

Spring

March 2025

Welcome!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and families who have recently started with us at Drumchapel Early Years Centre. We are looking forward to working with you all.

Dates for your diary



Parent/Carer Evening:

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Staff will be arranging a time with you over the next few days to meet with them and discuss your child's learning/progress. In order for us to facilitate this, we will be closing the building to children at **4pm** that day.

We are unable to provide creche facilities for this event, therefore would kindly ask that you refrain from bringing any children with you. This will also allow you to dedicate your attention to a one to one appointment with your child's key person. Please note due to the volume of families we have to accommodate; these appointments will be restricted to a **10-minute** slot. We would ask that everyone adheres to this, assisting us with the smooth running of the evening, and reduce the time waited by other families.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you. 😊

Spring Break/Easter Weekend

Children attending on a term-time basis will finish for the Spring break on Friday 4th April and return on Tuesday 22nd April.

Our service will be closed to **ALL** children on Friday 18th April and Monday 21st April.

Easter celebrations

Children will be involved in a wide range of learning opportunities leading up to Easter Weekend. We are also planning parties in all rooms on Wednesday 2nd April.

Closure days in May to ALL children:

- Monday, 5th May (May Holiday)
- Thursday, 22nd May (In-service day)
- Friday, 23rd May and Monday, 26th May (May Weekend)

Personal Belongings

*Due to the large amount of dirt being carried in from outdoors, we are asking that you please provide an **indoor** pair of shoes for your child. This can be a pair of slippers/plimsoles etc that they are able to manage or attempt themselves.

*Please ensure your child/ren always has a supply of their own clothes, stored in their peg bag. This should regularly be checked and topped up if required. If your child has gone home with nursery spare clothes, please remember to return them as our supplies are running low.

*We also have an enormous supply of LOST PROPERTY accumulated over the past couple of weeks. If your child is missing anything, please have a look in the black basket in the foyer. Due to the large volume of unclaimed items, and limited space to store it, we will regularly have to pass onto the 'RagBag' collection.

*We would ask that all children are dressed appropriately for the weather and regardless of how they travel to nursery, they have an outdoor jacket. This will ensure they can access our outdoor learning environments, daily.

Miscellaneous reminders:

- Again, we have to bring to your attention, the use of cannabis by adults entering our building has increased again. We have a duty of care to all using our service and if this continues, we will be forced to take further action.
- We are also aware there has been an increase in some adults attempting to access our building whilst on their mobile phones. Please note we do not allow anyone to be using their mobile when dropping off/collecting children. You are free to wait outside in the foyer and finish your call before coming in and will be asked to do so if required.
- When waiting in the foyer to come into nursery, please ensure you are keeping an eye on your own child. We are aware, especially for the afternoon session, that several of the children are running around and we would not want anyone to get hurt or have an accident. Obviously, children can become excitable when they first see their friends, however we must ensure everyone's safety at all times.
- Glasgow City Council do not allow any dogs on their premises therefore no one should be bringing dogs into school/nursery grounds.

Staff News:

We are delighted to share with you that both Jillian & Shannyn have had their babies, and they are all settling into their new family lives! Jillian gave birth to Emmie and Shannyn to Jack, both are doing well. Deborah is due to finish up for maternity leave mid-April and we look forward to hearing all about her bundle of joy when she arrives! We have welcomed Kirsty to our team who has joined us recently to cover Jillians maternity leave!

Infection Control

We have been reviewing our 'Infection, Prevention Control' procedures and would like to bring the following amendments to your attention.

If your child uses a comforter, you should have received a letter explaining our new procedures. Please see Mary/Catherine if you have not been given a letter yet. Due to several occasions when dog dirt has been brought into the corridor on pram wheels, please leave all prams in the pram shed/foyer before coming into nursery.

If your child is unwell, the best place for them is at home. This will ensure the infection they are suffering from does not spread to others.

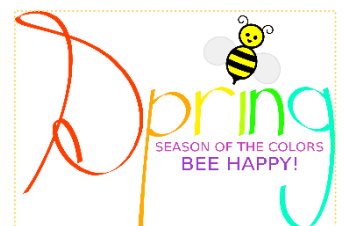
Allocation of places

We will soon be looking at our allocation of spaces for August 2025. If your child will be returning to us on this date and you wish to change your pattern of session, please speak with Catherine or Mary. Sometimes when siblings go onto school, families find a morning session suits best or a couple of full days. If this is something you feel you would like to be considered for please let us know.

We will also soon be reviewing all of our full time/additional hours places for August 2024. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee we will be able to offer exactly the same sessions into the coming year. We will require updated proof of employment/further education in order for us to prioritise places available, whilst still accommodating all children who have an entitlement to hours. Again, please speak with Catherine/Mary for further information.

Play Along Maths

Laura has been leading this pre school programme with small groups of children. If your child hasn't already participated, look out for your invite to come along and hear all about this exciting initiative in which your child has the opportunity to take a maths activity home for a few days.



Seesaw

We hope you are enjoying interacting with this app, which demonstrates the children's learning and is useful for passing on information to you. We would like to point out though that the amount of time staff have allocated to upload content, can be determined by the amount of children they are responsible for. For instance, staff in the 0-3 rooms, have far less children per staff member than those working in the 3-5 room. This will therefore be reflected in the quantity of posts uploaded every week.

Whilst we encourage engagement with your child's learning through the app, we would remind you that staff would only see messages within working hours. We prioritise staff time to be working directly with the children, and they only have a short time over the week that is dedicated to 'time off the floor' to complete other duties. If you need to pass on a message to staff regarding your child, please catch them at drop off or arrange a suitable time to meet.

Volunteers

We are looking for any volunteers that would be able/willing to build some raised beds for us in our new field area. This would allow us to support the children learn about planting & growing. If this is something you can assist with, please speak with Catherine.

- We would like to thank everyone for their patience during the recent period when we had to reduce our service due to so many of our staff being affected by the flu A virus.
- It was very much appreciated that some of you asked after our staff. Thankfully all are better now and back to doing the job they love!



It has come to our attention that there were several posts on social media that were particularly derogatory towards staff and our nursery, within the community. We would ask that you refrain from this, opting to come to speak with us directly if you have any issues or concerns. We advocate an open-door policy and will always endeavour to listen to your concerns and address them. Please be assured, decisions made around our service are always made with the best interests of our children, families and staff at heart.

Collecting of children

Can we ask that you are mindful of collecting children on time at the end of their allocated sessions. This also applies if you have more than one child, especially when they are in two or more rooms. Please speak with staff in the playrooms to arrange which order of collection would be best, and how we can support you with this.

Nurturing My Potential:

Our staff in Jura & Arran (0-3yrs) have been developing their planning systems around the Glasgow City Council guidance document-Nurturing My Potential. This guidance has been developed to support practitioners working with our youngest children, ensuring we are providing quality learning and development to all. Staff attending training linked to this document at our recent in-service day led by Eileen Pollock, Birth to Three Co-Ordinator for the authority

Think Equal:

This is a new programme Deborah is leading with the 3-5 children to support their social & emotional development. It is designed to highlight the importance of children identifying their own emotions. This is implemented through a variety of stories, group discussions along with musical and relaxation experiences. Please see Deborah if you wish to know more.