

**Melrose Primary School
Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)
Newsletter
Term 1
August to October 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 to be independent**
- **Making new friends**
- **Learning the routines of our ELC session**
- **Exploring the ELC environment indoors and outdoors**
- **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**
- **Listening in small groups**
- **Colour recognition**
- **Developing gross and fine-motor skills**
- **Developing number skills during play**
- **Enjoying stories in a variety of situations**
- **Senses – exploring and investigating**

ELC Permission Forms and Personal Learning Plan (PLP)

Please make sure that you have returned the 'Getting it right for every child' form and permission slips that were emailed out to you prior to the summer holiday. If you have not received the forms please contact Mrs Fernie dfernie@scotborders.gov.uk and they will be emailed to you. We collate all the information which is used to support child led planning and experiences, helping us to make smooth transitions for every child in our ELC setting. The permission form includes information needed with regards to taking photos, collection password and email addresses so that future newsletters and any information we need to pass on can be sent electronically.

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**.

Letters and Information

Due to COVID 19 restrictions most communication will now be through email or on the School app. **Please keep checking for new information.**

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
 - During lockdown we successfully used Microsoft Teams to communicate with parents/carers and children. We are aiming to use this system to share group learning and achievements in ELC. Individual learning, progress and next steps will continue to be shared through the child's PLP. We will communicate with parents/carers as soon as the Teams page is available.

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 with the appropriate clothing. They are accessing the outdoors 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.

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.

Snack Money

The children have snack every day through which healthy eating is promoted. Snack is priced at £0.50 per day. We are in the process of finding out the most effective way of paying for snack due to the ongoing restrictions. We will communicate with you as soon as we have a decision.

'Star Moments'

Achievements in Early Learning Childcare will be celebrated in ELC Teams page as soon as it is available. 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.

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

- Monday 12th October – Holiday, school closed
- Monday 19th October – School opens to pupils
- 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
- Friday 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 |
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Commented [FD1]: