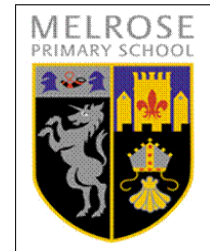


Melrose Primary School
Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)
Newsletter
Term 2
October to December 2019



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

- Learning to be independent
- Making new friends
- Learning the routines of our ELC session
- Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors
- Harvesting our garden
- Learning to problem solve and risk assess
- Beginning to work as a team
- Being creative using a variety of resources
- Using our imaginations to construct
- Child smile visit – learning about personal hygiene and the roles of people who help us take care of ourselves
- Parent/carers talking to children about their job roles as an optician and nurse. Learning about people who help us look after our bodies.
- Listening in small groups
- Colour recognition
- Learning about the vastness of the sky
- Baking
- Developing gross and fine-motor skills
- Developing number skills during play
- Enjoying stories in a variety of situations
- Listening to and participate in reciting rhymes
- Joining in repetition of familiar stories
- Rainbow experiments.



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 a review. 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 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 parent/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.

Parent Helpers

On the information board in the cloakroom area we have rotas for experiences that we require parent/carer helpers to enable us to provide. The children visit the shops in the local community to buy our snack for the next again week. Unfortunately we are unable to provide these learning opportunities if we don't have the correct adult/child ratio for both our walk to the shops and within the ELC. If you are available for 30/40 minutes at the beginning of a session to accompany us to the shops please write your name next to the date of availability.

Tuesday 29th October 2019 - Melrose ELC Health Visitor Drop In Session

The Health Visitor will be dropping in to Melrose ELC on Tuesday 29th October. If you have a question or would like any advice linked to child health or development please come along. The health visitor will be in Melrose ELC at the end of the session:-

Morning session – 11.20

Afternoon session – 15.20

The ELC will open their doors at the above times to welcome any parent/carer who wishes to drop in.

Tuesday 29th October 2019 – Stay and Play Autumn sensory session

Parents/carers are invited to come in and join their child for an autumn/sensory themed stay and play session. You will have the opportunity to explore a variety of experiences with your child.

Morning stay and play session 10.00 – 11.10

Afternoon stay and play session 14.10 – 15.10.

Thursday 31st October 2019

Children are invited to come dressed up in an outfit of their choice on Thursday 31st October 2019. We will be having a sensory day, exploring a variety of experiences using our senses.

Enrolment Week for ELC3 or ELC4

Enrolment week for children due to start ELC3 or ELC4 from August 2019 will take place 18 – 22 November 2019, parents of children born between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017 can collect an application pack from Melrose Primary School reception from 18 November 2019.

Enrolment for Primary One for session 2019/20

Enrolment for Primary one session 2019/20 will take place from 18 - 22 November 2019. Application packs will be issued to our existing ELC children nearer the time. A copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of residence e.g. a driving licence, utility bill is required to be presented at the time of enrolment. Those who live out with the Melrose Primary School catchment area are asked to enrol their child at the catchment school appropriate for their home address, also complete and return a placing request form to Melrose Primary School. Failure to enrol at the catchment school will mean the placing request form for your child **will not** be considered by Scottish Borders Council.

ELC Christmas Enterprise Project



Due to the popularity of the enterprise project last year, the ELC are once again running a cookie jar enterprise project. The children will create and sell "Make Your Own Cookies" in a jar. These decorated, reusable jars will come complete with all the dry ingredients necessary for making cookies, as well as the recipe, in three varieties – gingerbread, Smartie and choc-chip. They are fun to use with your children or ideal as an unusual Christmas gift.

The money raised will be used to buy new resources for Melrose ELC setting. The jars are priced at £4.80. Please fill out an order form and give it to a member of the ELC team.

Orders to be in by Monday 11th November

If you would like to help with the cookie jar enterprise please could you write your name next to any available date on the baking helpers rota situated on the information board in the cloakroom.

Thursday 12th December 2019 - Christmas Open Day Sessions

Parents/carers are invited to come in with their child for a special Christmas themed stay and play session.

Morning stay and play session 10.00 – 11.10

Afternoon stay and play session 14.10 – 15.10.

You will have the opportunity to explore a variety of Christmas experiences with your child.

We hope that you will join us for a festive sing-song around the log fire at the end of the stay and play session.

Morning session 11.20

Afternoon session 15.20

Wednesday 18th December 2019 – Christmas Party

All children are invited to the Christmas party. If your child does not normally attend on a Wednesday but would like to join us please inform a member of staff. Children are invited to wear their party clothes for some party games, dancing and a festive snack.

Please arrive early for pick up to meet our 'special guest':-

Morning ELC parents arrive at 11.05

Afternoon ELC parents arrive at 15.05

Dates for your diary

- Monday 21st October – In-service, school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 22nd October – School opens to pupils
- Thursday 29th October – Stay and play sessions
- Thursday 29th October – Health visitor visiting
- Thursday 31st October – Dress up day
- Monday 4th November – Literacy information evening for P1 & ELC parent/carers
- Thursday 7th November – In-service, school closed to pupils
- Friday 8th November – In-service, school closed to pupils
- Monday 2nd December – St Andrews Day holiday
- Thursday 12th December – Christmas open sessions
- Wednesday 18th December – ELC Christmas party
- Friday 20th December – Holiday, school closed
- Monday 6th January – School opens to pupils