

Term 3 News from the ELC



Staffing

Miss Morrison will be going on maternity leave in shortly. We hope her and baby will come to visit us all!

Mrs Stewart will be returning to Blackwood ELC mid February after being off on Maternity leave for the year. We are all looking forward to welcoming her back.

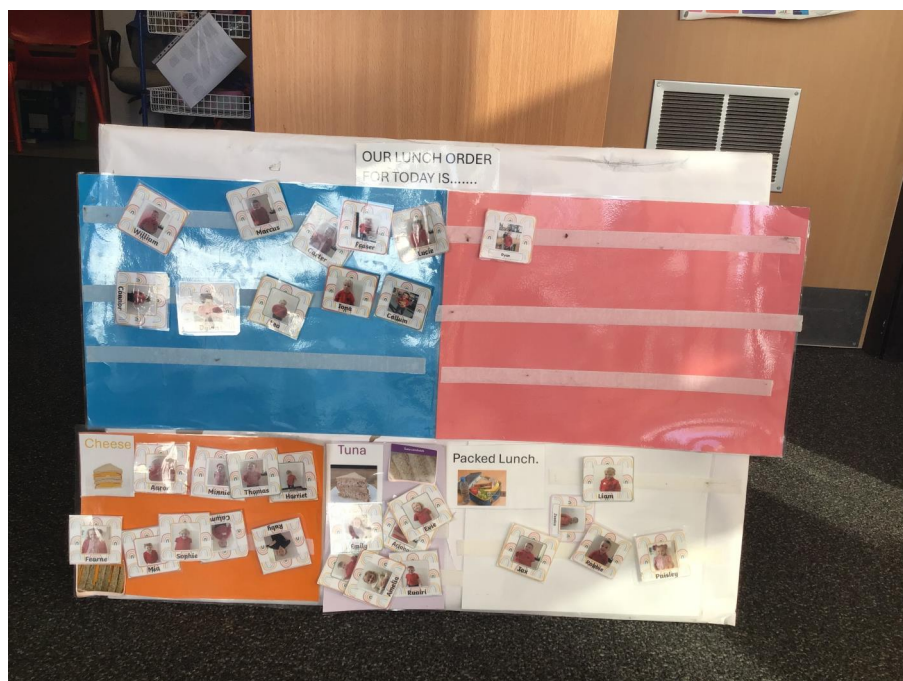
Mrs McAinsh has been covering the Badger group while Mrs Stewart has been off. We would like to thank her for all her help over the last year!



Lunches

At Blackwood ELC we aim to encourage the development of independence skills throughout the day. When children first arrive to nursery they are encouraged to place their name card on which option they would like for lunch.

Please note that no hot lunches can be ordered after 10am. This is the cut off time for the kitchen staff to prepare the lunches. If you know you will be arriving later that day and wish for your child to have a hot lunch please phone before 10am.



Reminders

ELC Hours

We would like to remind parents that we have flexible drop off and pick up times between the hours of 8:45am and 3pm.

If your child/children are being dropped off at 8:45am, they should be collected no later than 2:45pm, as any additional time outwith this is chargeable. Should you require additional time outwith their allocated 1140 entitlement please speak with a member of staff who would be happy to assist you.

Indoor Shoes

Children should wear their indoor shoes or plimsols whilst in nursery. This helps to keep areas of the playroom clean.

Clothing and Footwear

Please ensure these are labelled clearly.

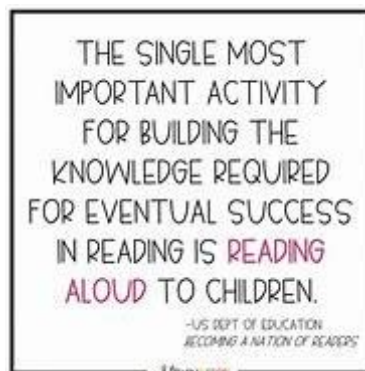


Lending Library

The Lending Library is back up and running. Every Friday the children are provided with an opportunity to select a book of their choice to take home over the weekend. If your child doesn't attend on Fridays please speak to Mrs Thomson and she will arrange for your child to choose their book on Thursdays instead.

In the book bag there is a lending library Book Review Journal. This allows your child to reflect on their likes and dislikes and become familiar with terms such as author, illustrator and title. If you complete 10 entries from the journal your child will be awarded with a certificate.

'Reading to children is so powerful, so simple and yet so misunderstood.' - National Literacy Trust



Partnerships 2.7 How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare

Support us to 'look inwards' and self reflect

Please take time to answer this quick question using the Google Form below, to provide us with feedback on our ELC and the service we provide. Thank you!

'Are you happy with the level on engagement/parental involvement within the nursery for example Stay & Plays, Book Bug, gym sessions, communication with your child's Keyworker. Is there anything you would like to see more of or less of? '

[Partnerships 2.7 - How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare](#)



Please click on the link below to access our calendar for session 2024 / 2025. This will be updated regularly and can be found on the nursery website.

[Annual Calendar](#)

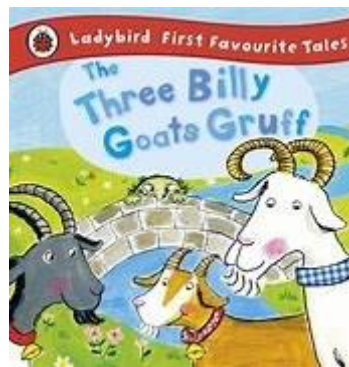
Fancy a biscuit and a blether? Why not come along to our nursery circle meetings...

This helps us to plan for events within the ELC and ensures your voice is heard. We are keen to work in partnership with parents and for you to feel confident and comfortable putting them forward.

'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.'

- Wednesday 26th March – 9:15am

If you are interested please speak to Mrs Lennox or Miss Marshall.



Children's Choice

February's Rhyme and Story of the Month

Our story of the month is 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and our rhyme of the month is 'The Grand Old Duke of York.'



Protective Behaviours

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has always been significant in all stages of children and young peoples lives. This is an important and legally binding agreement which outlines the fundamental rights of every child. At Blackwood ELC we are required to help children feel safe and learn protective behaviours for themselves. This is something we touch upon each year. Over the next couple of months we will be exploring:

- Feelings - what makes us feel happy/safe etc
- Body awareness and how we may react if we feel unsafe for example crying, butterflies in tummy or heart beating faster
- Your child's network of support and who they can rely on to help them



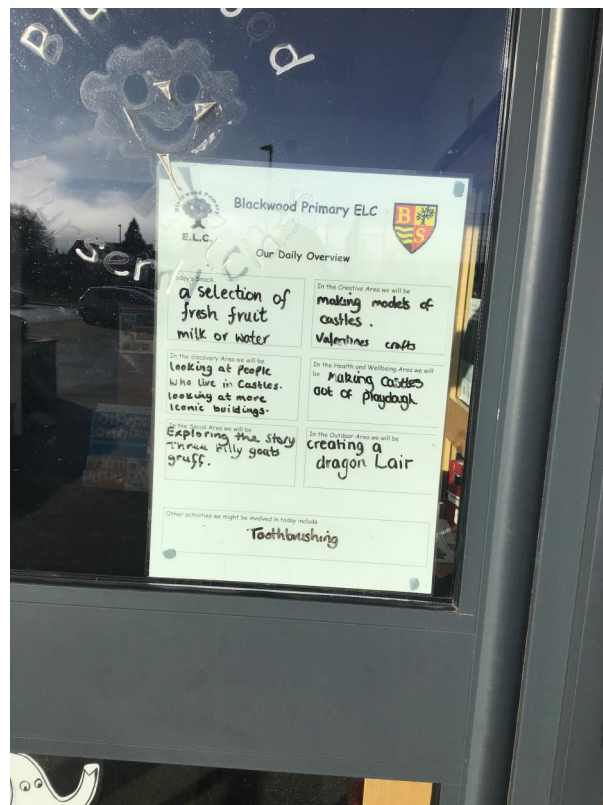
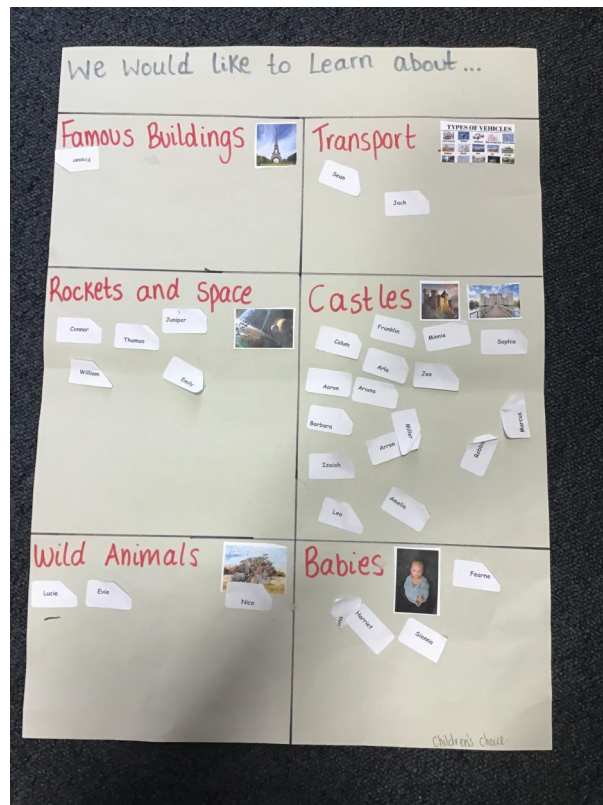
Learning in the ELC

As we are now into Term 3 of the nursery year, we will be exploring 7 different experiences and outcomes from the Curriculum for Excellence.

Staff have had the opportunity to observe children within the ELC to discover their current interests. Children were then part of a group discussion where they had the opportunity to vote on what they would most like to learn more about. During this it became very evident that the majority were interested in castles. Children at Blackwood ELC are leaders of their own learning and staff will plan engaging and exciting experiences and activities which are responsive to their current interests.

The Learning Journey wall in the playroom cloakroom will document the activities your child has been participating in and the learning that has taken place during this term. Please take a look and if you have any questions just ask.

We also have a daily overview which can be seen on the nursery entrance door. Here you'll be able to see what activities your child might be participating in this day and what is available for snack.



Please click through to view the selected outcomes and experiences we will be exploring in depth...

MNU0-11a

I have experimented with everyday items as units of measure to investigate and compare sizes and amounts in my environment, sharing my findings with others.

MTH-16a

I enjoy investigating objects and shapes and can sort, describe and be creative with them.

MTH-17a

In movement, games and using technology, I can use simple directions and describe positions.

HWB-23a

I am aware of my own and others needs and feelings especially when taking turns and sharing resources. I recognise the need to follow rules.

HWB-24a

By observing and exploring movement, I can describe what I have learned about it.

LIT-9b

I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts and I use what I learn to invent my own, sharing these in imaginative ways.

LIT-10a

As I listen and take part in conversations and discussions, I discover new words and phrases which I use to help me express my ideas, thoughts and feelings.



Notable dates for your diary

- 13th February - Open session : Parents/carers welcome to join us during our gym time at 2pm
- 17th & 18th February - Holidays (ELC closed)
- 19th February - In Service day (ELC closed)

- 4th March - Book Bug: Parents/carers invited at 2pm
- 11th March - Stay & Play at 9am
- 13th March - Stay & Play at 2pm
- 26th March - Nursery Circle at 9:15am
- 1st April - Book Bug: Parents/carers invited at 2pm
- 4th April - Spring Break - ELC & School Close at 2:30pm
- 22nd April - ELC & School reopen
- 1st May - In Service day (ELC closed)
- 5th May - Holiday (ELC Closed)

Open Gym Sessions - Thursday 13th February

Please complete the google form using the link below to indicate if you are able to come along. Thank you.

[Open Gym Session](#)



Scots Showcase

Blackwood Primary School and ELC will be having a Scots Day on the 3rd of April. You may hear your child sing the 'Jeely Piece' song, which we will be performing. The children have all found it quite amusing.

It would be appreciated if you could practice this at home with your child too. If you are unsure of the tune we can upload a video of the children singing it on the Learning Journals.

Jeely Piece Song
Album: Children's Songs

Lyrics: Adam McNaughton

I'm a sky scraper wean, I live on the nineteenth floor
But I'm no goin' oot tae play any more.
'Cause since we moved to oor new house I'm wastin' away
For I'm getting one meal less every day.

Chorus:
Oh ye canna fling pieces oot a twenty story flat
Seven hundred hungry weans will testify to that
If it's butter, cheese or jeely, if the bread is plain or pan
The odds against it reaching us is ninety-nine to one

On the first day my Maw flung oot a daud o' hovis broon
It came skitin' oot the windae and went up instead o' doon
Noo ev'ry twenty seven hours it comes back into sight
Cause my piece went intae orbit and became a satellite

On the next day my Maw flung me oot a piece again
It went up and hit a pilot in a fast, low flying plane
He scrapped it off his goggles, shouting through the intercom
The Clydeside Reds have got me wi' a breid 'n jelly bomb

On the third day my Maw tho't she would try another throw
The Salvation Army band was standin' doon below
'Onward Christian Soldiers' was the tune they should've played
But the Oompah man was playing piece 'n marmalade

We've wrote awa' to Oxfam to try an' get some aid
We all joined together and have formed the Piece Brigade
We're gonna march to London tae demand our civil rights
Like nae more hooses over piece flinging height



EDUCATION SERVICES
Interim Executive Director: Anne Donaldson
Blackwood Primary School – Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan