

**Melrose Primary School
Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)
Newsletter
Term 2
October – December 2020**



Early Learning and Childcare Staff

Mrs Patterson leads the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) team as Early Years Officer. Mrs Aird, Mrs Aitchison, Mr Alexander, Mrs Brown, Mrs Hall and Mrs Scott are Early Years Practitioners. Miss Cowan is a Modern Apprentice. Mrs McVie covers staff lunches Monday – Thursday.

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 about our own needs and feelings and the needs and feelings of others**
- **Thinking about those who care for us and families**
- **Recognising special occasions together i.e. Diwali and Christmas**
- **Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors**
- **Exploring the signs of Autumn in our local environment**
- **Learning to problem solve and risk assess**
- **Learning about safety and people who help us**
- **Developing an awareness of road safety when exploring the local environment**
- **Being creative using a variety of resources**
- **Using our imaginations to construct**
- **Listening in small groups, sharing our thoughts and ideas.**
- **Developing gross and fine-motor skills**
- **Developing number skills during play specifically 1- 1 correspondence and number recognition**

Personal Learning Plan (PLP)

Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) will be sent home **week beginning 26 October 2020**. Please take the opportunity to read through the PLP and discuss your child's learning and experiences. There will be a Parent/carer comment slip in the PLP for you to complete before returning to ELC. Please return the PLPs by **Thursday 5 November 2020**.

Snack

The children have snack every day through which healthy eating is promoted. Snack is priced at £0.50 per day. Snack payments have now been added to Parentpay and assigned for the period 19 October until 18 December 2020. Payments can be made weekly, monthly or termly. Please note that the ELC children do not have the soup option as a lunch choice. This is a Scottish Borders Council catering services decision.

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

- email
- 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 below).

Halloween and Christmas celebrations

Halloween – this year is very different. Due to the amount of time the children are outdoors we feel it would be very challenging for the children to come to ELC wearing Halloween costumes. The children will be experiencing Halloween through a variety of sensory activities, stories and healthy themed snacks over the next few weeks.

Christmas –we are beginning to plan for the children's experiences for the weeks prior to Christmas. We will continue to offer lots of fun and engaging festive experiences during their ELC sessions. We will give you further information about a possible Christmas party for each bubble later in the term. I am sure you will understand that we are dealing with an ever changing picture however we will do everything we can to ensure that the children have a positive experience in the run up to Christmas.

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)

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 12th November – In-service, school closed to pupils
- Friday 13th November – In-service, school closed to pupils
- Monday 30th November – St Andrews Day holiday
- Monday 21st December – Holiday, school closed
- Tuesday 5th January 2021 – School opens to pupils

Staff GLOW e-mail addresses

	Staff	E-mail Address
Early years Officer	Mrs C Patterson (Red keyworker group)	gw09pattersoncarol@glow.sch.uk
Early years practitioners	Mrs Aird (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 (Yellow keyworker group)	gw15brownsarah2@glow.sch.uk
	Mrs Hall (Blue keyworker group)	gw14hallrebekah@glow.sch.uk
	Mrs Scott (Orange keyworker group)	gw20scottcharlotte@glow.sch.uk

Commented [FD1]: