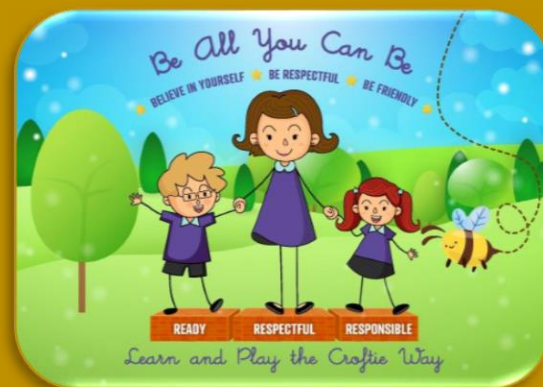


Croftmalloch Primary School

# Chronicle



## May 2021 Newsletter: Croftmalloch Nursery

Dear Nursery Parents/Carers,

We hope that this edition of the nursery newsletter finds you all well. It's been a difficult few months for everyone but we hope that there is perhaps some light at the tunnel for families as COVID restrictions begin to ease in the wider community. We are still following all restrictions at present in nursery to keep children and staff safe. As soon as there are proposed changes to these, we will let you know. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can invite you all back into nursery again to take part in the play and learning. In the meantime, I hope that this newsletter allows you to keep track of the happenings in nursery. Please also, keep an eye on our Twitter feed (@croftmalloch) and your child's Learner's Journal to see pictures of the ongoing learning (and fun!) in the playrooms and outdoor areas.

### Staffing News

We currently have a couple of members of staff off sick and realise that this may mean that your child's usual keyworker is absent. Should this be the case for your child, another member of staff within your child's bubble will pick up responsibility for their care and learning, including maintaining learners' journals and personal plans. You can speak to any member of staff within your child's bubble or Miss Watkins or Mrs Hines (our two Early Years Officers) or Miss Baillie (Headteacher), at any time should you want to share any information about your child. We are always here to listen and to help!

### Nursery Improvement Priorities: Supporting Children with Additional Needs and Inclusion

This session, we have been continuing to develop our provision within nursery for children with a range of different needs. We have staff trained in sign-a-long for children who need more help to communicate their needs in nursery. We also use pictures, visuals, music and songs to help children to understand their environment, follow routines and express themselves. We are currently working with a member of the West Lothian Council, Inclusion and Wellbeing Service, to remove barriers to learning for some of our children and make sure that they are fully included in play experiences and nursery routines.

In addition to having a personal plan, some children in nursery may require an Individualised Educational Plan (IEP) or a Child's Plan. We will work with all families closely, where children need these supportive interventions to ensure that they are happy in nursery and making progress in their learning and development.

### Learning, Teaching and Assessment: Children's Interests!

At the moment, our children in nursery have been very interested in honeybees. Children have been noticing bees outdoors and learning about the different jobs that bees do.

Here are some of the children's comments:

'Bees live in a hive' Joseph

“They make honey which I put in my porridge” Rosie

“Bees collect pollen and make honey” Harris

We have made a planning wall in our nursery to show the children’s learning and comments about bees. Keep an eye on Twitter to see photos!

Other children’s interests this month have been:

- Potion making (Science)
- Colour Mmxing (Art/Science)
- Construction toys (STEM)

Our main learning and assessment focus areas over the next few weeks are:

- To work on children’s ability to hear the rhyme in words and to count forwards and backwards to ten and beyond!

You can help support this at home by listening to and singing nursery rhymes and practising counting as much as you can. Going up and down a set of stairs (with adult help) is always a good way to practise counting in sequence.

### **Reminders:**

Please can we ask parents/carers to help us out with the following:

-All children’s belongings should be fully labelled with children’s names please. This prevents belongings getting lost or going home with the wrong child.

-A reminder that toys from home should not come into nursery at present (due to COVID restrictions) unless your child specifically requires these items to settle. If the latter is the case then please speak to your child’s keyworker.

-Please remember to return any forms or personal plan paperwork that we have given you to complete at home, as quickly as possible to nursery.

### **Health and Safety**

Although restrictions are beginning to ease nationally, we must continue with the current, high level COVID restrictions in nursery and school for the time being. We know that our measures work to keep people safe and well so please continue to:

-Socially distance and wear facemasks at pick up and drop off times and ensure that children wash hands before they leave for nursery in the morning and when they return home.

Our children will continue to play and learn in their small groups or ‘bubbles’ for the time being with ongoing handwashing, taking place throughout the day.

### **Family Learning Programme: Parental Coffee Mornings (Virtual)**

Our next parental coffee session for nursery families will be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11am. The meeting will be held on Skype and the link has been emailed to all families in advance. We hope that you can join us then for a cuppa, chat and some friendly smiles!

### **You say/We did!**

In order to further develop our communication with parents/carers at pick up times and especially during the pandemic, we have developed a notification procedure for passing on information to families where children have required more support during their session e.g. nappy change times, sleep times/length of sleep or support given for

eating. We hope that this helps parents/carers to better understand the care that children have received in nursery during the day. Look out for these communication forms in children's bags or if they handed to you by a keyworker.

### **Summer holidays in Nursery**

Our nursery will be fully open all summer for all children. We will plan a range of varied activities during the summer period and make use of the outdoors and good weather (hopefully!) as much as possible. Miss Murray will be harvesting our fruit and vegetable crops during the summer period and staff will use these to prepare nutritious snacks for children.

Miss Natalie Kelly (Early Learning and Childcare Area Support Manager) will oversee the smooth running of the nursery when Miss Baillie (Headteacher) is on holiday over the summer period. Mrs Hines does not work over the summer holiday period at present but Miss Watkins will continue to line- manage the nursery for us during that time.

### **Transition to P1**

We continue our virtual transition to P1 with weekly stories for all pre-school children read by our P1 staff. Keyworkers will liaise with other feeder primary schools to pass on information on children, if pupils are not transitioning to P1 at Croftmalloch.

In coming weeks, it is hoped that restrictions will ease enough for us to allow pre-school children to spend some time in P1, meet staff and see their new classrooms. We will keep you posted of news of this if and when it is allowed to happen.

Our virtual, P1 parents' event will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm. The link to attend this meeting will be shared in due course. We hope that all pre-school parents can come along.

### **Dates for your diary:**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2021- Nursery, virtual coffee morning @11am (Skype link has been emailed out)

15<sup>th</sup> June 2021- P1 parents information event @2pm (link to attend the meeting to be emailed to all parents)

Take care everyone and enjoy the month of May,

Kind wishes,

**Miss Baillie and all staff at Croftmalloch x**