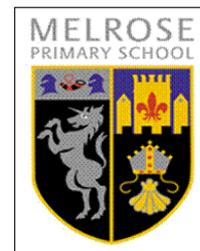


**Melrose Primary School
Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)
Newsletter
Term 4
April to July 2019**



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

- Learning to be independent
- Sharing experiences with family and friends
- Becoming aware of world celebrations, festivals and customs (Chinese New Year)
- Beginning to learn a new language (French with Nadia)
- Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors
- Developing skills on our balance bikes
- Gross-motor skill development at the playpark
- Exploring the signs of spring in our local environment
- Experimented with water turning to ice
- Exploring our local community, shops and services
- Learning to problem solve and risk assess
- Being creative using a variety of resources
- Using our imaginations to construct
- Listening in small groups, sharing our thoughts and ideas.
- Sharing our favourite nursery rhymes and playing rhyming games with our friends



Personal Plan Review

The children's individual personal plans need to be reviewed 6 monthly, therefore the children who attended ELC last year are due to be reviewed. 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 parents/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.

Bike/scooter rack in playground

Could parent/carers help their child park any scooter or bike they ride to ELC in the bike/scooter rack situated in the playground opposite the ELC garden. The ELC garden is well used by the children, if all the children who ride bikes/scooters to ELC park them in the garden area this will restrict the children's opportunity to explore the outdoor space.

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 will be participating in our outdoor learning days at Abbotsford during the month of May and two sessions at the beginning of June. Unfortunately we are unable to provide these learning opportunities if we don't have the correct adult/child ratio. If you are available for the morning or afternoon session to accompany us on our outdoor experience please write your name next to the date of availability in the cloakroom or speak to a member of staff.

Outdoor Learning Experience

The outdoor learning days at Abbotsford House that we introduced last year were so well received by both children and parents/carers that we have decided that we would like to provide them again this year.

The outdoor learning experiences will run on the following dates this term

Friday 10th May Friday 7th June (ranger led fairy tale castle themed session)

Friday 17th May Friday 14th June

Friday 24th May

The ELC sessions will run to the same time frame:-Morning session 8.30 - 11.35

Afternoon session 12.30 - 3.35

We will be taking part in a ranger led fairy tale castle themed session at Abbotsford on **Friday 7th June**. This session will run within the normal outdoor session times.

If your child doesn't normally attend on a Friday they are welcome to join us in the session he/she would normally attend, **they must be accompanied by an adult**. Please could you speak to a member of staff before Tuesday 30th April if you would like to attend the themed session to allow us time to establish numbers for booking our outdoor experience.

To be able to provide the outdoor learning experience we ask that all children be dropped off and picked up at Abbotsford by their parent/carers.

Could all Parents/carers please park in the main car park at Abbotsford and a member of staff will be available to meet you and help direct you to the drop off area for the children. The children's park area next to the main car park will be the base for us all to gather for dropping your children off and collecting them again.

Please can all children wear sensible footwear, old comfortable clothing and bring a waterproof coat. The ELC will supply the waterproof trousers for all of the children attending.

Could all children please bring along a named water bottle.

If we have to cancel an outdoor session you will receive a group call from the school as soon as possible to give as much notice to allow for change of arrangements.

These outdoor learning sessions can only take place if the required number of parent/carer helpers can accompany us on our outdoor experience. We require 5 parent/carer helpers for each morning session and 3 parent/helpers for each afternoon session. If you are available to help on any of the above mentioned dates there are sign-up sheets on the parent information board in the cloakroom. If you require any further information or have any queries please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Diary Dates for Parent/carers of children starting Primary 1 session 2019-2020

ELC and P1 children will have the opportunity to experience free flow sessions between both environments weekly until the end of term.

Week beginning 27 May 2019

During this week the ELC children who will be going into Primary 1 will meet their P6 buddy.

Wednesday 12 June 2019

New P1 parent/carers information evening

- **6.45-7.30** senior pupils will give a guided tour of the school.
- **7.30-8.30** new P1 parent/carers information evening.

Monday 17 June 2019

The P6 children will accompany their buddy to the playground and then into Primary 1.
In the morning session this will take place at 10.45-11.15 and in the afternoon session at 1.45-2.15.

Wednesday 19 June 2019

The P6 children will accompany their buddy to the playground and then into Primary 1.
In the morning session this will take place at 10.45-11.15 and in the afternoon session at 1.45-2.15.

Monday 24 June 2019

New P1 children

- Parents invited to view P1 environment, chat to teachers with their child 11.25-11.45.
- Taster lunch with parents 11.45-12.20.

Tuesday 25 June 2019

ELC/P1 picnic and games - information to follow

Diary Dates for Parent/carers of children returning to ELC session 2019- 2020

ELC and P1 children will have the opportunity to experience free flow sessions between both environments weekly until the end of term.

Wednesday 12 June 2019

New ELC parent/carers information evening

- **6.15-6.45** New ELC parents/carers information evening.
- **6.45-7.30** senior pupils will give a guided tour of the school.

Monday 17 and Wednesday 19 June 2019

New ELC children will visit, with parents/carers, to familiarise themselves with the environment and meet some of the children who will be attending the same session from August 2019.

Tuesday 25 June 2019

ELC/P1 picnic and games - information to follow.

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.

'Star Moments'

Achievements in Early Learning Childcare are celebrated in children's Personal Learning Plans, which go home three times per year. As part of celebrating success out of ELC, we are sending home a 'Star Moment' sheet for you to fill in with your child. 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. These can be written on or have a photograph or drawing attached. When completed, hand the 'Star Moment' sheet to a member of staff to display in the child's personal gallery in ELC. A pocket with blank 'Star Moment' sheets is in the entrance hall. The form is also available on the website.

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.

Dates for your diary

- Friday 3 May – In-service Training Day
- Monday 6 May – May Day Holiday school closed
- Monday 3 June – Local Holiday school closed
- Wednesday 12 June – ELC Parent/carers Information Evening 6.15 - 6.45
Senior Pupils give guided tour of school 6.45 - 7.30
- Wednesday 12 June – New P1 Parent Information Evening 7.30 – 8.30
- Monday 24 June – New P1 children and parents/carers invited to view P1 environment 11.25 – 11.45
New P1 children taster lunch with parent/carers 11.45-12.20
- Tuesday 25 June – ELC/P1 picnic and games.
- Tuesday 2 July – School closes for Summer Holidays.
- Monday 19 August – Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
- Tuesday 20 August – School re-opens for new session