



Lyoncross Nursery School/Sgoil Àraich Lyoncross
Newsletter - March 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian

A Phàraint/Neach-cùraim choir

Welcome to our March 2021 newsletter. It has been an absolute pleasure to finally meet with you all. In the past week, Lyoncross Nursery has certainly taken on a new lease of life as our wonderful staff welcomed the children safely back into the building.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind words during my first few weeks, but also for your understanding and consideration as we take a cautious approach to our return. As a staff, we know the importance of ensuring that each child transitions safely from home to nursery after yet another lockdown, but as Head of Nursery, I am also aware of the same care needed for our staff and families.

*With the welcome news from the Scottish Government yesterday, and with nearly all children, staff and families finding the transition back to nursery seamless, we would like to confirm our return to normal patterns of attendance from **Monday 8 March 2021** (Morning Sessions 8:00-12:30pm, Afternoon Sessions 1:00-5:00pm and Full Day Sessions 8:00-5:00pm due to staffing restrictions). We are also looking forward to welcoming our new start children who have been patiently waiting to begin their journey with us. Phone calls to these families will take place in the next week.*

I am sure many of you are curious to find out a bit more about me - not that I lead a very exciting life! I live fairly locally with my husband and dog (fur baby), and have been a teacher for over 22 years with experience of teaching across all primary stages. It was not until I moved to the early years about six years ago that I found my niche. The magic that surrounds this stage of development never ceases to amaze me, and the opportunities that the nursery holds to work in partnership with families is unlike any other stage I have worked with.



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Whilst leading the nursery and Primary 1 teams at Mearns Primary for the last four years, I decided to specialise in early years teaching and returned to university to study for my MEd in Early Years Pedagogy. I am currently in my second year, and with every assignment written, and growing knowledge and love for the nursery, I finally took the plunge and applied for the post as Head of Lyoncross Nursery. It may sound corny, but I already know it is the right decision. You know when you just feel it?

During the coming months, I hope to continue building strong relationships with our children, staff and families, and look forward to sharing a vision for Lyoncross Nursery based on firm values. I am not sure if we currently have an active family group, but this is something that I would be keen to introduce. I have certainly been lucky enough to experience the benefits of this type of team working. In fact, a virtual meeting to answer some of your questions, or share some ideas for improvement, may well be the first item on the agenda for such a group? Let me know your thoughts.

Staffing

Luchd Obrach

Gary Thorn has been successful at interview in Falkirk and will finish on Friday 12 March 2021. I am sorry that I have not had much time to work alongside him but know that the children and staff here will miss him very much. We wish him every success in his new role.

World Book Day

Latha na Leabhraichean

To celebrate World Book Day this week children can dress up on Friday 5 March 2021. Throughout the day, we will embrace the importance of reading within the nursery setting and present each child with their book token. Book tokens can be redeemed at Tesco and Sainsbury stores.



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Outdoor Learning

Lonnsachadh a-muigh

With nearly a year of lockdowns and restrictions, we have all become experts in the practice that keeps us and others safe and well. Outdoor exercise and play is very much at the forefront of current government advice for children, and as such we continue to ensure this is integrated into our daily routines at Lyoncross Nursery.

We are extremely lucky to have a wonderful outdoor space at Lyoncross Nursery with easy access to Crookston Woods where our children have the daily opportunity to explore the wonders that nature provides their enquisitive minds. Although the weather has turned slightly milder, it still remains wet and windy on most days. Can I please ask that your child wears appropriate clothing so they may continue to enjoy their outdoor learning experiences. We play with water, jump in puddles, and make mud so it is often messy!

Due to such messy play, your child may need to change. Please ensure a full change of clothes is always available inside their bag. We do have spare clothes, but some children much prefer to wear their own stuff.

Finally, you may find it easier to leave a pair of indoor shoes (Velcro fastening) in the nursery, along with a pair of wellies to ensure your child has the chance to move freely between the indoor and the outdoor settings.

Curriculum

Curraicealam

We hope your child has enjoyed the many opportunities provided by staff over lockdown and that these have given you some ideas for developing literacy and numeracy skills at home as parents/carers.



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This term, our immediate focus will be on the health and wellbeing of all children as we return from such a difficult start to the New Year, with attention given to religious and moral education on the lead up to Easter.

As the weather continues to improve, and following government advice, the children will continue to enjoy daily outdoor learning opportunities, including our Woodland experiences. As always, we will ensure a strong focus on literacy and numeracy both indoors and outdoors.

Nursery Timings

Ùine Sgoil Àraich

*All children who attend term time will finish on **Thursday 1 April 2021**. If your child attends the morning only, this will be at **12.30pm**. If your child attends for the afternoon or full day, then they will finish at **2.30pm**. The nursery will reopen for term time children on **Monday 19 April 2021 at 8.00am**.*

*If your child attends 52 weeks, then they will finish as normal on **Thursday 1 April 2021** and will return on **Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 8.00am**.*

Your Voice

Guthan

It is important that you feel you have a say in how Lyoncross Nursery runs. As we return from lockdown, I would like to collect your views on how we have supported you and your child during the past year of upheaval. Please take a few minutes to complete the following Form. Your views are always valued as they play an important role in moving the nursery forwards.

[QUESTIONNAIRE](#)



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COVID-19

Please inform us right away if your child or in anyone in your family develops the signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and remember to follow the one way system when entering and leaving the nursery entrance.

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 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 organise and resource special events. Many thanks in advance for your regular contributions.

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 any of the contact information currently on file.

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.



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Complaints and Suggestions

Gearan Agus Molaidhean

It is our aim at Lyoncross Nursery to work in partnership with you throughout your child'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 precedented 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 you may have about your child. 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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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>1-5 June 2021</i>	<i>Outdoor Family Fun Week</i>

TERM TIME HOLIDAY DATES	
<i>Thursday 1 April 2021</i>	<i>Nursery closes at 2.30pm</i>
<i>Friday 2 April 2021</i>	<i>Spring Fortnight</i>
<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>Thursday 24 June 2021</i>	<i>Nursery closes at 1.00pm</i>

52 WEEK HOLIDAY DATES	
<i>Friday 2 April 2021</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>
<i>Monday 5 April 2021</i>	<i>Easter Monday</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>Monday 19 July 2021</i>	<i>Glasgow Fair Holiday</i>



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Nurturing Nature Project

Pròiseat Àrach tro Nàdair

Project Information and Agreement Form



*We would like to invite you to take part in our project to encourage outdoor play. The project will run over **5 weeks** (one session per week) and we would expect you to come for each session, where possible.*

The project will consist of:

- A parent only (no children) introduction session based at the nursery.*
- A further 4 sessions that will be adapted depending on weather, children's interests etc. These sessions will involve the children and the parents/carers playing outdoors.*
- A final celebration where everyone will be awarded a certificate for taking part in the project.*

Each week we will have a loose plan that follows on from the previous week and the children's current interests. The plans are really flexible to allow children to play freely. The main aim is to just have fun playing outside with your child and for you to enjoy being a kid again.

We hope you will benefit from the knowledge and confidence gained from participating in this type of family programme. Please note, that you may have access to resources such as waterproof clothing/footwear throughout the programme.



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If you would like to take part and are willing to commit to the 5 week project, please sign your name below and return this page to the nursery.

We will also have printed copies of this form available if you are unable to print off at home so please do not hesitate in asking a member of staff for one.

Child's Name	Parent/Carer Signature	Date

Please note in advance any of the dates you cannot make. (✓ or X)

20-04-21	29-04-21	04-05-21	11-05-21	18-05-21	25-05-21	01-06-21
1-30-3-15pm						