



Apple Tree Nursery

News



Respect. Responsiveness. Achievement. Inclusion

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January 2026



ELC NEWS

ELC Registration

ELC Registration week took place on week commencing Monday 19th January 2025.

Meadow's big brother came to visit

Meadow's big brother, Callan from St Andrews Primary School visited our ELC group as part of Burns celebrations. Callan introduced the group to the Saltire flag. To finish off Callan brought in a personalised book "Meadow's Big Brother Callan" reading lots of adventures.

Reading to your child helps to build on their language and imagination.

Article 31 free participation in cultural and artistic life.



Necklace Search

Some of the ELC children responded to the news that our friend Nancy had lost her necklace of great sentimental value. So we headed out with our metal detectors along Craigmore Road in search. Unfortunately we were unable to find the necklace. Good news - Two weeks later Nancy found the necklace in her house!



School Transition Dates

Please see below a list of school transition dates, on these dates it will be your responsibility to take your child to school. Times to be comforted by the schools.

12th May 2026

21st May 2026

26th May 2026

4th June 2026

ELC NEWS

Thermomix Makes!



On Monday, the Thermomix team: Luke, Oliver, Neivie and Evelyn made delicious chocolate chip muffins to take home and share with their family! They also made lovely refreshing orange juice!

Mia's Art Class

Mia from Primary 1 (Rothesay Joint Campus) led an art class for our ELC children. She showed excellent leadership, communication, and creativity, rewarding the children with stickers and cookies. We thank her for her wonderful contribution and look forward to her next visit.



Thank you Catrina!

We were delighted to accept an invitation from Gibby's "Catrina" to visit Etrick Bay Tearoom for a biscuit-baking experience 🍪 The children loved rolling out biscuit dough, cutting fun shapes, and later decorating their biscuits before boxing them up to take home. While the biscuits baked, they enjoyed refreshments and fruit. Each child received a certificate and their own rolling pin to finish the experience. A huge thank you to Catrina for such a lovely morning.



Shoes on welly rack

Keep putting your shoes and wellies on the welly rack! Every pair you place there frees up valuable space in reception and keeps our area neat and welcoming. Thank you for helping us stay organised!

GENERAL NEWS

Parking in Keep Clear & Disabled Space

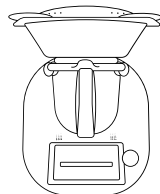
Please do not park in the 'Keep Clear' space or the disabled space unless you have a valid disabled badge. The 'Keep Clear' space must be kept free for emergency services, and disabled spaces are reserved for those with a valid disabled badge.

Thank you Mary

Thank you to Mary Horsbrugh for saving up her toilet and kitchen roll tubes for our children to be creative with.

Thermomix Recipe ideas

Thank you to Meadow's Mum Kim for replying to our email asking for recipe ideas for our Thermomix. We can't wait to make some of your yummy suggestion!

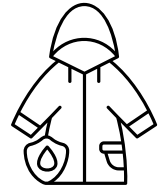


Website

Remember to visit our website – check it out for news, updates, and all things nursery!

Bags & waterproofs

Please bring small bags only for children. To help reduce the amount of items stored in reception, we kindly ask that children bring small bags where possible. We provide waterproofs for all children. We understand that some children may need to wear their own waterproofs due to sensory needs, and this is absolutely fine.



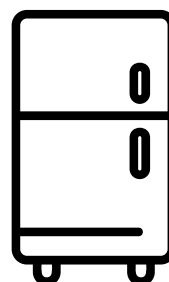
Accounts

Back in April, we sent our accounts to Ross & Company, who passed them on to Henderson for auditing. They've now been returned to us, and we've sent them off to Companies House and OSCR.

Youtube Channel

Don't forget to watch our Nativity and Carol Concert on our YouTube channel and enjoy the children's performances.

New fridge freezer



It was time for a new fridge freezer, so we've replaced our old one with a shiny new model for £320, ready to keep all our food and snacks perfectly chilled!

GENERAL NEWS

Rothsay Joint Campus Burns Night

Heather and Lesley-Anne attended Rothsay Joint Campus's Burns Night! They were extremely impressed with all the talent and their dinner was simply delicious!



AGM

We held our AGM on Wednesday 28th January 2026, following this our Board Members are as follows

Chairperson - Samantha Booth

Board Member - Kim McLaughlin

Board Member - Samantha Gilchrist

Board Member - Sarah-Jane Nairn

Board Member - Kylie Rodgers

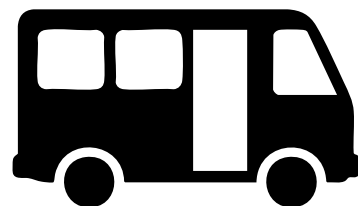
Quality Meat Scotland

Following our visit from Abby and Tracy from Quality Meat Scotland in November, the children enjoyed exploring the resource box left for us, which supported their learning through play 🐷🐷🐷. A big thank you to Abby for also providing a bag of tatties 🥔 for use in our Hitch and Harvest farm shop this month.



Minibus News

During Yvonne's minibus checks, the screenwash was topped up and dehumidifier bags were placed inside to help reduce moisture.



TODDLER NEWS

Burns Supper

Our toddlers did a fantastic job hosting their very own celebration and loved sharing it with their families — smiles, laughter and lots of special moments all round!

A massive thank you to everyone who came along and made it extra special! Big cheers to Nico for piping in the haggis and to Olivia, Theia and Heidi for their awesome Highland dancing — you were AMAZING!



Well done to Ruaridhs for addressing the haggis!

Thank you Archie!



A big thank you to Archie's granny, Pamela, for her thoughtful gift toward a wee treat. 🥤 The toddlers were delighted to visit Callows for a milkshake before returning to nursery for cookies. 🍪 It was a lovely Friday surprise that brought lots of smiles and was truly appreciated.

Bookbug with Janice

Big thanks to Janice from Live Argyll for visiting and leading a fun Bookbug session with our toddlers! 🇪🇺 ✨



STAFF NEWS

Promise Training

All our staff have now taken part in Promise Training.

Thank you Kate 13 Years as our Chairperson

Congratulations and thank you to Kate for 13 years as our Chairperson. To celebrate her incredible contribution, the board enjoyed a day away at the bingo followed by a lovely lunch. We are so grateful for everything Kate has done and wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement!

Bute Golf

Charmayne's partner, Chris, has recently opened Bute Golf. If you're looking for something fun to do, it's a great place to visit!



Thank you Caitlin & Abbie

Thank you to Caitlin and Abbie for staying late one evening after already a long day at work to rearrange the baby room. Your effort has truly enhanced the environment, creating a welcoming and engaging space for the children.

Well done Leigha & Kyren

Thank you to Leigha and Kyren for collecting stones from the beach over the weekend to use as natural resources for the children. Your efforts are truly appreciated, giving up your own time.



Caitlin University update

A big well done to Caitlin, who recently achieved a B+ on her university assessment! We're so proud of your hard work and dedication

Hannah's Birthday

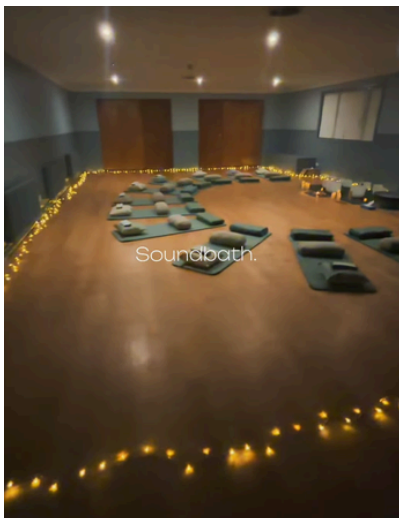
We celebrated Hannah's Birthday this month! 🎉



STAFF NEWS

Staff Sound Bath

Supporting our staff's health and wellbeing, we attended a sound bath last night hosted by Emily at Gentle Rising 🧘♀️ ✨ Find out more information by following her Facebook page,



Fitness classes

Lesley Anne and Hannah regularly attend fitness classes with Live Argyll and have been enjoying the sessions. If anyone else is interested in joining, it's a great opportunity to get active, have fun, and meet others.

Thank you to the afternoon parents who kindly checked in to see if Lal was okay. She's all good and has started running during her lunch breaks! Giving her an extra red face 😊

Achievements

Leigha was recognised for her excellent work on equity and inclusion and Yvonne was recognised for recognising frameworks whilst completing her observations!

Long Service

7 years ago Abbie started at Apple Tree Nursery. Abbie is a hard working dedicated member of the team and we thank you for everything you do!



Policies

Our communications policy was recently emailed to staff for feedback—thank you to Caitlin, Stephanie, and Ellie for sending through your suggested changes! Your input is much appreciated.

BABIES NEWS

Burns Day in the Baby Room



The babies celebrated Rabbie Burns throughout their day at nursery on Friday.

They created highland cows, had haggis, neeps and tatties for snack, joined in a Scottish themed bookbug session and danced along to the bagpipes 🎵

UNCRC Article 31 reinforces that learning about culture and heritage is a recognised right for every child, framing culture as part of children's development, creativity and participation in community life.

Babies Trip to the park



The babies visited the park to explore the play equipment, practicing their climbing, balancing, and other gross motor skills while experiencing the outdoors."

Bookbug



The babies have welcomed some ELC children to host and join our bookbug sessions. This is following on from hearing all about the national year of reading 2026 during our children's rights sessions.

BABIES NEWS

Cut up & catch up

Cut-up and Catch-up
 With Caitlin and Stephanie



**Wednesday 4th February 2026
 5:30pm**

An informal evening of us sharing our skills in cutting up food safely for babies and a chance to chat with Caitlin, Stephanie and other families.



Vote for Steven's Daddy!

Baby Steven is leading the campaign to vote for his Daddy Steven!



West Coast Motors
 #sharethelove
 #weloveourdrivers



Share the Love

Nominate a driver who cares



The Babies made bread!

Can you follow the babies recipe and make bread? If you do, take a picture and comment on our Facebook post!

The babies made bread- now, can you!

Preparing the soup Tasting the bread Homemade soup and bread for snack


Ingredients

- 400 g (4 cups) plain flour (regular white self raising flour)
- 1 tsp (1 tsp) salt
- 250 ml (1 1/3 cups) milk
- 1 tbs oil (optional)

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 190°C Fan (210°C regular) / 375°F / GM 6. Place a baking stone or heavy baking sheet in the oven to heat.
2. Mix the self raising flour and salt in a large bowl.
3. Add the milk (and oil, if using), and stir together to form a dough.
4. Turn the dough out onto your work surface and knead briefly until the dough has a uniform consistency.
5. Shape the dough into a round disc, about an inch to an inch and a half (about 3 cm) thick. Score the top deeply with an X. **This is important! Don't make a round ball of dough as it won't cook in the middle.**
6. Bake on the hot stone or baking sheet for about 35 minutes until risen and the crust is hard. (This loaf won't turn a deep gold so don't wait too long to check it.) When ready, it should sound hollow when tapped on the bottom.

Making the bread



WIDER ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done Sphé

“Sphé has NAILED his potty training! He’s brilliant at it, he just decided one day it was the right thing to do” - Sphé’s Dad



Well done Ellie & Megan

Ellie and Megan are just back from their holiday to Italy with their friend Jessica where they learned to Ski! Well done girls!...



Well done Lewis

“Some of the things Lewis did on holiday, I would believe count as an achievement. - Lewis’s Dad

- Swam a short distance without armbands or swimming vest
- Skied on his own without an instructor
- Sledged down a hill and navigated around people not through them
- Did the dishes
- Made pancakes
- Peeled the vegetables
- Cut parts of the hedge
- Raked the garden
- Did his alphabet and associated each word to an animal
- Counted to 99”



Camping Trip

Louis has asked about a sleepover at Apple Tree! As we don’t have the space, we’re wondering if a group of parents might like to organise a summer camping trip instead. If you’re interested, please drop us an email or pop into the office to let us know.
