



Early Learning and Childcare

Antonine ELC

September / October Newsletter



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 and values well. We have also enjoyed welcoming our new families to Antonine ELC and observing the children settle in well, make new friends and engage with the learning experiences on offer. We have all been enjoying the nice weather and have been spending time outdoors in the garden and local community.

Staffing

This sessions staffing is as follows:

- Senior Early Years Officer – Nicola Majury
- Early Years Officer
 - Yellow Group – Laura (Mon – Tues), Susan (Wed – Fri)
 - Red Group – Alison
 - Orange Group – Kimberley
 - Blue Group – Heather
 - Purple – Danielle
- Support Staff
 - Support for Learning Assistant - Tracey
 - Early Learning and Childcare Assistants – Jola and Annemarie



A Snap Shot of our Learning

All children are busy exploring our environment and engaging with their friends. There has been a keen interest in making playdough, exploring the art area and building fantastic castles in the block play area. We have also enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment, engaged in risky play and visiting the local park and nature reserve.

Junk Modelling

Junk modelling is a favourite thing to do in the ELC and we are always on the lookout for resources. Any donations would be most appreciated. Please see the following guidance regarding resources we are allowed to accept:

We can accept

- Boxes
- Kitchen Roll tubes
- Milk lids (that have been well washed)
- Juice Bottles (that have been well washed)
- Offcuts of fabric

We cannot accept:

- Egg cartons
- Mayonnaise or salad cream bottles
- Coleslaw tubs
- Tubs that have contained dips
- Toilet roll tubes
- Milk cartons

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sauce bottles (that have been well washed) - Buttons - Ribbon - Old Greetings cards - Postcards - Used tissue boxes - Supermarket magazines, toy catalogues | |
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Outdoor Learning

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?

Setting the Table

From August 2025 we will be following new guidance shared from Scottish Government - Setting the Table. This guidance provides ELC and catering staff with information of how best to provide nutritious snacks and meals for our children. Our ELC lunch menu has changed and there is no longer a cold option for children to choose. Children have been enjoying the hot option and ELC staff will always provide an alternative from the larder if children require this. Please use the following link to access a Sway, sharing further information around this guidance. <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/gIKXv8UXZpnwBIVn?ref=Link>

We have also attached our new lunch menu and a sample snack menu. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to speak to Nicola.



Food from home

Can we please ask that children do not bring any snacks to ELC in their bag? We have children both in ELC and school who have severe allergies which can be life threatening. Children often like to share things with their friends and find it difficult to leave snacks in their bag until home time. By not bringing snacks to ELC it supports staff in limiting the risk to our children. Thank you in advance.



Drop Off and Pick Up

Our ELC hours are between 8.45am and 2.45pm. Parents and carers are encouraged to accompany children into the ELC playroom where they will be greeted by children's keyworkers. All children should be both signed in and out using the registers provided. In the afternoon, the main ELC door will be open from 2.30pm with all children requiring to be collected by 2.45pm. Whilst we appreciate that unforeseen circumstances can happen, causing plans to change last minute, we kindly ask that you contact the ELC at the earliest opportunity to notify them of any changes.

Reporting to Parents/Carers

At Antonine ELC, we are committed to working alongside our parents and carers to ensure all children have a positive learning experience. We recognise that it is essential that we regularly share information regarding children's learning with our families. Below is an overview of the different ways in which we report to parents/carers throughout the session:

What Matters to Me Document	Every child who joins Antonine ELC is given a What Matters to Me document during their home visit. These are invaluable in supporting staff with getting to know your child from the outset. Both children and their parents/carers have regular opportunities to review this and ensure all information is up to date.
Bluesky	Children's interests and learning are shared via Bluesky on a daily basis. @antoelc
My First Week at Antonine	All of our new families receive a snapshot of their child's first week at Antonine.
Settling in Reviews	Around 6 weeks after a child joins Antonine ELC, their family is given the opportunity to meet with the child's key worker to discuss their child's learning.
6 Monthly Reviews	All families are given the opportunity to meet with their child's key worker every 6 months to share and review their child's learning. A week prior to these reviews, families are encouraged to take their child's learning journal home to peruse.
Children's Learning Journals	All children within Antonine ELC have a Learning Journal. These are personal to the child and include all information relevant to children's learning. Staff regularly add observations of significant learning to these. These are stored within the playroom so children and families can access these whenever they wish to do so.
My Progress at Antonine ELC	All families will receive a brief evaluation of their child's learning at the end of each term. Children who have recently joined Antonine ELC and have not yet completed a full term will not receive this until the following term.



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 antonineprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk or telephone 01324 503140.

We understand that there are times when your child may require medication if they have been under the weather. If your child requires medication to be administered whilst they are attending ELC, the medicine must have a prescription label and be accompanied with a medication form that can be collected from your child's key worker. Similarly, if your child only receives medication at home, it is useful to alert your child's

keyworker as it allows them to better support your child whilst in ELC. In the event that your child becomes unwell whilst in ELC, a member of staff will notify you or your emergency contact. Can we please ask that all parents/carers ensure that these contact details are up to date?

Key Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Week beginning 1 st September 2025	ELC Family breakfast - more information to follow
15 th September 2025	Parents Council AGM
17 th September 2025	Sibling sing along for younger siblings not yet attending ELC. Sign-up sheets will be available in the cloakroom area.
Week beginning 22 nd September 2025	Numeracy and STEM Stay and Play - more information to follow
26 th September 2025	MacMillan Coffee Morning - Times to be confirmed
Week beginning 3 rd November 2025	Literacy Stay and Play - More Information to follow
Week beginning 17 th November 2025	Children's review meetings.

10 th December 2025	Festive Family Fun Day - Parents welcome. Times will be confirmed nearer the date.
19 th December 2025	ELC Disco morning
Week beginning 2 nd Feb 2026	Family Stay and Play (Health and Wellbeing focus)
Week beginning 9 th March 2026	Family Breakfast
27 th April 2026	Sibling Singalong for younger siblings not yet attending ELC
Week beg 4 th May 2026	Children's review meetings.
Week beg 18 th May 2026	Outdoor Stay and Play event
3 rd June 2026	ELC Sports Day - times to be confirmed nearer the time.
10 th June 2026	ELC Fun Day (children only) more info to follow
22 nd June 2026	ELC Celebration of Learning for children moving onto Primary 1. This will take place in the afternoon, more information to follow.