

Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2021



QUICK CATCH UP!

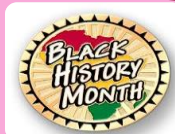
We've been busy. Have a look and see what we have been up to.

October was Black History Month which is a time to mark the contributions of Black people throughout history. The children enjoyed a variety of fun and educational activities. The children learnt about key figures such as Garrett Morgan, the inventor of the three-position traffic light.



On Friday 22nd October 2021 we celebrated Black History Month with a delicious African inspired lunch of rice, chicken and chickpeas. On 27th October at Erskine site the children enjoyed a delicious African inspired lunch of rice, chicken and chickpeas. The children enjoyed participating in a special African Drumming and Dance activity where the children enjoyed learning about traditional African music. There was a specialist African drummer at this event who performed and explained to the children how to play the drums.

Celebrating Black History at Home



CBeebies have a range of videos and resources available online that can help you and your child explore and celebrate Black History Month together at home. Copy and paste the link below or search Black History Month CBeebies

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/black-history-month>

Important dates for your diary

Christmas Closure-	Friday 24 th December 2021 to Monday 3 rd January 2022 (includes national bank holidays 27 th & 28 th Dec 2021 & 3 rd Jan 2022) Staff Annual Leave 24 th , 29 th , 30 th , 31 st December 2021
Staff Inset Day-	Tuesday 4 th January 2022 <u>The nursery will be closed for staff training day. Children will return to nursery on Wednesday 5th January 2022</u>
Bank Holiday Closures-	Monday 27 th December 2021 Tuesday 28 th December 2021 Monday 3 rd January 2022 Friday 15 th April 2022 Monday 18 th April 2022

Other dates for your diary

04/11/21 - Diwali	24/12/21 - Christmas Eve
11/11/21 - Remembrance Day	02/04/22 - 01/05/22 - Month of Ramadan
28/11/21- 06/12/21 - Hanukkah	

Please see end page for nursery calendar. Please also be reminded that full fees remain payable over all nursery closures.



Christmas Activity



The children at nursery will be learning about Christmas and the importance of this holy Christian month and cultural celebration period. At the nursery the children will be doing fun activities to learn about Christmas. Here is a great activity you can do at home with your child to learn together.

Scented Gingerbread Man Art

1. First you'll need some sturdy paper. We used coloured cardstock or the back of a cereal box would work perfectly. Freehand draw a gingerbread man outline or trace a cookie cutter.
2. Next cut out your gingerbread man with scissors. I found the easiest way was to poke a hole through the center of him and then cut along the lines. Once you have a piece of paper with a gingerbread man sized hole in it - grab some [contact paper](#) and cut a rectangle large enough to cover him. Peel and stick your contact paper over the opening.
3. Next step - adding the scent! I provided cinnamon, ginger, allspice, and cloves.
4. Finally, dust off excess spices and done!

Chinese New Years Celebrations

Chinese New Year is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. It will be celebrated on Tuesday 1st February 2022. The year 2022 will be the Year of the Tiger according to the Chinese Zodiac. Here is a great activity you can do at home with your child to learn together.



Tiger Handprint Painting

1. Keeping your fingers together, print an orange handprint across the page. This is the body of the tiger.
2. Print an orange palm at one end as the head. Add thumb print ears.
3. With the side of your little finger add 4 legs and a tail.
4. With the side of your finger and your finger prints add black stripes. Fingerprint a black nose and eyes.

Upcoming Celebrations Easter



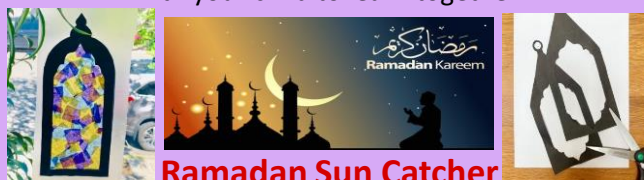
Easter is one of the most important Christian festivals of the year. It will be celebrated on Sunday 17th April 2022. At the nursery the children will be doing fun activities to learn about Easter. Here is a great activity you can do at home with your child to learn together.

Paper Plate Footprint Bunny

1. Paint 2 paper plates each: 1 regular-sized & 1 dessert-sized.
2. Make 2 footprints per child and cut them out when they've dried. On 2 footprints, paint an odd-shaped oval. These will be the ears. On the remaining footprints, paint a white oval & 3 circles to resemble a bunny's foot.
3. Tape or glue 2 of the footprints as ears and 2 as feet.
4. Make the facial features by painting or drawing on eyes, a nose, a mouth or bunny teeth, and glue on whiskers.

Ramadan and Eid Celebrations

Ramadan, is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. In 2022, it will start on 2nd April and end on 1st May. At the end of this Islamic holy month, Muslims celebrate the Eid festival. Here is a great activity you can do at home with your child to learn together.



Ramadan Sun Catcher

1. Print the Sun catcher template from <https://www.incultureparent.com/ramadan-craft-sun-catchers/>
2. Cut out the white space so that only the black outline remains.
3. Cut the tissue paper in any colour you choose into small squares.
4. Cut the contact paper to the size of the template.
5. Unpeel the contact paper, sticky side up. Press one template face down into the contact paper.
6. Let your child arrange the tissue paper in any pattern they choose, filling all the white space.
7. Distribute glue along the lantern outline. Press the second identical lantern template on top of the first.
8. You can now stick the lantern directly onto the window.

Staff training updates

We recognise the importance of continuous professional development in achieving best possible practice and for improving outcomes for all children.

As result many members of the staff and management team have been busy studying!

During our last INSET day in September, the whole management and staff team took part in training. Additionally, the staff have n keeping up to date with Early Help and the new EYFS Curriculum.

Additionally, other individual managers and staff have been completing other training, which includes:
Level 2 Diploma in Special Educational Needs
Level 3 in Management and Leadership
Autism Awareness Training
Health and Safety Training

As an early years setting, we continue to support the next generation of early years practitioners by facilitating the apprenticeship programme for some of our team.

COVID 19 Update

As per Government guidance we are working with children in smaller groups as recommended, but are beginning to join groups to form one larger group at both Erskine and Greenleaf site.

However, we will continue with our thorough infection control measures which include; checking your child's temperature upon arrival and on departure, regular handwashing, shoe disinfecting and cleaning the setting regularly throughout the day. In order to ensure that we minimise the risk of COVID 19 infection within the setting, and to ensure that children who have been unwell are able to return to the nursery, you will be required to complete a COVID 19 Risk assessment. This form will ask you share what symptoms your child had when they were unwell, the action you took and the result of the COVID 19 test if one is performed. You will be asked to confirm that your child is COVID symptom free and well enough to return to the nursery.

Please beware that if your child displays any of the COVID 19 signs and symptoms whilst at the nursery, you must take them home. Your child cannot return until a COVID 19 test has been performed and the result received. You must adhere to Government guidelines with regards to isolation if required.

Helping children to learn Recommended reading

Literacy is one of those skills that parents can nurture in those early years. Why literacy? Because reading and writing are the fundamentals of early education, not to mention that they crop up multiple times every single day. From reading road signs and writing shopping lists to learning a new language, literacy is a skill that is vital for everyone.

Recommended Reading for 0-12 months:

Baby Touch: Busy Baby
by Ladybird Publishing



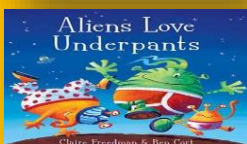
Recommended Reading for 2-3 years:

A Busy Day for Birds by
Lucy Cousins



Recommended Reading for 4-5 years:

Aliens Love Underpants
by Claire Freedman



The new Autumn/Winter menu is here!

Our new Winter menu has been finalised and a copy will be emailed to all parents/carers. As of November 2021, children can enjoy a range of Winter inspired meals. As usual, all our meals are designed with young tummies in mind and are healthy, freshly prepared using the best seasonal ingredients. Children's individual needs and dietary requirements have been considered and will be catered for. We are always interested in feedback and new ideas, so please do let us know if you have any meal ideas or recipes you would like to recommend for future menus.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was updated on 1st September 2021. The EYFS is the curriculum which supports the learning and development needs of children aged from 0 to 5 years old, and is used in early years settings and reception classes. Some of the changes that have been made are to the focus and content of some of the areas of learning and development that we use to observe, assess and plan for your child. The learning goals have also been updated. We have been updating and amending all policies and procedures accordingly. We will keep you posted of the changes that we make. You can read about the EYFS and the new updates by copying and pasting the links below into your search bar. If you have any questions please get in contact with us.

GOV.UK -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-framework/changes-to-the-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-framework>

Early years alliance -

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/changes-eyfs-2021>

Staff Annual Leave

Some of our staff will be taking annual leave over the New Year and Easter period and at other times, but please rest assured that your child will continue to be supported by at least one of their key-persons and other familiar staff. We will inform parents/carers individually if their child's key-person will be taking leave.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support 😊
Thank you!

Dec 2021 - Jan 2023

Key:

Normal Nursery Day	
National Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)	
Christmas/New Year Break (Nursery Closed)	
Annual Summer Break (Nursery Closed)	
Staff Inset Day (Nursery Closed)	

December 2021

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2022

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31						

February 2022

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28						

March 2022

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28	29	30	31			

April 2022

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May 2022

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June 2022

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July 2022

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August 2022

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September 2022

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October 2022

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31						

November 2022

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28	29	30				

December 2022

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2023

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Annual Summer Break - The nursery will close for our annual summer break from Mon 1st Aug until Fri 5th Aug 2022.

Staff Inset Days - The nursery will close for staff inset days on: Tues 4th Jan 2022, Tues 3rd May 2022, Wed 1st June 2022 & Tues 3rd Jan 2023

National Bank Holidays - The nursery will close for ALL national bank holiday (See next column)

Nursery Fees - Nursery fees remain payable for ALL closures.

National Bank Holidays 2022

Monday 3rd January 2022- New Year's (Substitute day)
Friday 15th April 2022- Good Friday
Monday 18th April 2022- Easter Monday
Monday 2nd May 2022- Early May bank holiday
Thursday 2nd June 2022- Spring bank holiday
Friday 3rd June 2022- Platinum Jubilee bank holiday
Monday 29th August 2022- Summer bank holiday
Monday 26th December 2022- Boxing Day
Tuesday 27th Dec 2022- Christmas Day (Substitute day)
Monday 2nd Jan 2023- New Year's Day (Substitute day)