



It has been such a busy few weeks, filled with fun, learning and new experiences, here at Ladeside ELC. Although the weather hasn't always been on our side, we have still managed lots of outdoor play, including visits to the woods, fire pits and outdoor games. We have tried to capture as much of our learning as we can in this newsletter and we hope you enjoy hearing all about what we have been doing!

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 remember, Mrs Fleming was appointed as our permanent Senior Early Years Officer last term, and, as a result, we had a vacancy for an EYO post. We are delighted to tell you that this post has now been filled and our children will be very excited to hear that our new EYO isn't new to them at all! Mrs Lynsey McIntyre will be joining us from Monday 9th March and our children already know her well as she covered in our Nursery for many weeks over the last term. Mrs McIntyre is an EYO who worked as part of Ladeside ASC for many years and comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowledge – we can't wait to welcome her into the Ladeside ELC family!



What are we looking forward to this term?



Join Us for Our Spring Fling!

Get ready to shake off the winter chill and help our garden grow! We are delighted to invite all our families into the Nursery this May for our Spring Fling celebration. It's going to be a busy, hands-on day as we work together to spruce up our outdoor space, clear away the winter leaves, and plant a fresh variety of bulbs and blooms. Whether you have a green thumb or just don't mind getting a little muddy, we would love your help in creating a vibrant, sensory environment for the children to enjoy. It's a wonderful opportunity to see the progress your little ones are making and to connect with other families over some light refreshments. Don't forget to wear your wellies and bring your gardening gloves—let's make our garden the best it can be for the sunny months ahead! More information to follow.



Egg-citing Easter Fun Awaits!

Over the next few weeks, the Nursery will be buzzing with excitement as we begin our Easter focus! We have a basketful of seasonal activities planned to help the children explore this time of new beginnings and celebrate together. Our creative stations will be busy with egg decorating, where the children can experiment with bright colours and patterns, and we'll be putting our engineering skills to the test with some festive bonnet making. From sensory play with "shredded wheat" nests to hunting for hidden treasures in the garden, it's going to be a wonderful lead-up to the holidays. We can't wait to see the fantastic, imaginative designs the children come up with as they bring a bit of spring sunshine into our ELC.



P1 Transition

As we look ahead to the new school year, we are excited to begin supporting our preschool children in their transition to Primary 1 this August. We understand that this is a significant milestone, and we are committed to ensuring every child feels confident and ready for their next big adventure. Over the coming months, there will be a wealth of opportunities for the children to become familiar with the school environment, including classroom visits, exploring the dinner hall, and meeting their friendly Primary 6 buddies who will be there to guide them. This is just the beginning of a fun-filled transition program designed to build excitement and ease any nerves. Children will also meet 'Dale', our transition bear who will help them on their journey.



More detailed information regarding specific dates and scheduled activities will follow shortly.

A Snapshot of our learning

World Book Day



We enjoyed the most wonderful day of all things books and reading in our ELC. We were all dressed up, or in cosy pyjamas, we read stories and listened to our grown ups tell us fantastic tales from some of our favourite authors. We acted out some of our favourite stories and played with puppets too!

Great fun for all of us!





A Spectacular Lunar New Year!

Last month, our Nursery was a sea of vibrant reds and golds as we celebrated Chinese New Year! The children had an absolute blast diving into the rich traditions of the festival, with the undisputed highlight being the creation of our magnificent, hand-painted dragon. The children showed fantastic teamwork as they paraded their creation through the school assembly, dancing to the beat of the drums to the cheers of the whole school! It was wonderful to see so many children dressing up in traditional clothes, adding such a festive and authentic feel to our room. We also took a culinary journey, with many of our brave learners trying traditional Chinese foods; the vegetable spring rolls were a huge hit! These experiences provided such a meaningful way for the children to explore different cultures and celebrate our diverse community together.



A Celebration of Scotland in the Nursery

We've had a braw wee time in the Nursery over the last few weeks as we've immersed ourselves in all things Scottish! The children have been busy exploring the intricate patterns of tartan, experimenting with their own designs and learning how these famous weaves represent different families and regions. Our ELC has been filled with the sounds of new vocabulary as we introduced some classic Scottish words, and it's been wonderful to hear the children using them during their play. The absolute highlight, however, was our spectacular performance of 'The Three Crows' at the whole school assembly. The children showed immense confidence (and great comedic timing!) as they performed for the older pupils and staff. We are so proud of how they embraced their local heritage with such enthusiasm.

Basketball Brilliance!

It has been wonderful to see a growing passion for basketball sweeping through our outdoor play area lately! The children showed incredible resourcefulness and teamwork by engineering their own court, using a hula hoop attached to the fence to practice their shooting. Seeing this budding interest, Frankie's family very kindly donated a "proper" basketball stand and net to the Nursery, which has taken our games to the next level! This generous gift has sparked plenty of high-energy, competitive matches, helping the children develop their hand-eye coordination, turn-taking, and sportsmanship. A huge thank you to Frankie's family for supporting our mini-athletes—the court is officially the most popular spot in the garden!



Small Scientists, Big Discoveries!

Our Nursery has been buzzing with curiosity this week as we dove into a series of hands-on Science experiments! We started by exploring the magic of solubility with our Skittles Rainbow, watching in awe as the colours bled together to create a stunning spectrum in water.

To learn about hygiene in a visual way, we used glitter and soap; the children saw firsthand how "germs" (glitter) quickly scatter away from soap, reinforcing why we wash our hands so carefully.

Finally, we took to the skies by engineering paper rockets and using air pressure from squeezed plastic bottles to launch them high into the air! These activities have been a fantastic way to encourage the children to ask "why?" and "how?", fostering a love for discovery and the scientific method.



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

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



Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Thursday 12th March	Orange Group - Teddy Bear Picnic
Friday 20 th March	Crazy Hair Day - Comic Relief (further information on Learning Journals)
Thursday 26th March	Pink Group - Teddy Bear Picnic
	Tempest Photos (Individual and siblings)
Friday 3rd April until Friday 17th April	Easter holiday
Monday 20th April	School and ELC re-opens
	Visual screening (eye tests) for all pre-school children. Permission letters have already been sent to families.
Thursday 23 rd April	Purple Group - Teddy Bear Picnic
Monday 27 th April	ChildSmile in ELC
Tuesday 28 th	National Superhero Day
	PALS Meeting in school - 7pm
Thursday 30 th April	Play On Pedals sessions begin - more information to follow
Friday 1 st May - 2pm	In-Service Day - School and ELC closed to pupils
Monday 4 th May	May holiday - school and ELC closed
Friday 8 th May	Spring Fling 2pm More information to come out to invite all our families to this event.
Thursday 14 th May	Yellow Group - Teddy Bear Picnic