



Meethill

Early Learning Centre

Family Newsletter - September 2023

Firstly, we would like to say a huge *Welcome* to our new children and families joining us at Meethill ELC. We are looking forward to getting to know you all and build some lovely relationships with your children.

For the returning children and families, it is great to see you back! We have loved hearing about your adventures over the summer holidays. It sounds like you all had a great time making some wonderful memories.

Staffing

As most of you are aware, we said a big farewell to Mrs Marilyn Gordon before the summer break as she begins her retirement. Mrs Gordon began her time at Meethill Nursery in 1980's and has positively impacted so many children and families over the years. We wish Marilyn all the best for her retirement and hope the sun shines for all those golf days she was planning for!

On a happier note, our Practitioner Mrs Leanne Ralston is expecting her second baby! Mrs Ralston will start her maternity leave in January 2024.

Our staffing model is as follows;

Mrs Jacqueline Turner - Early Years Senior Practitioner

Mrs Kara Hutcheon - Early Years Lead Practitioner

Miss Nicola Forbes - Excellence and Equity Lead Practitioner

Miss Jessica Brannan - Early Years Practitioner

Ms Diane Wood - Early Years Practitioner

Miss Chelsea Watt - Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Lisa Eden - Early Years Practitioner

Miss Susan Buchan - Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Leanne Ralston - Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Caroline Weir - Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Mandy Shepherd - Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Alina Gana - Early Years Support Worker

Further Development

Some of the staff have been working very hard to complete further education for their roles within Meethill ELC.

Mrs Jacqueline Turner is currently studying to achieve a PDA in Childhood Practice. With this in mind, Mrs Turner will be out of the setting on a Thursday while she attends college. If you have any queries, please see Mrs Hutcheon in her absence.

Miss Forbes has just begun her last year of University to gain a BA in Childhood Practice.

Miss Forbes will be looking for parental engagement and feedback throughout this session - your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs Alina Gana is working towards gaining a SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) Level 6.

Miss Watt recently gained an SVQ Health and Social Care (Children and Young People) Level 9 and

Mrs Eden gained a BA in Primary Education. Well done Ladies!



Parental Engagement

We are beginning to arrange Parent Sessions for Term 1. You will be invited into the setting at an allocated time to chat with your child's keyworker and discuss how they have settled in and the activities they have been enjoying since starting at Nursery. This appointment will also allow you to have a discussion with your child's keyworker about any concerns you may have.

Please remember, we at Meethill pride ourselves on our 'Open Door Policy' welcoming parents/carers into the setting at any time to discuss concerns or share feedback they may have. Someone will always be happy to speak to you!

We will also be welcoming families to join us during our Stay & Play sessions - these sessions allow you to come and play with your child in the Nursery setting without the interruptions or distractions of everyday life! These sessions will run on a Monday & Friday during your child's normal session. If this is something you or a member of your family would be interested in, please speak to a member of staff who can get you booked in.

Do you have any talents or perhaps a career you would like to share with us? We are looking for family members to talk to us about the wider world and people who help us. If you have something you would be able to share, please talk to a member of staff!

Clothing

Can parents/carers ensure all children have a change of clothing in their canvas bag at Nursery including pants, trousers, and socks - our Nursery supplies are running low so if you are having clear out of clothing, please keep us in mind!

Merging with Dales Park

As you are all aware, we are working very hard behind the scenes beginning plans for a smooth transition to Dales Park Nursery in August 2024. Our holiday provision will now take place at Dales Park Nursery. If you have not done so already, please return your session request form to Nursery as soon as possible.

Further information regarding the merger will be delivered across the session.

Learning throughout the term

We have lots of exciting opportunities for learning planned throughout the term. During term 1, we focus on friendships, routines, self-help skills and overall health and wellbeing. As the summer comes to an end, we will explore signs of autumn including environmental walks around our local community. Any parental help would be greatly appreciated.

All parents should now have access to Learning Journals, our online platform to record your child's learning. We have received some fantastic feedback about the programme and receiving live updates during the session.

If you are unable to access your child's profile, please see Mrs Hutcheon for further support.

Important dates for your diary - Term 1

Wednesday 11th October - The Photographer will be here to take some lovely photographs for you to purchase if you wish. These are individual or family photos with siblings attending Meethill School.

Thursday 12th October - Child Smile will be in the setting to apply Fluoride varnish to your child's teeth. Please remember your child cannot eat or drink for half an hour after the application and do no toothbrushing that night.

Term Dates Session 2023 - 2024

Friday 13 th October 2023	End of Term 1
Monday 16 th October 2023	Holiday Provision begins at Dales Park ELC
Friday 27 th October 2023	Last day of Holiday Provision
Monday 30 th October 2023	Term 2 begins
Thursday 16 th November 2023	Inservice (Nursery closed to all pupils)
Friday 17 th November 2023	Inservice (Nursery closed to all pupils)
Friday 22 nd December 2023	End of Term 2
Monday 8 th January 2024	Term 3 begins
Monday 12 th February 2024	Midterm Holiday (Nursery closed to all)
Tuesday 13 th February 2024	Inservice (Nursery closed to all pupils)
Wednesday 14 th February 2024	Inservice (Nursery closed to all pupils)
Friday 28 th March 2024	End of term 3
Monday 1 st April 2024	Holiday Provision at Dales Park ELC
Friday 12 th April 2024	Last day of Holiday Provision
Monday 15 th April 2024	Term 4 begins
Monday 6 th May 2024	Mayday Holiday (Nursery closed to all)
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Local Holiday (Nursery closed to all)
Friday 5 th July 2024	End of Term 4

If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the information in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Nursery team.

Our direct contact number is (01779) 403683 or you can email on

Jacqueline.turner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline Turner

Early Years Senior Practitioner