



Please follow us on Twitter for many nursery updates: @langaStNursery



You can also contact us on the nursery email address.

Friday 7th May 2021

Langa Street Nursery

Newsletter May 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

You will have noticed some **staff changes in the last month**. Elaine Dutton has left to take up a Depute Head of Nursery position within Glasgow. It was a sad day for everyone when Elaine left but we had a good send-off for Elaine and thank you to the parents who popped along to see Elaine and share some happy memories from Elaine's many years at Langa Street. We are interviewing for the new Team Leader position (interviews on 19th May) and Senga Laurie continues as Acting Team Leader for the time being. Lisa McCormick has returned from her secondment and is back full time in the 2s/Sunflower room. Christine Brand has been absent since Christmas but I am hopeful that she will return to work soon – Christine has been in to visit staff and children in recent weeks. Claire Ralston, was supporting the 3-5s/Rainbows as Support for Learning Worker but Claire is now working as a Child Development Officer, Monday to Wednesday, within the Sunflower room for the time being. And we welcomed a new Clerical, Caitlin Adams, who works Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. Please say hello to Caitlin when you meet her. Anne Wilson, Clerical, now works Monday and Tuesday all day and Wednesday and Thursday morning.

On 1-3rd April we had a routine but unannounced **inspection by the Care Inspectorate**. Our report was very positive (you can read it here <https://bit.ly/3baApzL> or on our Twitter feed) and we received grades of 5 (Very Good) (1 is the lowest possible and 6 is the highest). We aspire to continuous improvement and will use the feedback received and further engagement with parents/carers, children and staff to improve the nursery further.



I recently wrote (via email and text) to all families with **children returning in August**, about what sessions you require for next year (August). I have a local Admissions Meeting next week and will then be in a position to inform families about what we can offer. We intend to be open 8am-6pm throughout the year and the letter detailed the sessions on offer at Langa Street.

For those children going to school, we are very pleased that we'll be able to offer **home-link activity bags** provided by the Family Learning Partnership in the next 2 weeks. **There is more information below** – I would urge you to speak with staff during the times offered on the invitation that you'll receive. This will not only support children's learning but also help them to start feeling confident about going to school.

We have recently started writing a **blackboard update on twitter** of some examples of what children's play and learning interests have been during that day. Please follow these on twitter (@LangaStNursery – follower requests will have to await approval by nursery staff).

This week we had **staff training** on having fires with children – small fires involving cooking and wider benefits to learning and wellbeing. Having outdoors fire experiences is well supported by the Government "Out to Play" and "My World Outdoors" guidance and is becoming very common within nurseries in Scotland. Children will be able to start having these experiences in the next few weeks and the focus will be on safety and routines (as well as marshmallows and popcorn!). We will offer the chance for parents and carers to come and experience this soon, but in the meantime if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch. On our training day we also produced a "virtual"/video tour of the sunflower room which we will share when it is complete – this will help new children feel confident about starting nursery and help parents to see what the nursery building looks like inside. We also worked as a team to develop our aspirations for what our nursery environment will look like as we look ahead to August and we're excited to develop these plans soon.

I know that many families at Langa Street will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr next week so I would like to say "Eid Mubarak" to all of those families and send my best wishes,
Yours Sincerely - Steve Rivers – Head of Nursery



The **Family Learning Partnership** have provided us with **school activity bags** to give to the children during May and June. If your child is going to school, you will receive an invitation for a parent/carer 5-10 minute drop in session to collect the bag each week over 4 weeks. Each week there will be a different home activity that your child will have also done in nursery and it will not only support them in their learning but also give them a feeling of having a school homework bag! The activities are music and rhyme, a board game, a story book, and a 1-10 counting activity. The first drop in sessions will be week beginning 17th May. We would also encourage you to follow the videos and information that we will share through Twitter as this goes on.

To support **school preparation** we are also hosting various P1 teacher visits from some schools and you should soon be hearing about arrangements for parents to take children along for school visits which is so important. You may also be asked by schools to setup a Seesaw online account to meet and share videos online. If you are unsure and need any help, just ask!

You will soon see posters for our **Summer Fair on Friday 18th June**. We will have a small number of stalls and activities outside. To avoid too many people, we will invite parents of morning children to come at 10.30am, all day children at 2.00pm and afternoon children at 3.00pm.

You will also soon receive invitations to our **school Leavers' celebration**. These will take place in small groups, outdoors, on **Monday 21st June**, and other family members are welcome. Specific times will be communicated very soon.

COVID and other safety reminders

Please remember to access the nursery grounds through the main gate. Do not walk through the car park gate as we are concerned about the safety of children walking close to the car park.



COVID reminders:

- Please remember to assist us by maintaining a social distance of 2 metres while inside the nursery gates and wearing a face-covering and when speaking to staff at drop of or pick up.
- If a member of your household has a cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell, then they should isolate until they have been tested. **It is important that children do not come to nursery if they have a cough or temperature**, as even if symptoms are mild, there is no way to tell if it is Covid unless tested.
- I would also like to remind parents and carers that you must phone us if your child is absent from nursery.

Suncream – reminder to please ensure you have applied suncream before nursery and either provided a bottle of suncream or agreed to our use of the nursery suncream so that we can re-apply it when needed.



Other information

Currently Glasgow City Council are carrying out a "Realignment Exercise" ensuring that there is an effective allocation of staff balancing those who work term-time only and those who work over the whole year. Langa Street is a whole-year nursery, and it may be that there will be some staff changes, with new whole year staff coming to Langa Street and movement of term-time staff to other nurseries. I will let parents know of any changes once both myself and the staff team know the plans.



We are still collecting 2 litre plastic bottles to make a greenhouse – please ensure that they are clean and dry and if you hand them in at nursery we will save them for greenhouse construction. Other items of what we call "junk modelling" are also welcome – clean egg boxes, shoe boxes, yoghurt pots, cereal boxes, cling film tubes etc are all very useful for the children's creations!



Term Dates for your Diary

- ❖ Friday 28th and Monday 31st May – Nursery closed for May Weekend Public Holiday
- ❖ Friday 18th June – Nursery summer fair (see specific times above/on posters when displayed)
- ❖ Monday 21st June – Nursery leavers celebrations (see specific times on the invitation you will receive)
- ❖ Thursday 24th June – last day of term
- ❖ Monday 16th August – return from summer holidays