

# Antonine Early Learning and Childcare Centre



## Welcome Back

It has been lovely to welcome all our children and families back to Antonine ELC after the summer holidays. All of the children have returned with confidence, remembering all of our ELC routines well. We have also enjoyed welcoming our new families to Antonine ELC and observe the children settle in well, make new friends and engage with learning experiences on offer.



## Staffing

As you are aware, there has been a change in staffing this term. We are really pleased to be welcoming Louise back and wish Laura Jane the best of luck with her career move to the NHS.

## Children's Safety

The playroom can become really busy at drop off and pick up. To ensure our children are safe at all times, can we kindly ask that all parents/carers ensure they sign their child in and out of ELC, using the registers provided. We also require you to note down who will be collecting your child when you sign them in the morning. If this happens to change throughout the course of the day, please notify us as soon as possible by calling the school office on 01324 503140. The safety of your children is paramount.



## A Snap Shot of our Learning

All children are busy exploring our environment and engaging with their friends. So far we have shown a keen interest in puzzles, mark making and exploring letters and numbers. We have also enjoyed exploring relaxation techniques and how these make us feel. Building with cardboard boxes led us to build a doll's house and den which we have then used to practice our sharing and turn taking skills.

The children have been engaged in the art area this term, exploring the sand, water and junk modelling. A wide range of resources have been used to support the children's current interest in colour. Through their play and matching and sorting activities, the children are demonstrating good knowledge of colour. Staff have been really impressed with the creativity in the children, observing them use lots of collage materials to make sticky pictures. Using visual recipes, we have also learned how to make our own play dough.

All children have remembered our snack routine and been busy baking some of our favourite treats, including blueberry muffins. In the home corner, we have explored real foods and shown great effort when practicing our chopping skills.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to further develop our spaces and environment to reflect the children's interests.

## Outdoor Play

Since returning to ELC, all children have been eager and curious to explore our garden and shown a strong interest in exploring living things. With the support of digital learning, we have looked at habitats and what living things eat.

We are so proud of our older children who have been excellent role models and helped their new friends get an outdoor suit so that they are ready to explore the outdoor environment and engage in play.



Outdoor play is an integral part of the ELC day. As children are outdoors in all weather, they can, at times, become a bit messy. Can we therefore, please ask that all children bring with them a suitable outdoor jacket, welly boots and a change of clothes? Can we also request that all items of clothing please be clearly labelled with your child's name?

### **Sharing the learning**

We are committed to working collaboratively with all families to support our children in their learning journey. Throughout the session, you will have various opportunities to learn more about your child's learning experiences. The children's learning journals and our ELC Floor book is available for you to view whenever you wish. Inside these you will find out more about the children's current interests and learning experiences. Every six months you will also have the opportunity to meet your child's keyworker to review your child's progress in more detail.



We aim to ensure all children have a positive ELC experience. The children's What Matters to Me document plays a key role in this. All families are therefore asked to review this regularly to ensure staff's knowledge of the children is up to date. We also operate an open door policy and regularly share information via Twitter and the school app. In addition, we would love to hear from you if your child has a WOW moment or achievement out with ELC so that we can also add this to their learning journal.

### **Family Events**

Following positive parental feedback last session, we are excited to continue offering a variety of family events this session. During the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> September, we will be holding our first Family Stay and Play event. This is an opportunity for parents / grandparents to come along and join the children in a variety of learning experiences focusing on numeracy and STEM. Further information regarding this event will be available in due course.



### **Resources**

We continue to appreciate any donations of resources we can use to support us with further developing learning experiences within our ELC. If you have any of the following items and would be willing to donate these to us we would be most grateful:

- Adult shoes/hats/shirts/dresses for dressing up
- Bottle tops/corks
- Kitchen utensils, pots and pans for our home corner
- Cardboard tubes and boxes
- Wooden Pegs
- Curtain rings
- Ribbons and buttons

### **Parents Helpers**

We continue to be keen to get some family helpers into support us with different learning experiences within ELC. This may include helping us with walks in the local community, developing areas within our ELC and setting up a book lending service for our families.

If you are interested in this and would be able to support us even on the odd occasion please feel free to contact Nicola on [nicola.majury@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.majury@falkirk.gov.uk) letting us know what days/times you would be available and what you would be interested in helping with.

### **Absence Procedure**

Can we please ask all parents/carers to inform us if your child will be absent from ELC. This can be done via either email or telephone. [antonineprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:antonineprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk) 01324 503140



### Key Dates for your Diary

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Event</b>  |
|---|---|
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2024                             | Children will participate in sponsored obstacle course organised by Parent Council.                                     |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024                             | Holiday - ELC closed  |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024                            | Tempest Photography for individual photos or with siblings in school  |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September                                 | Macmillan Coffee Morning – all welcome 9.30-11.30am   |
| Week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024                    | Numeracy and STEM Stay and Play sessions – more information to follow regarding specific day and times for each group   |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 1.30pm                    | Sibling Sing Along Event  |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October | Holiday – ELC closed  |
| Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                      | Stay and Play Around the Fire Pit sessions – more information to follow regarding specific day and times for each group |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                             | In-service day – ELC closed to children   |
| Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                      | Children’s reviews with key worker (Blue, Green and Orange groups)  |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 1.30pm                   | Sibling Sing Along Event  |
| Week beginning 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                     | Children’s reviews with key worker (Red, Yellow and Purple groups)  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                             | ELC Christmas Party AM<br>ELC closes at 1.30pm  |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                               | ELC reopens at 8.45am   |