



Well that was a busy run up to the Christmas break! A huge thank you to all staff, children and families who helped to make our celebrations and activities so enjoyable. Thank you also to families who sent in cards and gifts, although these are never expected by staff, the thoughts and well wishes are very much appreciated. We now move into our Winter term where we have lots more learning to do and much more fun to be had!

Please remember that if you need to discuss anything to do with our Nursery or your child, do not hesitate to speak to one of our staff when you see them at the start / end of the day or contact the school on 01324 503460.

Staffing

As you will all know, our Senior Early Years Officer post has been covered all of last term by Mrs Lauryn Fleming. We are delighted to say that Mrs Fleming is now in post permanently as our SEYO. Huge congratulations to her and we look forward to the exciting journey ahead for our ELC.

Due to the appointment of Mrs Fleming, we now have a vacancy for an Early Years Officer. We will let you know when we have more information on this.



What are we looking forward to this term?

Future Me



During January, our ELC will be buzzing with ambition as we host 'Future Me' events and activities. This is all about sparking curiosity and exploring the world of work. Through play and storytelling, we want to help our wee people realise that they can be anything they set their minds to – from courageous firefighters and caring doctors, to creative artists or intrepid astronauts. We'll be talking about the different people who help us in our community and discovering the ways we can use our unique talents when we grow up. If children would like to dress up as their chosen 'future me' on Tuesday 13th January, it would be lovely to see. We can't wait to see where their imaginations take them (and us!)

Outdoor Learning

Our woods visits will be starting back up this term and we will let you know when your child is taking part. In addition we will be exploring our firepit, led by Miss McRorie and Mrs Fleming. We will be learning about how to keep ourselves safe around the fire pit through practical training activities, as well as enjoying yummy toasted marshmallows!



Stay and Play

Our Stay and Play opportunities this term will be focussed on the languages we hear and use in Nursery. We will be looking at Spanish, Gaelic and Makaton as our whole school languages, as well as some of the varied languages our children use at home. See below for dates.



Scots / Robert Burns

January is also the time of year we traditionally look at the poetry of Robert Burns and introduce some Scots language to our wee ones. We will share some of The Bard's work as well as some fun rhymes and stories. Listen out for us using some Scots words at home.



Chinese New Year

We are excited to celebrate Chinese New Year and welcome in the Year of the Horse with our children. This vibrant festival is a wonderful opportunity for our little learners to explore a different culture through colour, taste and movement and we will be providing some sensory experiences to help build up the children's knowledge and understanding of being part of the wider world around them.

Eid



As we move into March, we are looking forward to celebrating Eid with all of our children. Eid is a time of joy, gratitude and community, and we are excited to explore these themes through a variety of activities and experiences. By learning about the traditions of Eid, the children gain a deeper understanding of the diverse celebrations within our community while focussing on the values of kindness and sharing with others.

A Snap Shot of our Learning

Festive Fun and Holiday Cheer: Our ELC Christmas Celebration!



What a magical day we had! Our ELC room was filled with laughter, music, and a whole lot of Christmas spirit during our annual Party. It was wonderful to see all the children dressed in their festive best, ready to celebrate a year of growth and friendship.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly our special performance. The children have been practicing hard, and their hard work truly paid off!

We were particularly enthusiastic in our singing of "Jingle Bells" which led to the arrival of a very special guest from the North Pole as Santa Claus himself made a surprise appearance!

Santa took the time to speak with the children, listen to their holiday wishes, and spread plenty of Christmas cheer. It was a heartwarming sight to see the mixture of awe and joy on every child's face as they met the man in red.

We want to extend a huge thank you to all the staff who helped organise the event, and to the children for making it such a joyful occasion.

Little Explorers: Science and Magic in Our Winter Garden

The colder weather hasn't slowed us down! This month, our Early Learning Centre (ELC) children have been heading outdoors to transform our garden into a vibrant winter laboratory. Outdoor learning is a vital part of our curriculum, allowing children to engage with nature, develop gross motor skills, and spark their natural curiosity about the world around them.

Frozen Science Investigations. Our young scientists have been busy investigating the properties of water and temperature.

Through hands-on play, the children explored:

- * Melting Points: Using warm hands to see how quickly they could "rescue" toy animals trapped in ice blocks.
- * Textures: Describing the difference between crunchy frost, slippery ice, and soft snow.
- * States of Matter: Observing how ice turns back into liquid water when brought into the warmth.

Mixing Potions and Colour Chemistry

One of the most popular activities this week has been our Outdoor Potion Station. Using a mix of crushed ice, water, and vibrant food colouring, the children became master chemists.

We had so much fun outdoors, we are hoping for more snow soon!



New resources!

We are thrilled to share some wonderful new additions to our learning environment that are already sparking curiosity and a whole lot of fun.



You may have noticed some damp sleeves and sandy hands! Our brand-new sand and water tray has become the heart of our messy play area.

Whether children are measuring volume with jugs, building "sand-sculptures," or observing how water flows through pipes, we are developing our thinking skills, working out how to measure and learning to cooperate and share.

We've also introduced some special new residents—our interactive robot cats! We are learning how to programme our new pets using a remote control. This is helping us understand direction, estimate distance and plan routes.

Reminders



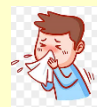
Change of clothes – please ensure, if you haven't already, that your child has a change of clothes which we can keep in Nursery. If this is not possible, for any reason, please let us know as we can assist with this.

Learning Journals – our Learning Journals continue to be updated by staff and, in addition to Focus Books and Floor books, are an important communication tool for us. Please do take time to look through your child's online journal and add comments or achievements from home to them. If you have any trouble accessing your child's journal, let a member of staff know, and we will get this sorted for you.



Blue Sky – our Blue-sky page is up and running and you can follow us at [@ladeside-elc.bsky.social](https://ladeside-elc.bsky.social)

Absence Procedure - Can we please ask all parents/carers to inform us if your child will be absent from ELC. This can be done via either email ladesideprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk or telephone [01324 503460](tel:01324503460)



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Week beginning Monday 12 th January	Future me week - children will have opportunity to access workshops from volunteers including firefighters and paramedics
Tuesday 13 th January	Dress up as your future self - optional opportunity to dress up as the job / career / future you want
Friday 23 rd January	PEEP session 5 - information to follow
Monday 26 th January	Red, Yellow and Pink Groups - Stay and Play - Languages focus
Tuesday 27 th January	Purple group Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 3 rd February	Orange and Purple Groups - Stay and Play - Languages focus
	Pink Group - Afternoon Tea
Friday 6 th February	PEEP session 6 - information to follow
Tuesday 10 th February	Yellow group - Afternoon Tea
Friday 13 th and Monday 16 th February	Local holiday - School and ELC closed
Tuesday 17 th February	In-Service day - School and ELC closed to pupils
Friday 20 th February	PEEP session 7 - information to follow
Thursday 26 th February	Red Group - Teddy Bear Picnic
Thursday 12 th March	Orange Group - Teddy Bear Picnic
Thursday 26 th March	Pink Group - Teddy Bear Picnic
Friday 3 rd April until Friday 17 th April	Easter holiday
Monday 20 th April	School and ELC re-opens