



November news from the ELC

October was a busy month in the ELC with Halloween celebrations, family learning and community experiences. We received positive feedback from the Gruffalo walk at Blackwood Park led by Jackie the community librarian along with our friends from Woodhill ELC. Forest schools was experienced by our pre-schoolers with an opportunity for family members to attend the final session and lots of exciting learning opportunities were created inside the playroom and outdoors.

Children in Need



Friday 17th November is Children in Need. We will celebrate this in the ELC and school with a dress down day. Children can dress up, dress down, wear their PJ's or Pudsey clothes and bring in a small donation to support this fabulous charity. The ELC have already started fundraising with their Pudsey Shop. They are selling Pudsey and Blush ears priced at £2.50, wristbands and pin badges at £1. All money raised will be sent to Children in Need.

Tesco Blue tokens



We are delighted to have won the Tesco Blue token scheme that was running from July until September. Finishing in 1st place means that we have been awarded £1500 which we are going to use to enhance our outdoor area and purchase sensory resources to provide a calm and quiet area in the hobbit hut. This is a fantastic result as current cost of living expenses along with budget cuts means we do not have the budget we previously had to purchase new resources. Children and staff have started to create a wishlist to spend this grant. Thank you to everyone in the community who voted for us. We are very grateful and appreciative.

Christmas



With less than 6 weeks until we finish for Christmas, planning is already underway to make special memories for our children. Christmas jumpers/t-shirts are encouraged in school/ELC throughout the month of December. The ELC will have a Christmas party day on Friday 15th December. We will have a special visitor attend the party and if you would like to join your child when they receive their gift from Santa you are welcome to do so. We will confirm times once arrangements are finalised.

We would also like to invite parents/carers to a Christmas Stay and Play session on Friday 8th December. You can choose to attend at 10am or 2pm to join a Christmas sing along, family Bookbug session and take part in Christmas activities along with your child. Please use the link below to indicate which session you would be able to attend.

[Christmas Stay and Play Sessions](#)

Outdoors



With Winter approaching, the weather is getting colder and wetter. Please ensure children have appropriate clothes for the outdoors; waterproofs, wellies/boots, warm jackets, hats and gloves. All clothing should be labelled with your child's name. If you need help to provide waterproofs/wellington boots please speak with a member of staff. If it is an icy morning, the outdoors will not be open at 9am as our risk assessment will show that it is not safe for children until the ice has melted as the surface can become very slippery. We may plan to use other areas of the playground/outdoors that are safe so children can still experience the outdoors.

School enrolment



For children starting school in August 2024, school enrolment will take place in January. (Further information will follow) For many families you will have a choice of catchment schools in which you can register for. We are offering an open morning or afternoon for you to come and visit Blackwood Primary School for a tour around the school and an opportunity for you to ask a member of the management team any questions you may have. These will take place on Wednesday 6th December where you can drop in between 8:30am and 10:30am and Tuesday 19th December between 3pm

and 5pm. You are welcome to attend with or without your child for this visit. If you wish to consider a deferred year for your child , please speak with your child's keyworker to discuss the process for this.

Dates for your diary



Friday 17th November - Children in Need - Dress down for Pudsey Day

Wednesday 6th December - Open morning for school visits (pre-school) - drop in between 08:30-10:30am

Friday 8th December - Christmas Stay and Play - 10am or 2pm

Friday 15th December - ELC party

Tuesday 19th December - Open afternoon for school visits (pre-school) - drop in between 3pm and 5pm

Friday 22nd December - ELC & school closes 2:30pm for Christmas holidays

Monday 12th February - Holiday - ELC closed

Tuesday 13th February - Holiday - ELC closed

Wednesday 14th February - In-service day - ELC closed for children

Wednesday 20th March - Pre School Workshop "Curriculum and starting school" 9:15am

Wednesday 15th May - ELC Family Sports day - 1:30pm

Wednesday 5th June - ELC Parents' consultation

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Wednesday 19th June - ELC Graduation (Pre-school) - 1:30pm

Wednesday 26th June - School and ELC closes 1:00pm for Summer Holidays.