**Elrick School Nursery Newsletter**

**September 2022 – Term 1**

We would like to begin by welcoming all our new families to Elrick Nursery. It has been lovely getting to know all of you and I am sure you will agree that the children have happily settled into nursery life. There are lots of exciting things planned for Elrick Nursery over the coming term and we look forward to sharing all our lovely learning with you.

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| Nicola McKinlay | Early Years Senior Practitioner | Monday - Thursday |
| Julie Farquhar | Early Years Lead Practitioner | Tuesday – Friday |
| Jamie McIntosh | Early Years Practitioner | Monday – Friday |
| Michael Emery | Early Years Practitioner  | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday |
| Sammie Hunter | Early Years Practitioner | Monday - Friday |
| Gillian Shimwell | Early Years Practitioner | Thursday – Friday |
| Janette Hayati | Early Years Practitioner | Monday, Wednesday |

**Nursery Staff**

We would like to officially welcome Mrs Janette Hayati to the team. Mrs Hayati is an Early Years Practitioner who brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. She will be with us on a Monday and Wednesday and is looking forward to getting to know you all.

Elrick Nursery have also been lucky enough to have been allocated a student from North East College Scotland. Miss Elisa Toderas is studying the HNC in Childhood practice and we are delighted to be able to offer her the invaluable experience of work-related learning on a Thursday and Friday, to help her with her chosen profession.

**Nursery Contact Details**

Elrick Nursery has its own dedicated telephone number: 01224 472913

This number can be used to contact the nursery to report any absences or if you would like to speak to a member of the nursery team. It is also possible to email the nursery team on the following email address: elricknurseryschool@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**School Car Park**

It has been brought to our attention that several parents are using the school car park to facilitate nursery drop off and collections. Please note that during school hours, the car park is for staff parking only and should not be accessed by parents. There are several delivery vehicles accessing the car park daily and this is obviously a safety concern for small children. We would also encourage you to utilise the school footpaths and avoid crossing the car park to access nursery.

**Antibiotics and Medication and Illness**

With the inevitable bugs and infections that are so common in young children, it can be necessary for an antibiotic to help the infection on its way! With each **new** prescription of an antibiotic, your child will not be able to attend nursery for 24 hours from the first dose. This is to ensure that there is no reaction to the medication.

We would also like to re-iterate that if your child has required ibuprofen or paracetamol suspension, such as calpol, then they are not well enough to be in nursery and should **not** be in attendance.

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off nursery when they are unwell, and we appreciate that many parents have other commitments making it difficult to be at home. We would ask that if you have any queries or concerns at all that you speak to a member of the nursery team.

**Seesaw**

We are in the process of implementing seesaw for our 2022/2023 class. Seesaw provides us with a valuable link between home and nursery and we are excited to further develop our use of this great platform. Through Seesaw we will share all the learning taking place in nursery and would encourage you to interact with this once it is up and running. I am sure you will enjoy seeing, and sharing, all your child’s achievements. Further information on the rollout of seesaw will be communicated to you in the coming days.

Please do not use seesaw for communication of day to day information such as absences or appointments etc.

**Soft Start and Collections**

At Elrick nursery, we offer a soft start to our sessions. Soft start times are as follows:

Morning Session: 8am – 9.00am

Afternoon sessions 1.00pm – 1.15pm

We would ask that you try to adhere to these drop off times to minimise disruption to the children’s learning and experiences in nursery. This would also help nursery staff accurately notify the school kitchen of the required lunch/tea numbers for the day.

We would also like to remind you of the collection times for the morning session:

Not staying for lunch: 11:45am

Staying for lunch: 12:45pm – 1.00pm

Children **must** be collected **by** 1.00pm.

Afternoon Collections:

Whilst we try to be as accommodating as possible, parents/carers are expected to collect children on or before the pickup time which has been selected previously. To comply with regulations, we must comply with strict adult/child ratios and arriving late can compromise these ratios. Please also be mindful of staff who may have to travel home from work, especially in adverse weather.

**Nursery Environment**

The nursery team are continuing to develop the nursery environment both in and outdoors. We value our Elrick family and would love to hear if you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve or enhance these areas. Do you have an area of expertise?? Could you offer us your help in developing an area? We would love to hear from you.

**Nursery Wear**

Elrick nursery has its very own badged uniform, available to purchase through nursery staff. Sweatshirts and t-shirts are available in black & grey, priced at £10 and £9 respectively. £1 from the sale of each item is kindly donated to the nursery funds by Black Bear Designs, who make our uniform.

Can we politely remind you that children should come to nursery in appropriate footwear, we love wellies. We like to promote independence for the children and tricky fastenings, such as laced and buckled shoes, can be difficult for the children to manage by themselves. We would ask that children have a pair of indoor shoes which they can leave in nursery. Black plimsoles and slippers are recommended to allow differentiation between outdoor and indoor shoes.

Please also remember to name/label all items of clothing and footwear. This helps nursery staff match up lost property to their rightful owners.

**Focus Groups**

At Elrick Nursery, the team are always looking at ways in which we can enhance and improve out provision. We would love to set up some focus groups, which would give you the opportunity to learn about our vision for the nursery and seek your opinions on what works and what does not. If you think that this is something you would like to be involved in, please speak to a member of the nursery team.

**Dates for Diary**

October holidays 17th -31st October 2022

Inservice days 17th & 18th November

Occasional Day 23rd December

As always, we welcome any suggestions you may have and look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

The Nursery Team

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