



Lyoncross Nursery School/Sgoil Àraich Lyoncross

Newsletter - April 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian

A Phàraint/Neach-cùraim choir

Welcome to our April 2021 newsletter. It has been an interesting month with all weather extremes, as well as some periods of isolation for each of our bubbles. Many thanks for your support in following national guidance during these times. We appreciate it is not easy keeping young ones at home at the same time as juggling work and other commitments. Thankfully, each case has been isolated with no known cases of transmission. Our infection control measures are obviously working!

Having now fully settled into life at Lyoncross and slowly getting to know all our families, it has been a pleasure to finally welcome our new start children who have been patiently waiting to begin their journey at Lyoncross Nursery since Lockdown. I look forward to building strong relationships with each and every one of you.

Staffing

Luchd Obrach

We would like to welcome Cara Honeyman to the Lyoncross family. As a Gaelic speaker, she has joined the Harris Room team and has already started building strong relationships with the children and staff there. As a result, Laura Noble will move to the Arran Room. She will never be far from the Harris children who have grown to love her nurturing and happy personality over the current session.

We would also like to wish Lauren Maguire our best wishes as she prepares for her wedding at the beginning of May. After many postponements due to changing restrictions, it is now finally going ahead. We wish both Lauren and her husband to be Steven a future full of love and happiness.





Outdoor Learning

Lonnsachadh a-muigh

Many thanks to all the parents who have noted their interest in attending our 6 week Nurturing Nature Project. If you would like to still join us, please phone the nursery to let us know. The dates are detailed below.

NURTURE THROUGH NATURE PROGRAMME	
Tuesday 20 April 2021	Welcome and Introduction (adults only)
Tuesday 27 April 2021	Week 1 in the Woods
Tuesday 4 May 2021	Week 2 in the Woods
Tuesday 11 May 2021	Week 3 in the Woods
Tuesday 18 May 2021	Week 4 in the Woods
Tuesday 25 May 2021	Week 5 in the Woods
Tuesday 1 June 2021	Outdoor Family Fun Week

For fuller details please see Appendix 1

Curriculum

Curraicealam

As we look forward to the final term of the session, we continue to place a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Much of these experiences will occur outdoors as the weather continues to improve.

We will also be preparing our older children and their families for their transition to primary school that proves emotionally positive for all. We are already in contact with some of the schools and will be in a better position to inform you of finer details after they return from their Spring break.



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Nursery Timings

Ùine Sgoil Àraich

The nursery will be closed on **Monday 3 May 2021** for the May Day holiday and again on **Thursday 6 May 2021** for In-Service. The building will be used as a polling station on 6 May but it will not be open to children. Please see Appendix 2 for all upcoming dates.

Your Voice

Guthan

As mentioned last month, I would like to introduce a regular virtual meeting where you have the opportunity to speak freely about things that are going well in the nursery as well as suggestions for improvements. I am very keen to envisage the nursery as a community hub and families taking an active part in the daily life of the nursery is just the beginning of this.

To identify the best day and time for such meetings, could you please take a couple of minutes to complete the following Form. From your responses I will then be able to set a regular day and time to meet with as many of you as possible.

[FAMILY GROUP LINK](#)



Sun Protection

Dionadh bhòn Ghrian

With the sunshine starting to make a promising appearance, we would recommend that your child wears long sleeves and a sun hat to ensure the best possible protection. We will continue to apply sun cream during the day as normal procedure (with consent).



You Said, We Did, So What?

Thuir thu, Rinn sinn, Dè mu dheidhinn?

As part of increasing communication and encouraging parental engagement with the nursery, I will occasionally ask you to complete Forms, especially those unable to make the virtual meetings. It is just another way of involving you in the moving the nursery forwards.

Last month, 13 families kindly responded to the Lockdown Form. The results were positive with regards to the care you and your child(ren) received during the recent lockdown. Thank you for your kindness. As part of these questionnaires, I encourage parents/carers to share any thoughts on what is generally going well and to share any suggestions for improvements. The following table details some of the things noted under improvement and how we have responded to these.

<u>You Said</u>	<u>We Did</u>	<u>So What?</u>
Facebook page could be updated more regularly with photos.	Introduced new nursery blog.	Parents/Carers have more opportunities to see photos and video updates of children at play.
It can be hard to speak to someone at drop off and pick up due to COVID-19.	Still continue to encourage an open 'door' policy for parents/carers, albeit by phone.	Parents/Carers feel welcomed and listened to.
More feedback on how children are getting on in nursery.	Continue to provide parent meetings and reports, as well as encourage parents/carers to contact the nursery if they have any concerns.	Parents/Carers feel better informed about children's progress.
Explain what are your COVID-19 procedures are to parents.	Added current COVID-19 protocol as an appendix to this newsletter.	Parents/Carers better informed.



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Lyoncross Nursery Blog

Blòg Sgoil Araich Lyoncross

In response to your suggestions about sharing learning more frequently through social media, I have created a new blog that can be accessed through Glow. This remains a secure environment to post videos and photos of children at play and is a much easier tool that can be used by all staff.

You will/ will soon have the log in details required to access Glow

Google Classroom

An Seòmar-teagaisg Google

Similar to the blog, I have created a Google Classroom that some of you with older children may already be familiar with. Initially, we would like to utilise this platform for Google Meets facility that allows you and your child(ren) to communicate with the nursery face to face, albeit virtually. This will in fact be the tool used for the Family Group meetings to enable us to connect better by seeing each other. Not that I can promise looking any better on screen!

Transitions

Caochladhadh

As we enter our final term, we are now looking to providing the best transition experience for our children moving on to primary school. Plans are already being made for those who will require an enhanced transition, with further contact with receiving schools arranged on their return for all children.





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Photographers

Fear-dealbh

After some beautiful photographs being produced last session, we have invited 'Instant Images' back to the nursery to take our Graduation photographs. They will be here on Friday 23 April 2021 at 9.00am and 1.00pm and have enough clean gowns for each child to put on for their photographs.

If your child does not attend on a Friday, please give me a call and we will organise for you to pop in at either time to have your child(ren) photographed.

Donations

Tabhartas

Although many families ensure there are spare clothes in their child(ren)'s bag(s), there are occasions when we need to use nursery clothing for children who get wet or dirty. Unfortunately, we do not have any spare clothing at the moment for any such occasion. We would therefore like to make a plea for any 3-5 year old clothes (tops, skirts/joggers, pant, socks etc.) that you would like to donate to the nursery.

COVID-19

Please inform us immediately if your child or in anyone in your family develops the signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

Many thanks to the families affected by the last two isolated cases within the nursery. We have been reassured by the absence of any transmission from either case and continue to follow national guidance and local infection control procedures rigorously.

Your support in wearing face masks and following the one-way system when dropping off and collecting children is appreciated by all families and staff. It is important that we continue to work together to ensure we protect our community.



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Toy Fund

Airgead Cluich

In order to provide relevant, responsive, and exciting experiences for our children we rely very heavily on your generosity. The Toy Fund is £2 per week/£3 per week if two children are attending the nursery which provides us with the money to purchase consumables such the ingredients used to bake/cook and to make playdough, to offer birthday gifts and extra-curricular experiences, and to help organise and resource special events such as our forthcoming Graduation. Many thanks in advance for your regular contributions.

If you would prefer to pay the Toy Fund electronically the nursery bank details are as follows:

Sort Code- 873733

Account Number - 72863862

Please note that in order to identify who has paid into the account it is important that you use your child's name as the payment reference. Some parents even prefer to set this up as a standing order that can be paid weekly/monthly.

Change of Details

Cunntas as ur

It is imperative that we hold the correct details to contact you in an emergency. Please inform Arlene in the office immediately of changes made to your or other contact information currently on file.





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Polo-shirts/Sweatshirts

Ièine-t/Geansaidh

Polo-shirts are available through the Tesco website <https://myclothing.com/contact>. Just simply follow the link and search for Lyoncross. Please note that uniform is not compulsory.

Complaints and Suggestions

Gearan Agus Molaidhean

It is our aim at Lyoncross Nursery to work in partnership with you throughout your child(ren)'s time at the nursery. To do this successfully, we need to ensure our communication is open, honest, purposeful and accessible to all. During such unprecedented times where we miss the regular face to face contact with each and every one of you, I would welcome any suggestions on improving our communication.

This also applies to any other aspects of our service, whether that be suggestions for improvement, or concerns that you may have about your child(ren). Therefore, please do not hesitate in making an appointment with Arlene in the office to speak with me.

*Thanking you all for your continued support,
Angela & the staff team*





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APPENDIX 1

Nurture through Nature Project

Pròiseact ariach tro nadar

VISION

The aim of our outdoor project is to share the developmental benefits of outdoor play and to equip parents/carers with the confidence to regularly lead children's learning outdoors where they can discover and explore the world around them.

OVERVIEW

The project consists of one session per week over 5 weeks where the parent/carer plays in partnership with their child. To fully benefit from this experience we would expect you to attend each session, where possible.

The project will consist of:

- A parent only (no children) introduction session in Week 1. (9.30-10.30am and 1.00-2.00pm)*
- A further 4 sessions (1.30-3.00pm) which will be adapted depending on weather, children's interests etc. These sessions are outdoors regardless of the weather so it is important to come dressed appropriately.*
- A final celebration where everyone will be awarded a certificate for taking part in the project.*

FOCUS

Each week we will have a loose plan following on from the previous week's experiences and children's interests. This is deliberately flexible to allow children to lead their own play freely. It is important that you both have fun whilst playing outdoors - it's permission without judgement to enjoy being a kid again!



ATTENDANCE

It is important that we know in advance those parents/carers that are unable to come along as we would not want to lose any precious time in the woods waiting for someone that is not attending. As such, could we please ask you kindly to inform the staff the week before/ or the office on the day if you are unable to attend.

SPONSORED WALK AND CELEBRATION

We are planning a sponsored walk through the woods to raise funds for the nursery and would like to invite everyone to take part. During this event, and to recognise the attendance and support of the Nurture Through Nature group, we will hold a present certificates to all attendees.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- These sessions are outdoors regardless of the weather so it is important to come dressed appropriately.*
- Where possible, no sibling should attend as one of the main aims is to provide you with the time, confidence and opportunity to connect with your child outdoors. This can prove difficult if your attention has to be split between siblings.*
- Please advise staff of any allergies you have and bring along any medications required.*
- To ensure we make use of all the time available, it may be useful for you to bring your child to nursery at 9.15am/ 1.15pm and already dressed for the woods. If utilising the nursery waterproofs, please let the staff know who will send the stuff home the day before.*





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APPENDIX 2

Dates for your Diary/ Laithean Sonraichte

NURTURE THROUGH NATURE PROGRAMME	
<i>Tuesday 20 April 2021</i>	<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
<i>Tuesday 29 April 2021</i>	<i>Week 1 in the Woods</i>
<i>Tuesday 4 May 2021</i>	<i>Week 2 in the Woods</i>
<i>Tuesday 11 May 2021</i>	<i>Week 3 in the Woods</i>
<i>Tuesday 18 May 2021</i>	<i>Week 4 in the Woods</i>
<i>Tuesday 25 May 2021</i>	<i>Week 5 in the Woods</i>
<i>Tuesday 1 June 2021</i>	<i>Nurture Through Nature Outdoor Celebration</i>

TERM TIME	
<i>Monday 19 April 2021</i>	<i>Children return to nursery</i>
<i>Monday 3 May 2021</i>	<i>May Day</i>
<i>Thursday 6 May 2021</i>	<i>In-Service Day</i>
<i>Friday 28 May 2021</i>	<i>May Weekend</i>
<i>Monday 31 May 2021</i>	<i>May Weekend</i>
<i>Wednesday 23 June 2021</i>	<i>Summer Party</i>
<i>15 June 2021 (3-30pm)</i>	<i>Harris Graduation Ceremony</i>
<i>16 June 2021 (3-30pm)</i>	<i>Iona Graduation Ceremony</i>
<i>17 June 2021 (3-30pm)</i>	<i>Arran Graduation Ceremony</i>
<i>Thursday 24 June 2021</i>	<i>Nursery closes at 1:00pm</i>

52 WEEK	
<i>Monday 3 May 2021</i>	<i>May Day</i>
<i>Thursday 6 May 2021</i>	<i>In-Service Day</i>
<i>Friday 28 May 2021</i>	<i>May Weekend</i>
<i>Monday 31 May 2021</i>	<i>May Weekend</i>
<i>Wednesday 23 June 2021</i>	<i>Summer Party</i>
<i>15 June 2021 (3-30pm)</i>	<i>Harris Graduation Ceremony</i>
<i>16 June 2021 (3-30pm)</i>	<i>Iona Graduation Ceremony</i>
<i>17 June 2021 (3-30pm)</i>	<i>Arran Graduation Ceremony</i>
<i>Monday 19 July 2021</i>	<i>Glasgow Fair Holiday</i>



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APPENDIX 3

Current Nursery Protocol during COVID-19

We know that some families might be a bit nervous about coronavirus, so we wanted to share some of the information we have about how ELC settings are low risk environments, and some of the measures we are taking to keep this risk low.

Current evidence continues to show that children are less likely to contract and transmit coronavirus. This includes the new variant of the virus that you might have heard about.

In Our Setting

Here are some of the things we have already been doing to reduce the risk of transmission in Lyoncross Nursery.

- 1. Spending lots of time outdoors in the fresh air*
- 2. Keeping the children in small consistent groups*
- 3. Regular hand washing*

In addition, regular testing is now available for all staff.

Community

We know that ELC settings are low risk environments for children. However, because we know this new variant is more infectious for everyone, it is more important than ever that we all do what we can to keep everyone in our setting as safe as possible. We know that the main risk is from adult to adult transmission, or an increase in community transmission. We are therefore trying to really reduce any opportunities for adults to come into contact with each other, whether it is staff:carer or carer:carer.



- Please follow the one-way system and the 2m social distancing rule when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Please wear a face covering at all times.
- At drop off, a member of the management team will welcome you at the door and take your child into the nursery - due to social distancing for adults, it is unfortunate that you will not be able to enter the building at any time without an appointment.
- Before entering, we will ensure your child is well and not showing any symptoms of the virus.
- If anyone in your family is displaying symptoms, or is confirmed as having Covid-19, it is important that you do not attend the nursery and contact us immediately.
- Staff will take your child to the bathroom to wash their hands before entering the playroom. All children will then be regularly encouraged and supported in this important hygiene routine throughout each session.
- The outdoor space will be utilised as much as possible, so it is important that your child has appropriate clothing to do this warmly and safely. A full set of spare clothing kept in your child's bag is also necessary.
- We ask that your child does not bring any toys or items from home to help minimise any transmission of the virus.
- If we have general information to share with you, this will be distributed through social media and Group-Call. It is therefore imperative that you ensure we have an up-to-date email address and telephone number.
- If your child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, we will contact you immediately and ask that you collect them as soon as possible or, if you are not able to do so, that another responsible adult collects them.
- When collecting your child, a member of the management team will greet you at the door before collecting your child and their belongings.



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We have also been asked to share important information about some other things that you can do to reduce risk:

1. Keep wearing face coverings at pick up and drop off time.
2. Keep 2m apart from other adults (staff and parents/carers) at pick up and drop off time, and try not to stand in groups.
3. Think about wearing a mask in any busy areas on the way to drop off.
4. Stick to the guidance outside of Lyoncross Nursery - so if you are having play dates, then keep them outdoors for now. For information on how the guidance applies to children and families, look at www.parentclub.scot.

At Home

It might seem strange that children can play together at their ELC setting all day, but cannot have indoor play dates at home. But it is really important to remember that keeping the restrictions at home and across society is what is enabling us to reopen ELC at the moment. In addition, there are lots of precautions taken at our setting that families cannot always replicate. One of the main precautions is spending time outdoors in the fresh air. So, if you want to meet up with another family, then please do so outdoors. It is more important than ever that we keep following the rules at home, as that is the best way to keep our ELC settings open.

We know that ELC settings are low risk environments for children. However, because we know this new variant is more infectious for everyone, it is more important than ever that we all do what we can to keep everyone in our setting as safe as possible. We know that the main risk is from adult to adult transmission, or an increase in community transmission. We are therefore trying to really reduce any opportunities for adults to come into contact with each other, whether it is staff:carer or carer:carer.

