



Parkhead ELC October/November 2024 Newsletter

Planning and Learning

What a fun couple of months we have had! The children absolutely loved our baking topic where they were busy making lots of tasty treats including homemade bread, soup and cakes. This also led into our spooktacular experiences throughout Halloween where the children continued to follow their baking and mixing skills into making spooky biscuits, pumpkin soup and edible spiders. Exploring measurements and mixing skills continued while making poisonous potions and spells in their cauldrons throughout the nursery.

As we celebrated Halloween and fireworks during our darker nights, the children became interested in the local environment and the changes that have occurred during the colder months. We discussed the changes in the temperature of the weather and how the darker nights begin sooner in the winter. This led into a focus on what we see, hear and feel during the darker and colder months. This led into opportunities to explore the habitats and food of the animals and provide experiences for the children to create these.

Our interests then began to move into wildlife and in particular birds. During November we made bird cakes to feed the birds and explored the birds in our garden and the noises that they make. We also listened out for the birds on our visit to the Stick Man Trail.

As the weather changed and we had ice and snow in our garden we explored what happens to the birds in colder weather. Penguins then made an appearance and we enjoyed making penguins with art materials. We also created our own "bird hide" and using binoculars could watch the birds. Rhymes like "Peter and Paul" and stories about birds helped us develop our literacy.

Important Dates

Together Time

Monday the 2nd of December to Friday the 6th of Nov

8am - 9.30am each morning

12.30pm - 2pm each afternoon

3.30pm - 5pm each evening

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday the 13th of December 10-11.30am

Christmas Party Day!

All Children will be welcome to come in for our Christmas celebration. All children will be able to invite 1 parent along with them on this day to party with us. Further details will follow regarding this in a separate email.

Rag Bag Donations

Many thanks for all the donations. We are delighted to announce that we raised a huge £78 from those donations.

Home Learning

Thank you to those who have started using their Seesaw QR code to share news, learning and accomplishments from home. This month you and your child may also want to participate in some of the following home learning activities:

Can you go on a nature walk and collect resources such as twigs, pine cones, acorns etc?

Can you create an animal watching station to track the animals that visit your garden? Share your findings.

Share your favourite things to do at night time when it is dark and cold. Do you have any traditions?

Amazing Achievements!

We love to share and celebrate the children's achievements both from home and at nursery. Please let us know if your child has celebrated or achieved something at home. This can be shared during drop off or pick up with staff or through Seesaw. We like to share these on our Achievements display for the children to see and through our newsletters.

- Some of our children have moved up a level in their groups from home. These include swimming, gymnastics, dancing and football! Great job!
- Some of our children have experienced their first fireworks' night and were really brave!
- Rory has been helping to clear up the community with litter pickers. Well done!
- A lot of our children had fun "trick or treating" at Halloween where they got lots of treats!

The Book Nook



Please feel free to watch the online video with the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOIkKlka9rs>

A calm song to listen to together at night time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWip7yvXukI>

Communication

We welcome parents/carers into the nursery to chat to a member of our team if required throughout the week. However, if you can't speak to us at collection or drop off times, and need to speak to a member of staff about any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone (01506 871404). You can also arrange for an appointment to speak to a member of staff in person if required.

If you need to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team then please contact Mrs Gordon.

Telephone - 01506 871404

EMAIL ADDRESS (please put Nursery in the heading)

wlparkhead-ps@westlothian.org.uk

WEBSITE:

<https://parkheadprimary.westlothian.org.uk>

Little Reminders

We kindly ask parents to be aware of their children's session times and ensure you follow these please? We ask that you do not attempt to come into the nursery before your child's session time and please ensure your child is collected before their session finishes.

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| AM Session | |
| Monday - Thursday | 07.47am - 12.30pm |
| Friday | 08.00am - 11.54am |
| PM Session | |
| Monday-Thursday | 12.30pm - 6.14pm |
| Full Day Session | |
| 2 Full days | 8am - 6pm |
| Monday - Thursday (1/2 session) | 12.45pm - 4.05pm |
| Friday (1/2 session) | 8am - 11.20am |

We kindly ask if your child is bringing a packed lunch to nursery, can you try to promote a healthy snack or lunch and make sure this is safe for all of our children. We ask that small items such as grapes, olives or blueberries are chopped to ensure they are not a choking hazard. Also, please ensure there are no nut products in your child's packed lunches due to allergies within the nursery.

Thank you for your help with this!

Staffing updates...

Miss Griffiths and Mrs Watton have begun their maternity leave. We welcome Mrs Louise Delargy as Head Teacher and Mrs Zoe Gordon as Acting Principal Teacher responsible for Nursery and P1. We have been successful in recruiting an Acting Early Years Officer (EYO) to cover Mrs Watton's maternity leave. We are hopeful for a start date after Christmas.

Request for resources...

We need your help...

- Do you have any screws, nails, bolts etc, that could help us develop our work bench please?
- Can you collect any pebbles, stones, shells, acorns, twigs, pine cones, leaves etc to help us create some natural habitats as well as use them for loose parts alongside our blocks.

Many thanks!