures this has not taken place. Children who started or returned to ELC in August 2020 are due a Personal Plan review now. Due to current COVID restrictions we are changing the way in which we carry out this review.

- The review requires a parent/carers to read over the document that has already been submitted and update any details that may have changed or add any additional information.
- The personal plan will be sent home in a 'polypocket', please read through and make any changes required.
- Your child's keyworker will contact you by telephone to have a brief discussion about the plan, this will give you the opportunity to share any changes made.
- Sign and date the relevant section on the front page and return the Personal Plan to ELC to ensure the staff have access to important information regarding your child.

## Parent/Carers Consultations for ELC

Parent/Carers consultations with your child's Early Learning and Childcare key worker were due to take place in February 2021 however due to the school closure these were postponed.

The consultations will now take place in early May 2021. This will give the ELC practitioners time to observe and assess the children's progress following the school closure and also take into account the two week holiday in April.

The discussion during the consultation meeting will be based on your child's strengths and development needs in key areas including the level of support required. You may be given suggestions for ways you can support learning at home.

If you have any questions you wish to discuss with your child's keyworker prior to these meetings please communicate with them through their glow email address. (See below)

## Staff GLOW e-mail addresses

Staff		E-mail Address
Early Years Officer	Vacancy	
Early Years Practitioners	Mrs Aird (Mon. Tues) (Yellow keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw17airdalena@glow.sch.uk">gw17airdalena@glow.sch.uk</a>
	Mrs Aitchison (Purple keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw19aitchisonjordyn@glow.sch.uk">gw19aitchisonjordyn@glow.sch.uk</a>
	Mr Alexander (Green keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw20alexanderdanny@glow.sch.uk">gw20alexanderdanny@glow.sch.uk</a>
	Mrs Brown (Wed, Thurs, Fri) (Yellow keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw15brownsarah2@glow.sch.uk">gw15brownsarah2@glow.sch.uk</a>

	Mrs Hall (Blue keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw14hallrebekah@glow.sch.uk">gw14hallrebekah@glow.sch.uk</a>
	Mrs C Patterson (Red keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw09pattersoncarol@glow.sch.uk">gw09pattersoncarol@glow.sch.uk</a>
	Mrs Scott (Orange keyworker group)	<a href="mailto:gw20scottcharlotte@glow.sch.uk">gw20scottcharlotte@glow.sch.uk</a>

## Communication

The school has various ways of communicating with parent/carers to ensure that you are being kept up to date with everything that is happening in ELC and in the school.

- Newsletters – school and ELC
- Groupcall email system
- Glow email from ELC staff
- Melrose Primary School App
  - the school App is available to download from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Search for School App for Parents and then select Melrose Primary School. Diary dates and news items are available on the App and also messages/reminders are posted directly by the early years' practitioners.
- Microsoft Teams – ELC page



## Future Newsletters

In line with our Eco School policy, financial reasons and COVID 19 guidance newsletters will be sent out to parents/carers electronically using the email addresses stated on each child's enrolment form. Please ensure you inform the school of any changes to email addresses during the year. A copy of the newsletter will be posted on the school website and on the App. Please check that you are receiving the ELC newsletter electronically each term.

## Clothing

We ask that children are sent wearing appropriate clothing, layers of clothing are the most effective. The children are accessing the outdoors as much as possible every day as part of the systems we have in place around COVID 19 guidelines. Coats and wellies are essential and a change of clothes should be brought to ELC each day.

We have a supply of warm, waterproof all in one suits which the children can wear. Due to COVID 19 restrictions these will not be used by another child within a 72hr period.

## Water bottles

Water bottles should be brought to ELC each day and taken home to be washed and refilled at the end of every session.

## 'Star Moments'



Achievements in Early Learning Childcare are celebrated in ELC Teams page. Please share any successes your child has had, whether it be a certificate or award, or something they have learned to do that they couldn't do before on the Celebrating Achievement channel in ELC Teams page or by emailing your child's key worker (email addresses above).

## Parent/carer survey results

We thank everyone who took time to complete the Early Learning and Childcare parent/carer survey in December 2020. Your feedback helps inform our self-evaluation. Ultimately, this helps us improve the service we provide. The data below has been collated from survey responses from 23 of our families.

	Strongly agree/agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
ELC setting provides a welcoming and safe learning environment for my child	100%	0%	0%	
Information received from ELC prior to the return in August was clear and informative	91%	4%	0%	4%
Outdoor Satellite Setting - Information for parents/carers' was clear and informative.	87%	9%	4%	
My child enjoys the Outdoor Satellite Setting.	81%	14%	4%	

Communication with parents/carers is vital. COVID 19 restrictions have resulted in ELC reviewing the methods of communication it uses. Please let us know your views on each of the following methods of communication to help us ensure we are using the methods that are most effective.

	Informative and easy to access	Limited use and/or difficulties accessing	Not able to access
Groupcall email - used to communicate newsletters, COVID updates, whole school communication etc.)	87%	13%	0%
School App for Parents - used to communicate newsletters, COVID updates, whole school communication etc.)	81%	13%	6%
Microsoft Teams - used to share learning and achievements in ELC including videos of environment, Floorbook information etc.	72%	22%	6%
Beginning and end of day - informal communication with key worker	87%	13%	0%

**Moving forward we will use this information and the additional comments within the survey feedback combined with our other quality assurance activities, to continue to refine and improve our Early Learning and Childcare provision. Thank you for taking part in this survey.**

### **Sickness and Diarrhoea**

**Children should NOT return to the ELC setting for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. Your support is appreciated in order to avoid the spread of infection.**

### **COVID 19 Symptoms**

**If you, your child, or someone you live with has any of the following symptoms it is critical that your child is not sent to school.**

- a new or continuous cough
- a fever or high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)