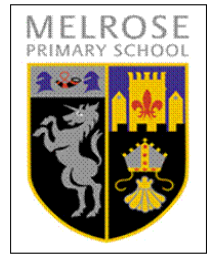


**Melrose Primary School
Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)
Newsletter
Term 3
January to March 2019**



We would like to share a few photos of the experiences the children have engaged in this term within our nurturing learning environment.

- Learning to be independent
- Recognising special occasions together i.e. Diwali and Christmas
- Sharing experiences with family and friends
- Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors
- Exploring the signs of Autumn in our local environment
- Learning to problem solve and risk assess
- Developing an awareness of road safety during visits to the local shops
- Being creative using a variety of resources
- Using our imaginations to construct
- Thinking of others in our local community – Christmas food hamper/donations to food bank
- Listening in small groups, sharing our thoughts and ideas.
- Taking part in our ELC cookie jar enterprise to raise funds for ELC resources
- Playing instruments, dancing and singing to music
- Investigating how toys and objects move



Care Plan Review

The children's individual care plans need to be reviewed 6 monthly, therefore the children who attended ELC last year are due a review. This should only take a short discussion with your child's keyworker. The review requires a parent/carer to read over the documents you have already submitted and update any details that may have changed or add any additional information. Your child's keyworker will organise a time either at the beginning or end of a session that suits you to be able to discuss. If you are unable to come in to ELC we will send you a copy home for you to look over, sign and hand back in to a member of staff.

Library

Each week we encourage parents/carers to help their child choose a library book from the ELC library basket. The library basket will be kept beside the book nook next to the cloakroom door. Children can change their library books as often as they like. We ask that parent/carers keep their child's library record up to date, marking the borrowed books designated number in and out in the columns provided. The children's library records can be found within the blue folder kept with the library basket.

Attached to this letter you will find a sheet to fill in with your child each time you share a story together. Please write in the name of the book and, after discussion with your child; exploring events, characters, likes and dislikes, please could you fill in the comment box with your child's thoughts on the book.

Parent Helpers

On the information board in the cloakroom area we have rotas for the experiences that we require parent/carer support to enable us to provide the experience. The children visit the shops in the local community to buy our snack for the next again week. Unfortunately we are unable to provide these learning opportunities if we don't have the correct adult/child ratio for both our walk to the shops and within the ELC. If you are available for 30/40 minutes at the beginning of a session to accompany us to the shops please write your name next to the date of availability.

Enrolment for Early Learning and Childcare for session 2019/20

Enrolment for ELC (nursery) for session 2019/20 will take place between Monday 14th to Friday 18th January 2019. Application packs will be issued to our existing ELC3 children. A copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of residence e.g. a driving licence, utility bill is required to be presented at the time of enrolment.

Literacy Information Evening

Parents/carers of pupils in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and Primary 1 are invited to a literacy information evening on Monday 21 January 2019. This will be an opportunity for staff to share literacy approaches used at Melrose ELC and Primary school and ideas on how to support your child's development within the four developmental continua; concepts of print, phonological awareness, oral language and fine motor skills.

Please complete the slip at the bottom of the literacy evening letter to indicate whether you are able to attend the information meeting and return to ELC or the school office.

Parent/Carer Consultations for ELC

Parent/Carer consultations with your child's Early Learning and Childcare key worker will be taking place on **Monday 25 February and Tuesday 26 February.**

Each appointment will last 10 minutes.

A sign-up sheet is available in the ELC cloakroom to enable parent/carers to select an appropriate time for their consultation. If you are unable to come into ELC to sign up for an appointment please contact the school office who will make the arrangements for you.

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 queries, please speak to a member of ELC staff or contact the school office.

School Class Photos

School class photos will take place on **Monday 28th January 2019.** Children will be taken through for a class photo during the normal ELC session.

Fly on the wall session

Parents/Carers who have children that will be attending Melrose Primary School P1 in **August 2019** are invited to attend a 'fly on the wall' session to observe the teaching and learning in the Primary 1 environment.

Sessions (15 minutes) are available on **Monday 11th February 2019**.

We can accommodate 4 or 5 parent/carers per slot.

If you are interested in attending please write your name next to a date and time on the booking form situated on the information board in the ELC cloakroom. If you are unable to access the booking form in the ELC please telephone the school to book a time that is suitable for you.

Changes to Severe Weather Protocol

Information was emailed to parents on 11th December 2018 regarding the changes to severe weather arrangements. Anyone who did not receive this information should contact the school office.

ELC Christmas Cookie Jar Enterprise Project

Thank you to all who helped to make our cookie jars and to those who purchased them. We raised £314.98 which will be used to purchase new resources. The children are involved in choosing some of the resources and are currently enjoying playing with some of them in the ELC environment.

- New wooden kitchen
- Magnetic shaped blocks x2
- Yoga cards
- Books

Further items will be purchased in the future.

Christmas Gift Boxes

Thank you to all who donated items to place in our Christmas gift boxes for the care home and the local food bank. The recipients of our boxes were very appreciative of the kind gesture.

Clothing

The outdoors is regularly used for learning. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothes, a coat and outdoor shoes. On wet days please send your child to ELC with wellies. Children are encouraged to be independent and, where possible, should be sent with shoes they can fasten and unfasten independently.

Melrose ELC would like to offer parents/carers an opportunity to order an ELC jumper and t-shirt for the children to wear when they are busy learning through play. If you would like to place an order please ask a member of staff for details.

Snack Money

The children have snack every day through which healthy eating is promoted. In the cloakroom there is a snack menu for the week and a list of snack costs. Children are given the opportunity to suggest healthy snack ideas and try new foods. Snack is priced at £0.50 per day. You will be informed of the total cost of snack for your child each term (holidays and in-service days will be taken into account). Payment should be given to a member of staff. Cheques should be made payable to "Melrose Primary School" and cash in an envelope marked with the child's name. A receipt will be written and placed in your child's pocket.

Snack money for this term is now due.

Parent/Carer Stay and Play

The ELC offer an open invitation throughout the year to parents/carers to stay and play with their child during the ELC session. This is an opportunity for you to explore the environment with your child, to look at the ways in which your child's learning is being developed and talk to your child about their ELC experiences.

The information board situated in the cloakroom area will feature a monthly calendar where we will add any additional experiences or visits the children will be involved in. If you would like to come and help please

add your name to the calendar on that date. Alternatively if parent/carers find themselves with a free hour or a free morning/afternoon and would like to join us in ELC, please place your name up on the calendar.

Diary Dates

Monday 14 – 18 January 2019	Enrolment for ELC (nursery)
Wednesday 16 January 2019	Friends of Melrose Primary School Meeting - 7pm
Monday 21 January 2019	Literacy information evening for ELC and P1 parents/carers
Monday 28 January 2019	School Photographer for Class photos
Monday 11th February 2019	‘Fly on the wall’ sessions for ELC4 parents/carers
Friday 15 February 2019	Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
Monday 25 February 2019	Parent/carers consultations
Tuesday 26 February 2019	Parent/carers consultations
Wednesday 6th March 2019	Friends of Melrose Primary School Meeting – 7pm
Monday 18 – Wednesday Feb 2019	School Holidays
Friday 19 April 2019	Good Friday Holiday – school closed
Wednesday 24 April 2019	Friends of Melrose Primary School Meeting – 7pm
Friday 3 May 2019	Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
Monday 6 May 2019	May Day Holiday