

September 2025 Newsletter



Second Edition

Each month, we share updates, insights into your child's learning, and ways to connect with our wonderful nursery community.

A special warm welcome to all our new families who joined us this month! We are thrilled to have you part of our nursery family and look forward to watching your little ones explore, learn and grow.

Staff Updates

This month we said goodbye to Jessica and Adele from the 3-5 room. We know they will excel in their new roles at other nurseries and wish them every success. We continue to wish Amarjit in the 2-3 room a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back once she's fit and well.

STV Scottish Big Breakfast Community Stay and Play event

What a fantastic morning we had for the charity Big Breakfast! Smiling faces, full tummies, and a real sense of community made the event a huge success. Families came together, children played and friendships grew.

A huge thanks to our families for your amazing food and donations, and to our local supporters: Mills Milk, Neilson's Butchers, Shaw the Butcher, and Auchinairn Afterschool Care & Kindergarten. An amazing £327.26 was raised. Well done!

Special shout-outs to our incredible staff for organising, cooking, setting up, and ensuring every child was cared for, your teamwork made it all happen. The event not only raised funds for Scotland's children but strengthened bonds across our community. We're so proud of everyone who made it happen, children, families, and partners alike!

We need YOU!

If you would like to support events like this and give our dedicated team a helping hand, we'd love to have you join our Family Partnership group. Whether it's just a few times a year or more regularly, everyone is welcome, grans aunties, dads, anyone! Please speak to Geraldine or Jodie H to sign up.

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Gran & Grandad Day Stay and Play event

What an incredible morning we had! 45 of our grannies and grandads joined us for a special day. What a fantastic turnout!

We cannot thank you enough for coming along and sharing your time with us. The children has an absolute ball creating wonderful memories, together they enjoyed:

Book Bug stories and rhymes, bookmark creations, playdough fun and exploring the garden. It was heartwarming to see children and grandparents learning, laughing and playing together.

Beatson Walk and Yellow Day

We missed sharing this in our August newsletter, but we're so proud of Team Auchinarn and EDC nurseries for joining Janet's Tartan Army for the 2nd year in the 10k Off the Beatson Track Walk! Glasgow turned yellow as they took on the challenge, raising funds for the incredible Beatson Cancer Charity.

In the EYC, children joined in the celebrations, exploring the centre with all things yellow. Together, our little ones raised £181.41 in the centre, while Team EDC's GoFundMe page raised £1781.00, an amazing contribution to a worthy cause.

This walk will forever hold a special place in our hearts, in memory of our late Head of Centre, and we look forward to making it a fixed event for years to come.

Drop In Stay & Play Opportunities

Our Stay & Play sessions made a wonderful return in September! We were delighted to welcome 2 families who joined us to play and explore with their children. Both families had lovely times engaging in the activities, creating memories, and spending quality time with their little ones. We look forward to seeing even more families at future sessions!

- Drop-in Stay & Play – Every Tuesday and Friday (See sign up book at the reception desk)
- Remember to share your visit date and time with your child's keyworker.

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These sessions are a wonderful way to see your child at play, meet other families, and get involved in nursery life.

Keeping Our Children Safe

Your child's safety is always our top priority. To help us keep the nursery secure, we kindly ask for your support with the following:

- When coming in or out, please do not let unfamiliar adults enter with you, a member of staff will always be there to help. We request that the door code is never shared with your child.
- Encourage your child to use the safety boxes marked around the doors when leaving the nursery. These help children learn independence while ensuring they can only enter with a known adult. Our friendly purple elephant, SIMOA, is there to remind children to think about risks and be aware of dangers in a safe way.
- Please make sure the door is fully closed behind you when entering or leaving. We know it's lovely to stop for a quick chat with staff or other parents (and we really enjoy those moments too!) but just take a second to check the door is closed rather than holding it open.
- After 4pm, entry to playrooms will only be given by a key worker or another staff member who knows you. If we're unsure, we'll ask you for your family password, this is simply to keep everyone safe.
- Please avoid following in behind our facilities team (cleaners, maintenance staff, etc.) to play spaces as they don't have permission to let families through.

We hope you understand that these steps are in place to keep the nursery a safe and welcoming place for every child.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG)

As part of our commitment to safeguarding and the safety of all children, we are updating our records regarding Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) membership.

Why PVG is Important

PVG membership helps ensure that anyone supporting children in the nursery or on outings has been appropriately checked for suitability to work with

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children.

Having a bank of PVG-checked volunteer parents allows us to safely plan outings, trips, and special activities, giving children enriching experiences while maintaining safety and compliance with Scottish law.

Shortly we will be asking if any family members hold a valid PVG through East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) or if you do not currently hold a PVG, would you be interested in gaining PVG status to support volunteering opportunities in the nursery (e.g., outings, activities, or helping at events)?

We will be reviewing our PVG policy to align with the new Scottish legislation. If you wish to share your thoughts, please chat with Michelle or Lauren.

Incidents & Accidents Recording

Families in July shared feedback in our recent survey of how we record incidents and accidents. The feedback helps us keep communication clear, consistent, and focused on children's wellbeing.

We are pleased that most families trust our professional judgement and prefer verbal feedback.

Our practices moving forward:

Minor bumps and scrapes - (like a paper cut or small graze): Shared verbally with you at pick-up.

Head bumps - For very minor bumps, you'll receive a text; for anything more, we'll call.

Bites - Always communicated by phone, with a written report.

More significant incidents - (e.g. large scrapes, head bumps with swelling, falls with bruising, or anything needing first aid): Documented in your child's Learning Journal and emailed promptly.

Our guiding principle is always your child's wellbeing first. Staff will use their professional judgement to decide the right level of communication, and if in doubt, we will document and contact you.

We know children naturally pick up bumps and scrapes as part of their play and learning. This updated approach helps staff spend more time with children, while ensuring families stay fully informed about what matters most.

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If you'd like minor incidents to be recorded differently for your child, please speak with Michelle or Lauren. We will be updating our policy in line with our new approach.

Mini Me's for 3-5's

At nursery we encourage children to take part in self-registration each day using their "Mini Me's." This simple but important routine helps your child in many ways:

- Builds independence by taking responsibility for their own arrival and home time.
- Supports name recognition, helping children understand that everyone has a name and identity.
- Encourages early literacy by recognising and connecting their name in print.
- Creates a smooth routine, making drop-off and pick-up more positive and secure.
- Builds confidence and pride as children manage this task themselves.
- Strengthens friendship awareness by noticing and talking about who is present.
- Encourages communication with both staff and peers.

This daily practice not only supports learning but also makes transitions into and out of nursery a calm, meaningful part of the day.

Learning Journal Expectations

We love sharing your child's experiences and learning through their journals. Our staff have a small amount of dedicated time each week to focus on these entries, aiming for 4-6 updates per month, per child. Occasionally, entries may be fewer due to staff leave, busy periods, or other commitments.

Please know that our team carefully balances these responsibilities to keep your child's learning journal as current and engaging as possible. Due to technical WiFi issues we may not be able to upload photographs on our learning journal platform.

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Nursery & Community Trust Library

Having a Trust Library in the nursery community corridor gives every child the chance to discover the joy of books, no matter their background or circumstances. Reading to children from an early age is one of the most powerful ways to support their learning, imagination, and emotional development. Stories expand children's vocabulary, spark curiosity, and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Our Trust Library works simply:

- Look for a book you'd like to share.
- Sign it out and enjoy reading at home.
- Return it for another family to enjoy.
- Got spare books at home? Please donate them to help us grow the collection.

Setting the Table – Food guidance for Nursery

At nursery, we're following the new Setting the Table guidance to help give children the best start with healthy food habits. At nursery this means we will offer children things like:

- Breakfast cereals with at least 3g of fibre per serving
- Bread with at least 3g of fibre per serving
- Still plain water only
- Plain milk or unsweetened non-dairy alternatives only
- Unsweetened or plain yogurts
- Plain oatcakes, savoury crackers, rice cakes and breadsticks
- Fat spread with no more than 20g fat per 100g

Please note: Confectionary should not be provided at any time in nursery – this includes birthday cakes, party snack, sugary items, biscuits or pancakes.

If you'd like more information, please speak to Michelle or Lauren.

Staying Connected and Updated

We hope you agree that we always try to make our communication with families as clear and effective as possible.

Aside from face-to-face conversations, our main ways of sharing messages are:

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- Facebook Entries (Michelle Lauren Auchinairn)
- Groupcall emails
- Learning Journal emails or stories/observations

Unfortunately, we have a limited direct text message system and need to keep communication to a minimal via this channel.

We are finding that some family members are unaware of what is happening in the centre due to not engaging with these email systems.

We kindly ask that you check your emails regularly to make sure you don't miss any important updates from us.

If you are not receiving communication, please pop in to Michelle, Lauren, or our admin team, Linda and Fiona who will be happy to support you.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone informed and connected!

Nursery Website Update

We currently have four team members working hard behind the scenes to bring our nursery website fully up to date. We've set an action plan running until February to ensure all information is current and useful for families, but bear with us, it is a work in progress.

Please check the website regularly to stay as up-to-date as possible.

If there's anything you think is missing or if you have suggestions on how we can improve it, please pop in and speak to Michelle or Lauren. We'd love to hear your ideas!

Smart Watches in Nursery

We are seeing an increase in children wearing smart watches to nursery.

While they are fun and exciting for young children, we cannot allow them in nursery.

These devices can:

- Take photos or videos
- Record audio
- Track location
- Send messages or access the internet

To keep all children safe, secure, and focused on learning and play, smart watches must stay at home.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone!

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Children Taking Nursery Toys Home

At nursery, our children love exploring the exciting toys and resources we provide. Recently, we've noticed some small items such as figures, coins, cars and game pieces making their way into little pockets, socks, or waistbands! While we understand the appeal, these items are important parts of our games and learning activities, and missing pieces can be disappointing for other children.

If your child does arrive home with something from nursery, we'd be very grateful if they could return it as soon as possible. We're encouraging children to be a 'Responsible Robbie' by looking after our toys together.

Treat Fund & Purchases

A big thank you to all our families who are kindly contributing to our £2.00 a week treat fund. Your support not only helps us provide special treats for the children but also enables us to purchase lovely play resources that we cannot access through our usual procurement stocklist. We are truly grateful for your generosity.

We are excited to share that we have recently purchased some fantastic new indoor and outdoor resources from the children's treat fund for all our children, based on conversations with them!

Some of the items include:

- £110.81 on rebuilding materials for our outdoor stage and teepee den
- £125.28 on small world resources - cars, trains, diggers, road tape and animals (mini beasts, and sealife)
- £155.21 on sand and water toys
- £43.60 on playdough resources
- £149.62 on a variety of natural maths resources such as pinecones, acorns, and shells, including a variety of games
- £70.54 on display materials such as bunting and hanging decorations to lower the ceiling
- £51.85 on home corner and role play resources
- And more....

In addition, we have also spent funds on snack items to support healthy eating and enjoyable snack times, as well as the lovely ingredients for the

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cheese scones at Gran & Grandad day.

We truly appreciate your continued support which makes these purchases possible and helps us enrich your child's learning and play experiences.

Nursery Parking Reminder

A gentle reminder about parking at the community centre:

- When the centre is busy, the car park can get very full. Unfortunately, this sometimes results in cars parking on pavements, which can create safety risks for both drivers and our wee Learners walking to and from nursery.
- We kindly ask all drivers to park safely, keeping pavements and walkways always clear.
- We also respectfully request that disabled bays are used only by Blue Badge holders.
- Please avoid parking on the large pavement space by the children's main fire exit. This must stay clear to ensure a safe pathway in case of an emergency.

Thankyou for understanding and keeping everyone safe.

Dates to remember:

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Dates for your diary					
Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
12th & 13th nursery closed 25 th Wear it yellow day for the Beatson £2 donation 27 th Getting to know us Evening 6.30pm 28 th Photographer shoot	11 th STV Big community Breakfast 18 th Gran & Grandad Stay and Play 24 th Parents Connections: Tea, Talks & Tips (1.30-2.30pm) 26th & 29th nursery closed	9 th Parents Connections: Tea, Talks & Tips (evening) 9 th Christmas photographer shoot 10th nursery closed 23 rd STEM Stay and Play 28 th & 29 th Panda Fundraiser event 29 th Parents evening for ALL children	7 th Family Fun Night	8 th & 10 th Dough Disco Stay and Play 11 th Christmas Party 16 th Christmas Concert 25th – 31st nursery closed	5 th nursery reopens

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Talks, Tips & Tea

Come long and spend a wee hour with us! A chance to get to know other families, share parenting ideas, swap stories, or simply enjoy a listening ear. It's a relaxed time for a laugh, a chat, and a little bit of you time.

Talks, Tips & Tea is a new opportunity led by our staff to support you through the ups and downs of parenting, life's challenges, or family milestones.

Dates & Times

- Tuesday 24th September, 1.30-2.30pm
- Wednesday 9th September, 6.00-7.00pm

To sign up, please speak to Fiona in the 2-3 play space or our admin team (Linda and Fiona)

We'd love to see as many of you as possible. Everyone is welcome!

STEM Stay & Play

We are excited to invite you to our next stay and play event on Thursday 23rd October (times to be confirmed).

This time our focus is on STEM – showing how children explore science, technology, engineering and maths through play. STEM learning is playful, hands on and fun, sparking curiosity and problem-solving skills.

Possible learning stations:

Science – mixing colours in water, melting ice to find treasures, exploring magnets

Technology – using bee bots our simple coding toys, or cameras to record discoveries

Engineering – building towers with blocks, creating bridges from recycled materials, testing what sinks or floats

Maths – sorting and counting natural objects, measuring ingredients for playdough, playing shape and pattern games

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing your child's learning with you.

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Panda Fundraiser

Last year, the children raised enough funds to adopt our very own panda, Bamboo, who lives in China. Every morning, the children enjoy watching Bamboo and other pandas on the live stream. It has become a much loved part of our day! To continue supporting Bamboo, the children and our Eco Committee will be holding a fruit & Cookie stall on 28th and 29th October. All money raised will go directly towards our panda adoption. Every little helps, and the children are excited. Thank you as always, for being part of our community effort.

Parents Evening

Save the date for parents evening. We're delighted to invite all of our parents to a 10 minute catch up about your child's learning, development and next steps on Wednesday 29th October. Time slots will run between 6pm-8pm. Sign up sheets will be available from mid-October.

This evening is especially important for our Class of 2026 families, particularly those seeking advice around the nursery bonus year for children with 5th birthdays between 14th August and 28th February. EDC usually share school enrolment opportunities around November time. We will keep you updated as soon as we receive further information.

*"Taking the deferred bonus year has been hugely beneficial for ****. **** has always been bright and academic with a passion for learning but was very anxious particularly at nursery drop off. He struggled socially and at times we felt he wasn't sure where he "fit in". Deferring him allowed him extra time to mature emotionally. He now goes in to school focused and motivated and has even started reading books to his brother at night. He has a big group of friends and is coping really well. We feel strongly that the deferred bonus year has given him bags of confidence. He absolutely loves school and one of his favourite parts of the day is bedtime. He snuggles up with us, tells us every detail of his day at school. I would strongly recommend considering a deferred bonus year if you're able to." – Class of 2025 parent*

"As a family we chose to take on the additional bonus year for our son, his birthday is late August. Although we felt he would be academically ready for school challenges, we knew that emotionally and independently he was not. We had to think of the wider picture than in the classroom environment and how he would cope in the playground, with peers and even the simple things of managing his own snack. He often would have small meltdowns throughout the day, unable to communicate his big feelings through words and strategies. He has gone to school in August 2025 and so far he is sailing in his journey. He has developed a real passion for learning and asking to go to weekend school. His emotional maturity to deal with difficult conversations has matured and following the demands of school life he copes with very well. As a family we truly believe the additional bonus year has had a lot to do with this and how he has handled his P1 journey so far. We cannot be prouder of him. If you are thinking about a deferred year, we would say go for it, you won't regret it!" – Class of 2025 parent

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Halloween

We're excited to celebrate Halloween with children! Throughout the week there will be lots of fun, spooky themed games and learning activities.

Dress Up Day – will be on Friday 31st October. If your child would like to dress up please keep in mind:

- Costumes can get a little messy during play, so we'd suggest not sending them in the outfit they plan to go guising in.
- To keep everyone safe and comfortable, we ask that children don't bring masks or costume props.

Thankyou for your support, we can't wait for a week full of fun, creativity, and a few spooky surprises!

Inclusion and Diversity – Culture Corner

At Auchinairn EYC, we believe every child and family brings something unique and special to our community. To celebrate this, we're introducing

an Inclusion and Diversity Calendar. This calendar will highlight important

cultural celebrations, awareness days, and festivals from around the world. Together with the children, we'll take part in fun, age-appropriate activities that explore traditions, celebrate families, and promote kindness, friendship, and respect. We're also creating a new Culture Corner in our cloakroom area, where we'll focus on a different culture each month. This will give the children the chance to learn about the wider world while celebrating the richness of our own nursery community.

We'd love your help! If you would like to share something from your family's culture or experiences, please speak to Michelle, Lauren, or Heather. Together, we can nurture curiosity, kindness, and confidence in every child.

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Staff Training & Development

Keeping our staff trained, knowledgeable, and up to date is very important to us and to the SSSC (Scottish Social Services Council). Regular training ensures that we can provide the best care, support, and learning opportunities for your children.

Over the months August - October, our team will be taking part in a wide range of professional development, including:

- Trauma-Informed Practice – all staff
- Extreme Ideology Training (Police Scotland)– Michelle, Lauren & Meera
- Autism Training – Jackie
- Including Every Learner & EYCAT – Michelle & Lauren
- First Aid (Paediatric) - Gillian & Lisa
- Early Years Self-Evaluation Quality Framework – Senior Leadership Team
- Leading Language in Early Years – Devlin & Eilidh
- Play Pedagogy – Emma & Lisa
- Nurture Training – Beth & Devlin
- Effective Questioning – Phyllis
- REHIS (Food Hygiene) – Luke
- Word Aware – Geraldine
- Coaching Conversations – Michelle & Katie
- Book Bug – Luke
- Up Up and Away Toolkit – Elaine, Heather & Linda

By attending these courses, our practitioners continue to grow in skills, knowledge, and confidence, which directly benefits the children in our care. Training helps us stay current with best practice, adapt to children's needs, and provide a nurturing, high-quality learning environment every day.

Important Information

Absence Reporting: Please contact our office on 0141 955 2289 if your child will be absent from nursery. If we have not been notified, we will call you.

Sickness Policy: If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last episode to help prevent the spread of illness. This also protects staff, as they must follow the same rule, which can impact service delivery.

Medication: If your child requires medication during their session, it must have a prescription label, and a consent form must be completed with staff. Please allow time at drop off to arrange this.

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Session Times & Doors: Please arrive and collect your child on time for their session.

- Doors open at 8.00am and close at 6.00pm

Session times:

- 8.00am-12.45pm, 1.15pm-6.00pm, or 8.00am-5.00/5.30/6.00pm

Clothing & Belongings

- Velcro shoes wherever possible.
- Label all items of clothing, this will ensure a swift return!
- Please no toys from home– children get upset, when others bring things from home as they have been told they are not allowed. No toys mean no unnecessary upset.
- Ensure children wear suitable clothing for outdoors – we love to explore in all weathers!

That's all for our September newsletter! We want to thank all of our families for your continued support. Your involvement makes such a difference in helping children, grow, learn, and thrive. We're excited for the months ahead and can't wait to share more updates with you soon. As always, please don't hesitate to chat with us if you have any questions or ideas.

Warm regards,

Michelle, Lauren & Team Auchinairn

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