



Melrose Primary School

Early Learning and Childcare

Newsletter: Term 4

April – June 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.

Early Learning and Childcare Staff

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:-

- Continuing with the Spring focus
 - Learning about where living things come from and about how they grow, develop and are nurtured.
 - Lots of plants and seeds being planted and tended and we also have caterpillars which are being cared for and observed as they grow and change
- Exploring and playing with the patterns and sounds of language, and using what they learn

- Developing gross and fine-motor skills
- Developing an effective pincer grip
- Spotting and exploring patterns in their own and the wider environment and copying and continuing these and creating their own patterns
- Developing an awareness of their growing bodies and learning the correct names for the different parts and how they work
- Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors
- Learning to help others while sharing and exploring
- Learning to problem solve and risk assess
- Being creative using a variety of resources

Virtual Nature School



Virtual Nature School training has been valuable for both pupils and staff. The staff have now completed the training programme and are completing the final sections of the online assessment. They have been uploading, onto the ELC Teams page, photographs of the floorbooks that they have been completing with the children during the training. Please take

the opportunity to look at these photographs as they demonstrate how much the children have been exploring nature and learning 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 have been added to Parentpay and assigned for the period 19 April to 23 June 2021. Payments can be made weekly, monthly or termly.

ELC Learning Lunch

Following a number of queries from parents/carers about the sandwich option please see below communication that was sent out by Scottish Borders Council following the 1140hrs expansion.

‘The decision by Scottish Borders Council to offer a choice of the 2 hot meals available was made for a number of reasons.

The ELC expansion pilot showed that in reality, very few children ate/ managed to eat the soup – there were quite a lot of spillages and there was a safety issue when it was hot; the soup is required as it is part of the balance to the sandwiches. Also, you may be aware that there are national restrictions on the number of times processed meats are to be given to children so the ham sandwich that was the preferred choice for many children, could not be offered every day. There

has been a lot of learning during the phasing in of the expansion of ELC and the provision of free lunches and the 2 hot choices is working really well, supplemented by salad and bread. Limiting the choice has shown to result in more children eating the hot meals and even children whose parents were sure their children wouldn't want a hot meal, quickly stopped having a packed lunch provided from home and wanted to have what the others were having.

Additionally, for some children who have limited options for hot meals/opportunities to try different types of food, having a hot meal at lunchtime is really important.

Guidance developed by NHS to meet the Scottish Government National Care Standards states "We know that eating habits developed in the early years frequently last into adulthood, so childcare providers have an ideal opportunity to support the development of positive food habits from a very early age." The Council will continue with the 2 hot meals options for all ELC children with arrangements made as required to meet dietary needs for medical/cultural reasons – as before, parents can choose to provide as packed lunch for their children but we ask that they take account the importance of healthy meal options.'

Personal Learning Plan (PLP)

Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) will be sent home for the final time this term week beginning **24 May 2021**. This will be an opportunity to read through the PLP and discuss your child's learning and experiences. PLPs for ELC4 pupils will be passed onto their Primary 1 teacher as part of the transition process and used as they continue their learning journey through school.

Transition into Primary 1

We are, at present, planning a transition programme within the current COVID restrictions. Please be reassured that we will do everything we possibly can to make the transition a positive experience. As soon as we have any definite information we will communicate with parents/carers of ELC 4 pupils.

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 (see details at end of newsletter)
- 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.

Sun cream/lotion

As we move into the summer term we hope that the weather improves. Due the children being outdoors for a large amount of the ELC session it is important that they have sun cream/lotion and sun hats with them when attending ELC. Please provide sun cream/lotion in a named bottle and staff will assist the children in applying the cream throughout the day.

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 below).

Staff GLOW e-mail addresses

| | Staff | E-mail Address |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Early Years Officer | Vacancy | |
| Early Years Practitioners | Mrs Aird (Mon. Tues) (Yellow keyworker group) | gw17airdalena@glow.sch.uk |
| | Mrs Aitchison (Purple keyworker group) | gw19aitchisonjordyn@glow.sch.uk |
| | Mr Alexander (Green keyworker group) | gw20alexanderdanny@glow.sch.uk |
| | Mrs Brown (Wed, Thurs, Fri) (Yellow keyworker group) | gw15brownsarah2@glow.sch.uk |
| | Mrs Hall (Blue keyworker group) | gw14hallrebekah@glow.sch.uk |
| | Mrs C Patterson | gw09pattersoncarol@glow.sch.uk |

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|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | (Red keyworker group) | |
| | Mrs Scott (Orange keyworker group) | gw20scottcharlotte@glow.sch.uk |

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)