

St. Bernadette's Nursery Class



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January 2024

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year! The staff and children are all very excited to be back at nursery.

We will have new children starting with us over the next couple of weeks and look forward to welcoming them into our setting.

Signing into nursery

Can all children please be signed into the nursery when they are dropped off. Please write down who is collecting them and what time they will be collected at. This is to ensure their safety and so all staff know who is collecting your child at the end of the day.

Outdoor Learning

At St. Bernadette's ELC Class we pride ourselves on being an outdoor nursery and try to provide our children with access to outdoors for most of the session. We ask that all children have appropriate outdoor clothing as we are out in **ALL** weathers –Wellington boots, waterproof jacket and waterproof trousers which can be left at nursery.

If your child is unwell the best place for them is at home. We cannot ensure children stay inside when recovering from illness as we are an outdoor nursery and children spend a large part of their day outdoors.

If your child is not well enough to go outdoors, then they should not be in nursery.



Health Checks



Please remember it is **Falkirk Council**

Policy that a child should not return to school or nursery until they are **48 hours clear** of any sickness / diarrhoea illness. (for example if your child was last sick at 7.30pm on a Saturday night, they are 48 hours clear on Monday at 7.30pm and can therefore return on the Tuesday if they feel well within themselves)

Regular checks for Head Lice are always recommended.

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Painting station in the garden

The staff are currently building a painting station in the garden to allow children's creativity to flow in all areas of the ELC. Please can you support us by sending your children to ELC in jackets/ waterproofs that you do not mind getting paint on them. Staff do try their best to get aprons on children but as they are developing a variety of skills, sometimes jackets can get paint on them.

Appropriate Clothing

Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for ELC. As the weather colder outside, we ask that you provide your child with a hat, scarf and gloves which can be kept at ELC.

We also ask that your child has their own pair of wellie boots and waterproofs which can be kept at the ELC.

We understand that the cost of living is increasing at the moment so if you are unable to provide these items to be kept in the ELC, please speak to Cat

Please make sure your child's name is on these items.

It would also be helpful if you could make sure there is at least one change of clothes in your child's ELC bag. (for example, t-shirt, jumper, trousers, pants and socks)

If your child borrows ELC clothes, could these please be returned once your child has finished with them.

Important dates

Friday 9th February—ELC closed for holiday

Monday 12th February—ELC closed for holiday

Tuesday 13th February—ELC closed for in-service day

Friday 29th March—ELC closed for Easter Friday

Monday 1st April—ELC closed for 2 weeks for Easter holidays

Thursday 2nd May—ELC closed for staff development day

Monday 6th May—ELC closed for holiday

Friday 14th June—ELC Sports day

Monday 24th June—ELC Moving on celebration



Two Stars and a Wish

Thank you to those of you who gave us feedback about our current practice at St. Bernadette's ELC Class, we received 27% of these back so are hoping for more the next time.

Some of our stars were: (things we are currently good at)

- The support and encouragement all the staff give the children
- Trips and community engagement
- Feedback about the children
- Children feel safe in the ELC
- Friendly staff who are approachable
- Good communication between ELC and home

Some of our wishes were: (things we can get better at)

- ***'Have stay and plays on different days'***— staff will arrange a stay and play for different days the next time we have one, to make sure those parents who work can attend. Staff will make sure those who can't attend have another date arranged so they have the same opportunity.
- ***'Use paint that comes out of clothes'*** - Staff have checked the paint that they buy and this is the paint that is recommended for early year's settings. Staff have put out a message about clothing to ELC in the December newsletter to remind parents to send children to ELC in clothes they do not mind getting paint on.

Transition into Primary One

Our transition programme is ongoing and our pre – school children will start attending assembly and stories with the Primary 1—Primary 3 children on a Thursday morning, and then go out into the big garden with the full school. After they have had a play in the big garden and the bell has gone, they will practice lining up at the P1 classroom door.

The P6 class will be starting to come down to play in the nursery once every few weeks so that the buddy programme can begin.

There are a variety of opportunities for transition during the week such as going to the gym hall on a Monday and Wednesday and to the library on a Tuesday.

BookBug family session

As part of Sarah and Lisa's leadership role they are hosting a BookBug session which they would like to invite you along to.

This is on Wednesday the 14th February at 9.30-10.00 and will be held in the school with Sarah and Lisa delivering it. It is limited to 10 families at the moment and if more than 10 people sign up we will add you to the waiting list.

We are planning on having more during the year so everyone will have the opportunity to come along at some point.

If you would like to come along to this please use the form below to let us know.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Lqa1z6Jzf1>

Our Curriculum Rationale

Staff, parents and children worked together to create our Curriculum Rationale in May 2023. Our Curriculum Rationale underpins what we want for our children and how we will work together to achieve this.

Our vision at St Bernadette's ELC Class

'St. Bernadette's Early Learning and Childcare Class strives to be a place where children can play, be creative and explore in a safe nurturing environment promoting independence and resilience while having fun together.'

Our context

We are situated in the Stenhousemuir area of Falkirk and are based in St. Bernadette's Primary School. The Head teacher is responsible for the ELC setting and works closely with the team. Our team are very close and consists of a Senior Early Years Officer, Early Years Officers, Support for Learning Assistant and Early Learning and Childcare Assistants. We often support students through their placements from a range of establishments. We have space for 40 children at any one time and work in partnership with other professionals and with shared placement settings. We often support children in our setting with additional support needs or with English as an additional language. We continue to be aware of special life events, festivals and cultures which are important to our children and families, and celebrate these together within our setting.

What matters to staff to support children

- to nurture you individually and help you grow
- to create a safe environment for you where we can play together
- to look after you
- to listen to you and support you

What matters to staff to support parents

- to include you in your child's learning
- to provide high quality interactions and new experiences for your child
- to communicate regularly with home

What matters to staff to support each other

- to always respect each other
- to work as a team where we are all equal
- to encourage and support each other
- to keep positive

Our influences and partnerships:

- Falkirk Council
- Various ELC establishments
- Care Inspectorate
- Education Scotland
- UNCRC
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Educational Psychologists
- Health Visitors
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Childsmile
- Pre-School Eye Team
- GIRFEC and SHANARRI
- What Matters to Me approaches
- Continuous professional learning and professional reading
- Marvellous Mealtimes approach
- Realising the Ambition
- Curriculum for Excellence.

What do our team and our families want for our children in the setting?

- To feel safe and respected
- To be independent and develop their self-help skills
- To develop friendships and social skills
- To be curious, creative and imaginative
- To be risk takers and problem solvers
- To feel confident expressing themselves
- To develop early language skills
- To develop early mathematical skills
- To develop self, social and emotional wellbeing
- To develop skills for life and learning.

What opportunities do we offer our children to develop their skills?

- Our continuous provision ensures our children have opportunities to develop a wide range of skills through continued access to arts and crafts, sand and water play, stories, rhymes, songs, block play, role play, small world resources, games, mark making, technology and quiet spaces
- On a regular basis our children have access to a wide range of core experiences including cooking and baking, Tiger Cubs, Wheelie Wednesday, YMI, Library visits and opportunities to explore our local community
- Our children have daily access to the outdoor environment which includes our ELC garden, school playground, and the wider community where they can lead their own learning. Children develop their knowledge of their local environment through experiences such as walks, bus trips, park visits, Orphan Land visits and walks to the local shops
- Our children get to know the school community by going to the Big Garden, Community room, Gym hall and school library on a regular basis, and often get to see their older siblings or friends during these experiences.

How do we work together to achieve this?

- We value our parents input and understand that they know their child best. We involve our parents at key transition times through 'stay and play' sessions and home visits, as well as through parent helper opportunities on an ongoing basis. We ensure up to date communication takes place and children's progress is discussed on a regular basis
- As practitioners we regularly reflect on our pedagogical practice and value self-evaluation opportunities using HGIOELC? and the Care Inspectorates Quality Framework. We value opportunities to look outwards e.g. visiting other settings, professional reading, continuous professional learning and networking opportunities
- We regularly observe our children's interests and skills and discuss these as a team. We consider and discuss our responsive and intentional plans and how to further develop learning through our spaces, experiences and interactions. We always ensure our children are appropriately supported and challenged while at St. Bernadette's ELC.