



September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us this session as well as our returning children and their families. We are delighted at how well the children have returned to the setting after the summer break. Our new children are settling well and are becoming familiar with their routine at Houston EL&CC.

Fun Day

Thank you to all our families who attended our fun day back in June 2023. I am sure you will all agree the day was a huge success and everyone seemed to have a great time. We are delighted to let you know that we raised £580 and the money raised will go towards our nursery funds with a current focus on developing our creative and junk modelling area.

Easy Fundraising

Over the summer we signed up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk - this enables us to share a link with you and any online spending you do gets linked to our fundraising page. The website then sends a percentage of your spending back to us if you are shopping with a recognised outlet. If you would like to sign up to support the nursery, please follow the QR code link displayed in the EL&CC foyer. This comes at no additional cost to you, you simply download an app and use it to access online shopping.

Dolly Diner Day

Renfrewshire council fund every child aged 2-5 years to receive a book every month from Dolly Parton's imagination library. To celebrate Dolly gifting 200 million books worldwide we are inviting parents along for a Dolly Fun Day on Friday 29th September 2023, from 2pm - 4pm. There will also be an opportunity to sign up if you have not already done so. More information about the day will follow in due course.

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. We are recommending this year that your child has a drawstring bag as rucksacks take up a lot of space and our cloakroom can be busy. Drawstring bags are available to buy directly from our parent council for £6 each. 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.

Can we also ask you provide a pair of wellies that preferably stay at Houston EL&CC.

Lunches

All children are entitled to a hot meal each day when they attend Houston EL&CC. You can find the menu on Renfrewshire Council's website we share it on our nursery website. We are strongly encouraging all children to try the hot lunches on offer. This allows us to enjoy a family dining experience over lunch time whilst encouraging the children to try and taste a variety of foods.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, we would ask you to ensure this is a healthy lunch, we recommend a small sandwich, 1 piece of fruit, a yoghurt.

Please ensure your child's lunch box is clearly labelled inside and out, and ensure you pop an ice pack in their lunch box as we cannot store packed lunches in a fridge.

Voluntary Contribution

Our voluntary contribution fund is paid online via Parent Pay. If your child is new to our setting you will receive paperwork within the first week of them starting, including how to set up a ParentPay account. If you encounter difficulties, please contact Ms Pyra at the office who can provide help.

Our voluntary contribution allows us to purchase a variety of snacks for your child as well as allowing us to bake and make playdough throughout the year. It also allows us to purchase in the moment resources dependant on the learning taking place across the setting. The contribution made by parents/carers allows us to provide a range of extra experiences throughout the year including, Hallowe'en, Christmas and other cultural celebrations.

Uniform

Houston EL&CC uniform is available from www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com. We would ask that your child has a bookbag to carry their artwork, letters etc. else between the EL&CC and home, again these can be purchased from our parent council for £6. The details for purchasing book bags/drawstring bags are available on the gate entering the playroom.

Arrival & Pick Up

Our EL&CC offers a variety of attendance patterns, and we endeavour to make drop off and picks up as smooth as possible and therefore ask that you adhere to the allocated drop off times. Failing to do so can also impact on lunch orders etc. Should you need to drop your child off later/pick up earlier please inform staff of this or kindly call the office.

The nursery doors will close promptly at 9am to allow staff to move to their areas for the day. Should you arrive later than 9am there will not be an opportunity to have that valuable handover with your child's keyworker.

If you arrive early to collect your child we would ask that you wait outside until a member of staff opens the doors for everyone to come in at the allocated time.

Session	Drop Off	Pick Up
All day (8.15am - 5.45pm)	8.15am	Various times
Term Time session	8.40am - 9.00am	2.40pm - 2.50pm
AM session	8.15am	1.00pm
PM session	1.00pm	5.45pm (can collect earlier)

X (previously known as Twitter)

Last year we launched our very own X for Houston EL&CC. This allows us to share snapshots of our day with you all. In addition, our blog is also a great way of allowing everyone to keep up-to-date with the children's learning experiences and adventures. After we receive all of our annual data forms, we can begin uploading to our X feed sharing all of the wonderful things taking place at Houston EL&CC.

X: @ElccHouston

Recycling/Junk

We continue to ask for donations of some recyclable items such as cardboard boxes, yoghurt tubs, milk cartons, kitchen roll tubes etc. Can we please ask that any items handed in are rinsed out before being donated.

Parent/Carer Updates

For our returning children your child's keyworker will be sending home their Care Plans to review and update. Please ensure this is done as soon as possible and handed back to us.

In September we would like to invite all of our parents in for a stay and play session. This is an opportunity for you to experience a session at nursery just like your child. It

is also an opportunity to meet with your child's keyworker to discuss their targets and chat about their progress.

	AM SESSION 10.15am - 11.30am	PM SESSION 1.45pm - 3.00pm
Monday 18 th September	RED GROUP	YELLOW & BLUE GROUP
Tuesday 19 th September	GREEN AND PURPLE GROUP	
Wednesday 20 th September		RED GROUP
Thursday 21 st September	YELLOW & BLUE GROUP	GREEN AND PURPLE GROUP

Important Dates for Term 1

September weekend	Friday 22 nd & Monday 25 th September	ALL CHILDREN OFF
October break	Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th October	TERM TIME CHILDREN OFF
In-service day	Monday 23 rd October	ALL CHILDREN OFF
St Andrews Day	Thursday 30 th November	TERM TIME CHILDREN OFF
Christmas holidays (TERM TIME)	EL&CC closes on Friday 22 nd December and re-opens Monday 08 th January 2024	TERM TIME CHILDREN ONLY
Christmas holidays (48 week attending children)	EL&CC closes Friday 23 rd December and re-opens Thursday 04 th January 2024	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