

## Autumn/ Winter Newsletter 2024

### Dates for your diary:

**Halloween: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October:** we will be having a low-key fancy-dress party in the morning and afternoon session; unfortunately, as we are at our full capacity of children, we cannot accommodate your child/children if this is not normally one of their days to attend, they can however dress up on a day that they would normally attend.



We would ask that children do not wear a mask or have their face painted as this can sometimes frighten our younger children.



**Diwali: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** we will be celebrating Diwali which is a religious festival celebrated by different cultures around the world, often referred to as 'festival of lights.' Our children will be participating in a variety of learning experiences in relation to this festival.

**Guy Fawkes: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November:** The children will learn all about the importance of fire safety.

**St Andrew's Day: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Our children will be learning all about the Patron Saint of Scotland and our culture, a few of the older children will be visiting Focal Point Day Care Centre to sing Scottish songs and participate in dancing with the clients.

**Parents/Carers Evening Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November:** Please see your child's Key worker to book in an appointment to discuss your child's progress. If your child has just started with us we would leave an appointment this time and arrange one for the next parent/carers evening. On that note, we will be closing the service early on this day (4pm), in order to facilitate.

**Christmas Party Dates: Skye- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday Arran/Jura & Lewis- 12<sup>th</sup> December times to follow.**



## Toy Fund Payments

Lisa and one or two of the older children will be in the foyer collecting the toy fund every Wednesday as they learn more about financial education and the value of money.

That being said it is unfair that the same people pay on a regular basis and others do not, especially as for the majority of children the service is free.

Otherwise we will be unable to pay for flour and oil to make playdough, ingredients for baking, washing up liquid, Christmas party treats, presents and the list goes on.

Therefore, I have decided that I will speak to the consistent non-payers, particularly when they have more than one child who attends the centre and ask them to start making regular payments.

## Warm Clothing

Some of you may have noticed that we have recently acquired a new outdoor grass area for the children to play in which they are really enjoying. However, as the weather is starting to become wetter and colder, I would kindly ask that you ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for the weather with a warm waterproof jacket, wellies, hats and gloves. On that note please can you ensure that you label your child's belongings as they can be easily misplaced.

## Resources

We have recently purchased new sensory resources to help support all of our children's developmental needs, which all of the children are enjoying using.

## Care Needs

We would kindly ask that you provide us with a regular supply of nappies and wipes for your child as we do not have finances to purchase spares, this will mean that you will be contacted to come and change your child or replenish their nappies and wipes, if they have none left. Unfortunately, if you have more than one child who attends the centre, we are not able to share nappies and wipes due to cross contamination, therefore each child will require their own.

Please can you ensure that your child has spare clothes including underwear and socks in their peg bag as we do not have enough mostly due to the fact that our spares are not being returned, this is a requirement if your child is toilet training.

## Improvement Plan

Over the coming month the children will be learning about the seasonal changes that take place in Autumn and Winter, they will learn more about the different festivals and cultures that occur during this time.

As part of our Improvement Plan the children will be learning more about numbers and letters in their outdoor environments, we have a home link sheet for your child to complete and return to us.



## Congratulations:

We would love to share some lovely news with you, Alana gave birth to her adorable son Ethan. Both mum and Ethan are doing really well.

Deborah got married at the end of September! We would like to wish the new Mr & Mrs Kelly the very best of luck for a happy future together!

Both Jillian & Shannyn will be finishing in the coming weeks to have their bundles of joy, shortly after. We will keep you all updated as to how they get on!

We will be welcoming a new member of staff to the team in mid-November. Aimee will be joining staff in the Skye playroom, please feel free to say hello!

## SeeSaw:

Please remember to access examples of your child's learning with us on their free, SeeSaw account. It is a great way for you to see what your child/ren have been involved in. If you are having any difficulties with this, let us know and we can help you out. We really appreciate your feedback on this platform- comments on posts and messages are a great way for us to receive feedback from you on your child's progress.

## Fire Pit Training

A few staff members from the 3-5s playroom will be receiving Fire Pit Training, which will enable them to safely cook outdoors with the children, this will tie in with the fact that we are teaching the children about their right to be safe and how to keep themselves safe, as part of teaching the children about United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child and Getting it right for every child.