



October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us this month, as you will all be aware we will continue to welcome new children and their families into our EL&CC through to March 2023.

Our first term has got off to a great start, welcoming our families back into the setting has been particularly satisfying. We do hope you are enjoying the daily interactions with the staff and the opportunity to see your wee one go off and start their day.

Learning in Term 1

This term we have been working on independence skills, this includes encouraging the children to follow the daily routine of accessing snack, lunch and opportunities to play both indoors and outside. We are also supporting children to create new friendships and relationships with all staff as well as playing co-operatively alongside others, this includes taking turns and sharing with their peers.

Inside our junk modelling area has really taken off. We appreciate your continued donations as without these this area wouldn't be possible. Alongside our junk modelling the children are at the very early stages of learning to sew. Already we have had children making outfits for small dolls/action figures. This has been a process of not only creating but also designing and choosing suitable fabrics etc.

Our children have the opportunity to bake each day here at Houston EL&CC. They have been making their own bread, flapjacks, cakes, pasta sauces and soups all which are then enjoyed for snack. Many of the ingredients used within our baking area continue to come from our allotment with the children continually making suggestions of things to make using up our crops.

Some of you may have heard that we have been running regular Book Bug sessions in the EL&CC. These are extremely popular with the children, particularly with the reward of a sticker at the end of each session.

Clothing

Can we please remind all parents to provide a change of clothes for their child that can stay in the EL&CC at their peg. Now that you are coming into the building each day can I suggest that you check your child's bag regularly to ensure their spare clothes are replenished.

All children should also have a pair of soft shoes with Velcro straps to wear inside the EL&CC particularly now as we are coming into the winter months. Can we also ask you provide a pair of wellies that preferably stay at Houston EL&CC.

Please ensure all children's clothing items are clearly labelled. Many of our children wear our uniform and it can be difficult to know which item belongs to which child when they have no names on. Our lost property is stored in the cloakroom for you to check should you be missing any items.

Lunches

Unfortunately, we cannot allow for children to have a packed lunch as well as a nursery lunch and therefore parents should decide in the morning if their child is having a hot meal or a packed lunch.

If your child brings a packed lunch, can I please remind you that grapes must be cut in half. We have had a few children arrives with whole grapes which can be a choking hazard.

Nursery Blog & Twitter.

Visiting our blog/twitter feed is a great way of allowing everyone to keep up-to-date with the children's learning experiences and adventures.

Our blog can be found under the EL&CC section of our school website:

www.houstonprimaryschool.com

Twitter: @ElccHouston

Parent Updates

Your child's keyworker will soon be setting your child's targets for this term, this is an opportunity to look at each child's progress and set achievable targets within the curriculum.

Following this we will look to invite parents in for a stay and play session, giving you an opportunity to see your child within the environment as well as speak with their keyworker.

Mrs Murray is on annual leave this week and will arrange a suitable time with her key work group for the following week to meet with parents.

	AM SESSION 10am - 11.30am	PM SESSION 2.00pm - 3.30pm
Monday 14 th November	BLUE	GREEN
Tuesday 15 th November	RED	YELLOW
Wednesday 16 th November	PURPLE	RED
Thursday 17 th November	YELLOW	BLUE
Friday 18 th November	GREEN	PURPLE
Tuesday 22 nd November	Mrs Murray - PURPLE	Mrs Murray - PURPLE

Allergies

Can we please ask that conkers/chestnuts are not brought into the EL&CC as we have a child who has a touch allergy which includes conkers/chestnuts. Can I also remind you we are a nut free nursery due to allergies, this also includes chocolate nut spread which sometimes is on some children's sandwiches.

Halloween Events

All children who attend on Monday 31st October are invited to dress up for our Fairies and Scaries Party. If your child does not want to dress up they are more than welcome to bring a costume in their bag. This day will include dancing, games and some party food. In the run up to Halloween the staff will be providing a variety of Halloween themed experiences for all children.

Spare Clothes

We are running extremely low on spare socks in the nursery, unfortunately this is due to clothes being borrowed and then not returned. If your child comes home wearing any nursery clothes after they have been washed, please remember to return them.

Can I also ask if anyone is clearing out and getting rid of trousers/leggings or socks that you would consider donating them to the nursery.

Bookbags

Please ensure your child brings their bookbag to nursery everyday this helps with bringing artwork home daily as well as any important letters. After the October break we are launching our lending library and you will need a bookbag to carry books back and forward too.

Parent Committee

We are looking for some help! We are keen to develop a small parents committee, we are looking to rebuild those links with our community which were lost during Covid-19. As we continue to build back, we are looking to re-establish our parents committee. If you have some free time and would like to get involved, please get in touch.

Car Parking

Can we please remind parents to be mindful of parking in the disabled bay in the car park, this should be used by blue badge holders only.

Photographer

Our photographer will be attending the nursery on Tuesday 8th November and Wednesday 9th November to take pictures of the children who currently attend Houston EL&CC. If your child does not attend a Tuesday or Wednesday and you would like their photograph taken, please speak to a member of staff to arrange a suitable time to visit.

Important Dates for Term 1

October break	Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st October	TERM TIME CHILDREN OFF
In-service day	Monday 24 th October	ALL CHILDREN OFF
St Andrews Day	Wednesday 30 th November	TERM TIME CHILDREN OFF
Christmas holidays (TERM TIME)	EL&CC closes on Thursday 22 nd December and re-opens Thursday 5 th January 2023	TERM TIME CHILDREN ONLY
Christmas holidays (48 week attending children)	EL&CC closes Friday 23 rd December and re-opens Thursday 5 th January 2023	ALL CHILDREN OFF

If you would like to contact us with queries or ideas, call 0300 300 1477 or alternatively you can email laura.anderson@renfrewshire.school or helen.greenhorn@renfrewshire.school and we will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

Laura Anderson
Depute - Houston EL&CC