

# Lairdsland Early Years Centre

## August 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our August 2022 newsletter. We firstly want to thank you all for your support during last term. All of the children leaving us to go to school had a lovely Graduation ceremony that parents could attend and we wish them all the best of luck on their new journey into Primary 1.

We also want to warmly welcome all of our new children and families who are starting their nursery journey with us at Lairdsland EYC, and welcome back our returning children. We can't wait to see what this term holds.

### **Parents/Carers welcomed into the centre**

We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming parents into the centre from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. This has been long awaited and we are all very excited to share our lovely centre with you all. To ease us all through this transition we will start by allowing parents to drop off in centre between 8am-9am and at pick up between 4.30-5.30pm. This will allow everyone the opportunity to be in the centre once per day.

We will continue to use the main door at lunchtime collection at 12.45pm and at drop off at 1.15pm.

Starting from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, children from the 2-3 room will also be dropped off and collected via the main door. They are currently using a fire door that was only intended to be used as part of our covid guidelines. Staff from the 2-3 room will be in the courtyard to welcome your child.

We appreciate there may be challenges initially but we know you will be keen to get into the centre too and staff will be on hand to support your child as you leave.

### **Communication with the Early Years Centre**

If your child will not be attending nursery would you, please call the office before 9:30am. If your child is going to be late, please call and order them a lunch before 9.30am.

We kindly remind you of the importance of picking your child up on time as the nursery is staffed throughout the day in accordance with ratios. We do understand that things will occasionally crop up. All we ask is that if you are running late please let us know as soon as you can. This also allows us to support your child if they aren't going home with their friends at their usual collection time.

### **Staffing**

We wish Danielle all the best as she goes on maternity leave on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September. In Danielle's absence we welcome Katie who will be starting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September and supporting the Pink group.

We have a few goodbyes to say too. We wish both Ailish and Rachel J. all the best in their new posts as Early Years Workers in different centres across the local authority and good luck to Siobhan who is going back to study at college.

We also have a few hellos too. We'd like to welcome Kerry-Ann into our team, she will be based within our 2-3 room, we also welcome Laura who will be based within our 3-5 room and we are also welcoming Lnsev back as she returns from her travels.

### **Café lunch**

Our lunch time routine follows the 'Setting the Table', Scottish Government guidelines and aims to provide the children with a calm and nurturing space to enjoy mealtimes and develop their self-help skills. We are planning to move to a café lunch starting week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Café lunch will allow children to come to the lunch table freely when there is space to do so, children will be supported to self-serve their own lunch developing their self-help skills and independence and clear away their own dishes – hopefully they will transfer their new skills to meal times at home too! A separate email will be sent providing more information next week.

We recently asked your views on ordering your child's lunches via an online questionnaire. The winning vote was to order lunches for your child on a termly basis, Fiona will email this out to all parents for you to select your children's lunch choice for the term ahead.

### **Care Plan's updates**

We are required to update care plans every 6 months. We will be inviting parents into the building to have a meeting with your child's keyworker to update their care plan. By doing so, this allows us to provide your child with the best care. We plan to do these appointments next month; more details to follow.

### **Accident/incidents on Learning Journal**

As a centre we are looking to become more environmentally friendly and reduce our use of paper and ink printing things out. The learning journals we currently use have a section that allows us to record accident/incidents online. We are hoping to trial this as a way of communicating with you whilst also becoming more environmentally friendly. We are hoping to trial this in the near future, but notice of this change will be given beforehand.

### **EECERA Visit**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August we had visitors in our centre, arranged by our Quality improvement officer at EDC. The ladies were all attending the EECERA conference which is hosted by the School of Education at University of Strathclyde in partnership with Early Years Scotland and Glasgow Convention Bureau. There were 5 visitors in total, from Japan, Brazil and Scotland accompanied by our Early Years Team Manager and Quality Improvement Manager and Officers.

We received very positive feedback that they were extremely impressed with all the wonderful work we were doing within our centre and that they will be taking back lots of great ideas to share with their colleagues. They also had a go on the chute! I think they enjoyed that as they all squealed on the way down. It was a great opportunity for Lairdsland EYC to share our good practice. They also commented 'that children were all so settled and happy which was great to see especially at a time when they might be new to the nursery and settling in.

### **Note of thanks...**

We would like to say huge thank you to our local Sainsbury's store for donating some healthy snacks for our fun day and also for the plants for our children to plant within our nursery garden. The children thoroughly enjoyed these snacks and can't wait to see the plants grow.

A huge thank you to Calder's garden centre for their generous donation of soil and seeds, the children are eager to get planting in our nursery garden.

## Nursery Information – New children

When a child joins the nursery from now on, we will provide them with a welcome pack, sharing information of all things they need to bring to nursery. We thought we would issue a welcome pack along with this newsletter for your own information. It provides a reminder to many things we know you already do, such as, labelling all of children's belongings and the importance of this – as we try to ensure all belongings are returned to the correct owner (a challenge with 80 children in the playroom!)

We initially used drawstring bags to store children's belongings due to Covid 19. However, now restrictions are relaxing children can now bring their own bag, if they wish to do so. This can be filled with a full change of spare clothes, sun hat, wetsuits and wellies, (all labelled/named please...) which can be stored within the nursery.

## What we have been doing ...

We have had a fun filled summer this year at Lairdland. The children enjoyed having their face painted, playing ring games, such as duck, duck, goose, making their own playdough at our self-serve playdough station and making some treats including cakes and ice cream sundaes. 🍷 The garden has had some new additions such as a tyre wall and sand pit. These have been very popular with the children. The mud kitchen has had a facelift with a coat of paint and our construction area has been revamped.

## Areas of improvement

Staff have been working hard making changes and improvements to all areas in the centre. Here are a few photos of the provocations set up to invite your child to play.



## Donations

Thank you for all the donations you have made already, in response to our learning journal posts. We are continuously looking for donations within the centre, so please think about us before you throw anything away.

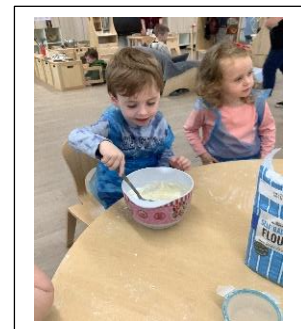
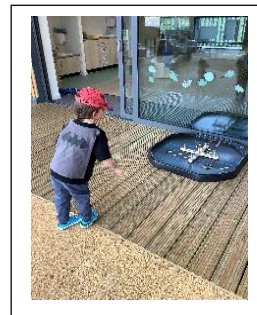
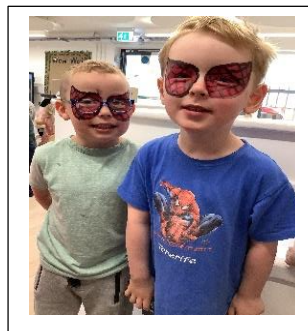
We would be grateful if you could donate any old clothing in particular trousers, pants and socks along with any wellies or wet suits that your child may have outgrown that we could add to our spare clothing.

## Treat fund

We want to say a huge thank you to those of you that have contributed to our treat fund. Without your contributions we wouldn't be able to provide the children with celebrations at Halloween, Christmas and Graduation. We were fortunate this year to be able to have a lovely Graduation ceremony in the nursery and give each child a gift as they left to go to Primary school. It allows us to plan fun days where the children enjoy experiences such as a bouncy castle, face painting and baking to celebrate a special occasion. It will also allow us to provide the children with a Christmas celebration and a present from Santa.

On a smaller scale this fund allows us to provide children with the opportunity to participate in daily experiences such as baking, having sensory experiences and their absolute favourite, making playdough.

Treat fund can be paid weekly, termly or annually. Please hand this into Fiona at the office who will also be happy to answer any questions.



## Dates for the diary

Nursery closed - September weekend Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> - Mon 26<sup>th</sup> September

Nursery closed - In-service day Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October