

St. Bernadette's ELC Class

Edward Avenue, Falkirk FK5 4XR

01324 503404

October 2026

Staffing

The staffing in the nursery this session will be as follows

Cat —Senior Early Years Officer

Sarah - Early Years Officer (Orange Group)

Fiona —Early Years Officer (Green Group)

Sandy Early Years Officer (Purple Group)

Susan and Poppy —Early Years Officer (Red Group)

Rachel — Early Years Officer (Blue Group)

Pam —Early Learning and Childcare Assistant

Sharyn —Early Learning and Childcare Assistant

Lisa —Support for Learning Assistant

Susan is going to be supporting the P1 class on a Thursday and Friday so we have Poppy starting with us after the October holidays who will cover the red group on a Thursday and Friday.

Halloween Activities



Children are invited to dress up in their costumes to come to nursery on Friday the 30th of October.

Please make sure your child's name is on any costume that they are wearing.

We would love to hear some jokes from your children on Halloween!

Dropping off and collecting children

The door will open at 9.00am for drop off and then 2.45pm for collection. All children **must** be collected by 3.00pm.

Please remember to sign your child in and write who is collecting your child at the end of the day, along with what time they are getting collected at.

If there is a change to who is meant to be collecting your child, please phone the ELC on 01324 503404 to let us know. Please also ensure the person collecting knows your child's safe word for collection.

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.

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 can 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.

Christmas Photographs

We have arranged a date for Andrea Osborne Photography to come in for a Christmas Photoshoot on Friday the 27th of November.

Siblings are welcome to come along, but parents/carers must stay with younger siblings while these photographs are being taken.

Items in nursery bags

Please do not send **any** food, drink or medication in your child's bag for nursery. We have children with **severe** allergies in the nursery and sometimes the children go into the bags and bring things out that they shouldn't which may be harmful for others.

If your child required medication to be given in nursery please speak to a member of staff and fill in a medical form for this.



Christmas Trip

Last year we visited Callendar House for a magical Christmas experience. It was so lovely and the children had an amazing time so we have arranged this again.

This will take place on Thursday 17th December.

The cost for this will be **£14.30 per child**.
This includes the bus there and back, and the price for the experience. This money must be paid by the 4th of December. This should be paid into your child's I-Pay account.

Christmas singalong



Staff are organising a Christmas singalong where all families are invited along! There will be opportunities to purchase your children's Christmas creations during this.

This will be held at 1.15pm on Friday 11th December.

Appropriate Clothing



Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for nursery. As the weather is getting colder over the next couple of months, we ask that you provide your child with a hat and gloves which can be kept at nursery.

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

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 nursery, 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 nursery bag.

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

Outdoor Play and Learning

Our staff are huge believers in outdoor play and learning, and the benefits it has on children's learning and development. Our children have access to their outdoor environment throughout their day and choose to access it as they wish.

Many of our children engage in 'risky play'. As a parent, this may seem daunting but it is a huge part of our day to day life. Staff support children to challenge themselves during their play. This might involve climbing up a tree, walking along a wobbly plank, rolling tyres or using real life tools. The children are encouraged to assess obstacles prior to attempting them and are always encouraged to 'give it a go' to challenge themselves.

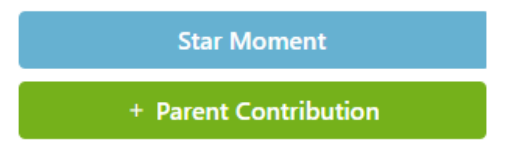
Accidents do happen, and sometimes your child may have a wee fall or tumble. This is all part of the learning experience and observations have shown us that our children are becoming more resilient, meaning they just get up and try again. Staff ensure that children are taking safe risks that cannot cause serious injury or harm.

Communicating to parents

Staff will only be using SeeSaw to send out messages about group events/activities and to let parents know about anything that is coming up in ELC.

Our main platform for sharing pictures will be the Online Learning Journals.

Every child has their own Online Learning Journal. Staff will update this with significant observations of your child once a month. Staff will also add 'stories' during the month too. There is a section on the left hand side that says 'parent contribution'. Please feel free to add pictures onto your child's online journal so we can what they have been doing at home.



If you have forgotten your log in details for the Online Learning Journals please tell Cat and she will resend them for you.

Family Photograph

We would love for all of our children to have their family photograph up on our wall in the nursery.

If you could please e-mail a family photograph to Catriona.kinnaird@education.falkirk.sch.uk staff will print this out for you so your child can see themselves on the wall.

Thank you to those who have e-mailed this over already.

Lending Library



Outside our ELC door is our Lending Library!

You will find a yellow folder in the green dinosaur where your child has their own page in this folder. Please write the number of the book you are borrowing and the date you have borrowed the book. When you return the book, please write the date that you have returned this on.

Staff will monitor this on a termly basis and add more books. If you have any books that you would like to see in the lending library, please speak to Sarah.

Please feel free to look at these books with your child when you are waiting to come into nursery, but please put these back in the dinosaur to help us keep it tidy.

Speech & Language Therapy at St Bernadette's ELC



All schools in Falkirk have a link Speech & Language Therapist

Our link therapist is **Susan Bannatyne** - usually in school/ELC on **Wednesdays**

How Speech & Language Therapy works in Falkirk

Young people do **not** need to be referred to access support at universal or targeted levels

- Universal Support: work to support communication for all
  - e.g. Communication Environment, staff training & coaching, drop-ins for parents
- Targeted Support: work for specific groups
  - e.g. small group interventions / parent workshops for those identified by ELC as benefitting
- Individual Support: work to support young people with identified needs
  - E.g. assessment to understand needs, therapy sessions to support needs

For Parents/Carers:

- If you have questions or concerns about your child's communication, speech, language or eating and drinking:
  - Call the SLT Helpline: **Thursdays 1 – 4pm** on **01324 673585**
  - Admin staff will book a call with Susan or you can speak to another therapist on the day if the concern is urgent
  - You can also ask ELC staff to arrange a time to meet Susan in the ELC

Online resources

- We have videos available on Youtube about language development, speech sounds, stammering and more
- Find them here: https://www.youtube.com/@NHSForthValley/playlists

NHS Forth Valley

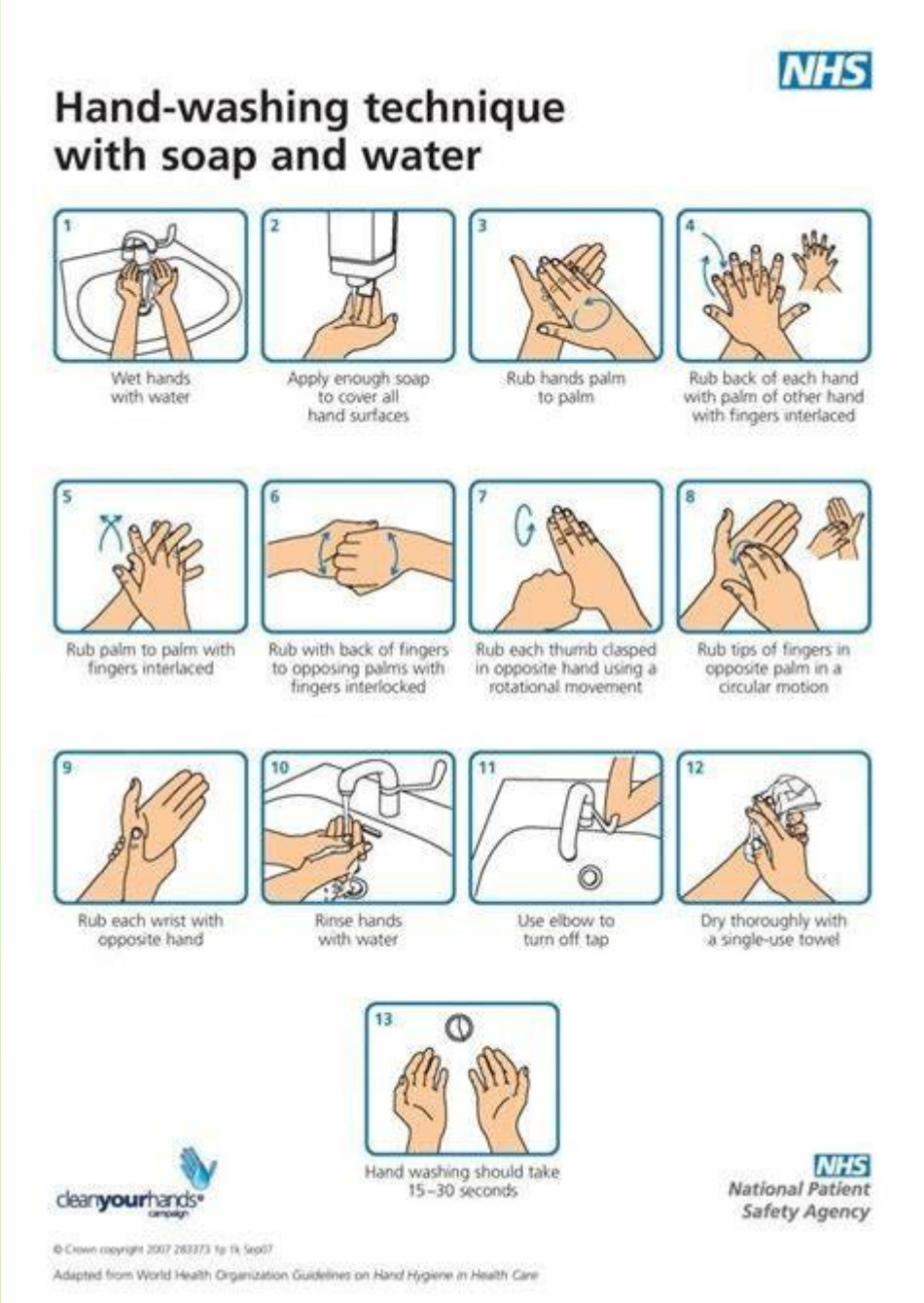
Cold and flu

It is coming into that time of year when children and adults can catch the flu.

All children should be offered their Flu Spray by the NHS. If you have not received your letter you can contact NHS Scotland via their online portal to arrange your child's flu spray.

All children are encouraged to cough or sneeze into their arm rather than their hands as another way of preventing the spread of infection.

Staff are vigilant in the ELC and encourage all children to use the hand washing technique (seen on the right) which is displayed at all sinks. Staff also model this while singing the 'wash your hands song'.



Our Parent Council need your help!

The PTA brings together parents, teachers, and our community to support our students and create amazing experiences throughout the year.

When you joint the PTA you help to

- Support our children
- Build community
- Enhance school and ELC experiences
- Support our teachers

If you are interested in joining please email stbernadettesparentcouncil@gmail.com

Important dates

These are all the dates we currently know for this year which you may wish to take note off. This will be in every monthly newsletter so please remember to check for new dates added.



Monday 12th October—Nursery closes for 2 weeks for holiday

Friday 20th November—Children in Need

Monday 30th November—Nursery closed for in-service day

Friday 11th December—Nursery singalong with parents (afternoon)

Friday 18th December—Nursery Christmas Party (morning)

Tuesday 22nd December—Nursery closes for Christmas holidays

Tuesday 5th January—Nursery reopens

Thursday 11th February—Nursery closed for in-service day

Friday 12th February—Nursery closed for holiday

Monday 15th February—Nursery closed for holiday

Friday 26th March —Nursery closed for holiday

Monday 29th March—Nursery closed for holiday

Monday 5th April—Nursery closes for 2 weeks for Easter holiday

Friday 30th April—Nursery closed for in-service day

Monday 3rd May—Nursery closed for holiday

Thursday 27th May—Transition event for children going to school (parents to attend)

Thursday 10th June—Transition event for children going to school (parents to attend 3.30pm)

Friday 18th June—Nursery end of year celebration (afternoon—all families welcome)

Friday 25th June—Nursery closes for summer holidays

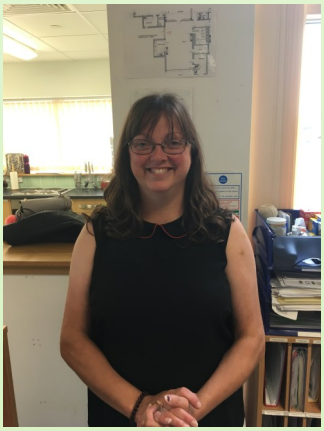
Meet our team...



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Sarah—Early Years Officer



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