



**Melrose Primary School
Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC)
Newsletter Term 3 - January to March 2016**

Staffing updates

Changes to job titles:

Mrs Patterson leads the ELCC team as Early Years Officer.

Mrs Brown, Mrs Hall, Mrs Scott and Mrs Noble are Early Years practitioners.

- Mrs Hall has returned from maternity leave, she will work full day on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and mornings only on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Mrs Brown works full time.
- Mrs Scott will work full day on Monday and a Tuesday morning
- Mrs Noble will work Wednesday all day and a Thursday afternoon.

Opening and Pick Up Times

The ELCC sessions are three hours and ten minutes. The cloakroom door opens five minutes before the session begins to allow the children to change shoes and be ready come in. Please ensure your child arrives on time, late arrivals should go to the main school office where office staff will facilitate entrance to the ELCC.

Morning sessions start at 8.30 am until 11.40 am; doors will be closed and alarmed at 8.40 am. Afternoon sessions start at 12.30 pm until 3.40 pm; doors will be closed and alarmed at 12.40 pm. The doors are opened at 11.35 am and 3.35 pm to allow time for parents to pick up children. Please come straight into the ELCC when the doors are opened. We ask parents/carers to be prompt at pick up times due to staff being involved in team meetings at the end of each session.

If your child is being collected by anyone other than yourselves, please fill in the "Pick Up" sheet, which can be found on a clipboard in the cloak-room area.

Should your child's collection arrangements change during ELCC session, please inform the school office.

Curriculum for Excellence in ELCC

Through the learning context of 'Cultures around the World' the children will listen and watch for useful and interesting information to learn new things. They will explore events and characters in cultural stories and share their thoughts in different ways. The children will handle, taste, talk and learn about different healthy foods. They will have the opportunity to sing and play along to music of other cultures and explore ways to move rhythmically, expressively and playfully. Children will learn how to manage and control their bodies in a shared space. Children will investigate objects and shapes and will sort describe and be creative with them. Linked to the learning context the children will explore shape in art and play.

ELCC Parent Consultations – 7th, 14th March 2016

Parents/Carers have already been given appointment times to meet with Mrs Patterson to discuss their child's progress.

Please let a member of staff know, as soon as possible, if you are unable to attend the allocated appointment.

Appointments are for 10 minutes and will take place in the Eco Room in the main school building. Mrs Lees will attend meetings for children who will be in Primary 1 next year.

Letters and Information

All the letters and information for the children can be collected each day from their pocket on the hanger inside the ELCC door. Please keep checking for new information.

Clothing

For each child it is essential that there is a spare set of clothes kept in this bag at all times.

The outdoors is regularly used for learning. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothes, a coat and outdoor shoes. On wet days please send your child to ELCC with wellies.

Children are encouraged to be independent and, where possible, should be sent with shoes they can fasten and unfasten independently.

Melrose ELCC would like to offer parents/carers an opportunity to order an ELCC jumper and t-shirt for the children to wear when they are busy learning through play.

If you would like to place an order please ask a member of staff for details.

Snack Money

The children have snack every day through which healthy eating is promoted. In the cloakroom there is a snack menu for the week and a list of snack costs. Children are given the opportunity to suggest healthy snack ideas and try new foods.

Snack is priced at £0.40 per day. You will be informed of the total cost of snack for your child each term, (holidays and in-service days will be taken into account. Payment should be given to a member of staff. Cheques should be made payable to "Melrose Primary School" and cash in an envelope marked with the child's name. A receipt will be written and placed in your child's pocket. Snack money for the second term is now due – thanks to those who have already paid.

Parent Help

The ELCC operate an open door policy for parents. Parental involvement is welcomed if you would like to help, please contact a member of staff.

Please look out for a 'sign-up' sheet for any adults who would be able to support with the library books. Helpers would be required to support children to select a book to enjoy at home, and on return to ELCC discuss their likes and dislikes of book they have borrowed. All help is gratefully received!

ELCC are developing the outdoor area the children share their ideas regularly with regards to resources they would like and need to develop their play experiences. We are currently looking for any old but safe hanging baskets we could attach to the fence and den to keep the resources readily available for the children.

The children use cardboard boxes for many an adventure everyday but due to regular use the cardboard boxes unfortunately do not last long. If you have big boxes we would gratefully receive them, please could you speak to a member of staff. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

ELCC Christmas Cookie Jar Enterprise Project

Thank you to all who helped to make our cookie jars and to those who purchased them. We raised £237.75 which will be used to purchase new resources. The children will be involved in choosing some of these resources.

'Star Moments'

Achievements in Early Learning Childcare are celebrated in children's Personal Learning Plans which go home three times per year. As part of celebrating success out of ELCC, we are sending home a 'Star Moment' sheet for you to fill in with your child.

Please share any successes your child has had, whether it be a certificate or award, or something they have learned to do that they could not do before.

These can be written on or have a photograph or drawing attached. When completed, hand the 'Star Moment' sheet to a member of staff to display alongside the other 'Star Moments' in the cloakroom. A pocket with blank 'Star Moment' sheets is in the entrance hall. The form is also available on the website.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

Children should NOT return to Nursery for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. Your support is appreciated in order to avoid the spread of these infections.

Diary Dates

- 3rd March 2016 World Book Day, book swap day at Melrose Primary School
- 7th March 2016 Parent Consultations for ELCC classes
- 14th March 2016 Parent Consultations for ELCC classes
- 18th March 2016 Sports Relief day organised by pupils
- 25th March 2016 Good Friday holiday – school closed
- School closes for holiday at 12.15pm
- 18th April 2016 School opens again
- 29th April 2016 In-Service Training Day – no school or ELCC for children
- 2nd May 2016 May Day Holiday – school closed
- 9th May 2016 Parents Information evening – teaching and learning of maths
- 2nd June 2016 Summer Fair
- 6th June 2016 Local holiday – school closed
- School closes for summer holidays at 3.15pm
- 15th August 2016 In-Service Training Day – no school or ELCC for children
- 16th August 2016 School re-opens after summer holidays